

ST. ALDHELM'S VA CHURCH PRIMARY SCHOOL  
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HEADTEACHER: Mrs P Cohen

# ST. ALDHELM'S NEWS

## November and December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been a wonderful Term 2, with an amazing amount of learning and much progress made by the children. It has also been fabulous to have shared our Christmas events with parents and carers again this year. We hope that you enjoyed the Nightingale and Magpie performance of 'Little Angel Gets her Wings', the Christmas Church Service, led by Robins and Falcons and our Christmas Craft Learning Showcase.

Please read on for [Celebrating Learning Behaviours](#) p2; [Kingfisher Quarry Trip](#) p3; [Christmas Lunch](#) p4&5; [Christmas Craft Learning Showcase](#) p6-7; [KS1 Nativity Performance](#) p8; [Christmas Church Service](#) p9-10; [Cinderella, the Panto](#) p11; [Santa Run](#) p12-13; [Club News](#) p14-15; [Talking Mental Health](#) p16; [Governor and PTA Message](#) p17

I know that many families may be feeling the pressures and strains of life, given the economic and financial situation. However, we have been overwhelmed by the continued support and generosity shown for school events and towards staff this term. Thank you very much for your donations and contributions to the sponsored Santa Run, the Christmas Fair and raffle as well as your Christmas cards, messages and gifts for staff. We have been touched by your kindness and thoughtfulness.

I hope that you can support one another in your family and friendship groups over the Christmas period and that you all stay safe, fed and warm. Remember that the biggest gift you can give to each other is time, presence and love, which don't come at a cost but have the greatest effect. I wish you a Christmas of hope, peace, love and joy, where you can enjoy the simple things together. We look forward to seeing you back in school on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

Kind regards  
*Pippa Cohen*  
Headteacher

*Wishing all our families and friends a very happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year*



### TERM DATES for 2022-2023:

#### Christmas Holiday 17<sup>th</sup> Dec- 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>03.01.23</b> | <b>INSET DAY – school closed to children</b> |
| 04.01.23        | Term 3 starts for all children               |
| 09.01.23        | Swimming starts for Y4 (+ some Y5&6)         |
| 01.02.23        | Spring Music Concert tbc                     |
| 03.02.23        | Learning Showcase – Maths                    |
| 07.02.23        | Safer Internet Day                           |
| 08.02.23        | Term 3 Celebration Worship                   |
| 10.02.23        | End of Term 3                                |

#### Half Term 11<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> Feb

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>20.02.23</b> | <b>INSET DAY – school closed to children</b>       |
| 21.02.23        | Term 4 starts for all children                     |
| 02.03.23        | World Book Day (Poetry Themed – details to follow) |
| 20.03.23        | Learning Showcase – Writing Reflection             |
| 21&23.03        | Parent Consultation Evenings                       |
| 28.03.23        | Term 4 Celebration Worship                         |
| 30.03.23        | Easter Church service – led by Magpies and Owls    |
| 31.03.23        | End of Term 4                                      |

#### Easter Holiday 1<sup>st</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> April

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| 17.04.23        | Term 5 starts for all children                                |
| <b>01.05.23</b> | <b>Bank Holiday</b>   |
| May             | Y2 End of KS1 Assessment month                                |
| <b>08.05.23</b> | <b>Bank Holiday (King's Coronation on 6<sup>th</sup> May)</b> |
| 09.05.23        | Y6 SATs Week (Tuesday-Friday)                                 |
| 26.05.23        | End of Term 5   |

#### Half Term 27<sup>th</sup> May- 4<sup>th</sup> June

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 05.06.23        | Term 6 starts for all children               |
| <b>23.06.23</b> | <b>INSET DAY – school closed to children</b> |
| 21.07.23        | End of Term 6                                |



A big well done to all the children who received certificates in Term 2 for their progress, success and achievement with their learning behaviours ☺







**Kingfishers Quarry Trip!**

Last month, Kingfishers went to the Earth Science Centre to discover 'Volcanoes and Dynamic Earth' as part of their geography learning. They stood on an extinct volcano, looked at volcanic rocks and made and erupted their own volcanoes! What a super day of fun! 😊







# Christmas Lunch







# Christmas Lunch





# Christmas Crafts and Learning Showcase

## Robins



## Nightingales



## Magpies





# Owls



# Kingfishers



# Falcons







Year 1 Nightingales and Year 2 Magpies starred in our Christmas Nativity 'Little Angels Gets Her Wings'. The story followed Little Angel who wanted to go to Bethlehem but couldn't keep up with the other angels as she didn't have wings. She showed determination to get there and even stopped to help a donkey, lamb and dove on the way. When she finally reached the stable, after seeing Baby Jesus, she was rewarded with her wings as she had shown such love and kindness along the way. All of the children worked really hard to learn songs, actions and lines as well as stage directions too to create a performance to be proud of!







## Christmas Service 2022

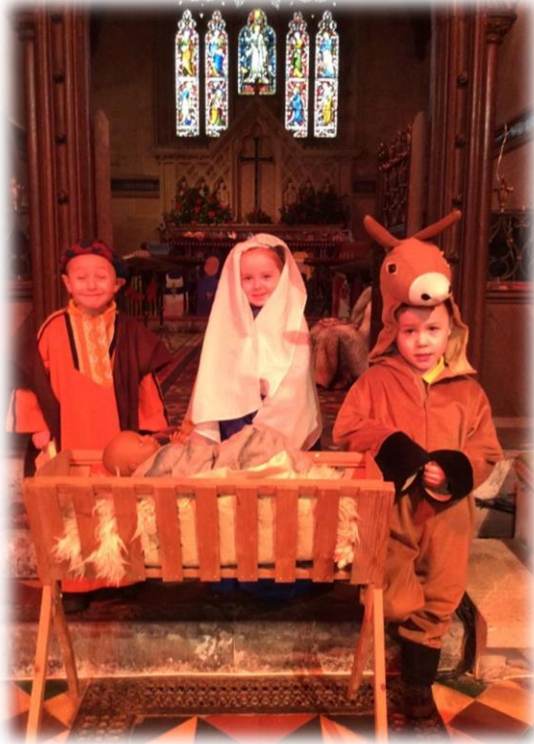
It was lovely to see so many families join us in church on Tuesday for our Christmas Service led by Falcons and Robins. The children shared the story of the Nativity brilliantly through their clear reading and wonderful acting. You were all fantastic and showed your growing confidence in performing to larger audiences. A special mention must be made to our amazing soloists. Thank you, Eden, Naomi and Miles for your solo verses in 'We Three Kings.'

### Christmas

C - is for Camels that carried the kings  
H - is for Heaven where the angels sing  
R - is for Royal with David's Star  
I - is for Imkeeper who sheltered them from afar  
S - is for Stables where Jesus lay  
T - is for Trinity that guides our way  
M - is for Mary who rode the donkey  
A - is for Angels who sing on key  
S - is for Savior who saved us all








ALL ABOUT CHRISTMAS!

Christmas is a time for joy,  
Stockings hung up ready for a boy.  
Children watching Nativity,  
also learning about the Trinity.

Elves making mischief,  
soon to go home.  
The star resting on the tree,  
whilst Santa goes HO HO HO!

By Ruby W,  
Isla and Maisie.





# Cinderella, the Pantomime

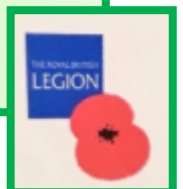


We were very fortunate to be able to watch a Pantomime by the Tor Theatre Company. It featured so many other pantomimes stories along with some modern twists including the Renegade dance and a custard pie chase! Many thanks to the PTA who funded this wonderful opportunity.



## POPPY APPEAL

The Shepton Mallet branch of the Royal British Legion wrote to thank everyone for the wonderful **£227.48** donation, raised for the Poppy Appeal last month. This donation will help to enable the charity to continue their lifelong support for Armed Forces personnel, their families and veterans all year round. The support and generosity was gratefully appreciated. Our area have raised over £22,000 with money still coming in! Thank you families for your support.







# Santa Run

The whole school enjoyed taking part in our sponsored Santa Run. We were impressed with the children's determination and stamina, setting and achieving some personal goals of number of laps run. A big thank you to our Sports Ambassadors who did a great job in leading and supporting this event. Our Christmas jumpers certainly kept us warm whilst running!







*We have been overwhelmed with the generosity of sponsorship for this event. We have raised an amazing £928! The money raised will go into our school fund for the children, with a percentage of the money raised going towards our chosen charity, Access Sport. This is a local charity who make sport accessible to children with poor health.*

*Thank you so much for your support!*



# Mendip Cross Country

We have had a brilliant uptake in our running club at school this term. We are very lucky to have such dedicated and talented runners.

A BIG well done to Arthur and Ruby for representing our school at the KS2 Mendip Cross country race this term. We are looking to grow our team of runners. Please do get in touch with the school office if your child would be interested in participating in the following races.

*The next Cross-Country Fixture Dates are:*

*Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023 – Palace Fields, Wells.*

*Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023 – Downside School, Stratton on the Fosse*

*Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023 – Millfield Prep School, Glastonbury*



## Knitting Club

During knitting club this term, children worked really hard to create their very own snoods!

Children began by learning a knit stitch and when they had mastered this they were able to knit entire rows to create their snood. All children worked incredibly hard and were incredibly resilient. They were all very proud with their results.





# Writing and Reading

We know that writing was hugely impacted after the period of time where education was disrupted due to Covid. It was one of the main areas that many children found hard to carry out during home learning and parents found just as tricky to support. We are very aware of this and have been doing as many whole class, group interventions and personal targets to reset incorrect habits and stamina for writing. We all feel at school that children are making good progress with their writing, however, the older the children are, the harder it can be to change habits. We wish for all children to develop appropriately for their age and are supporting them to do so.



We do set our own high standards for writing and are very proud that the children can see their continued effort results in high quality presentation. Our standards are set and in line with the government expectations for the end of key stage 1 and 2. We are not making this hard for children to achieve but do ensure our expectations are clear and consistent. We expect children to accurately form, join and write in a consistent size and style in all their writing across the curriculum. Children have specific class writing targets to meet the standard and will be set individual targets from January. Should you wish to know these specifics so that you can also support at home, please contact your child's class teacher in the new year.

We have reviewed writing this term, concluding that it would not be fair or right to change our expectations as this may result in children not meeting the standard, particularly when being externally moderated in the summer term. However, we do feel that the way we have presented children from different year groups achieving the standard in a whole school worship with parents is unnecessary. We will continue to look at children's writing on an individual basis and where the standard is met, handwriting pens will be awarded in classes by Mrs Phillips, our English Subject Lead. This will eliminate the element of comparison and therefore stop children feeling demotivated. We hope that this will support your child to continue working towards their writing target and look forward to them receiving their handwriting pen in due course.



**Book Crew**, which consists of children from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6, have been working together to consider how to make reading the best that it can be for all children at St Aldhelm's. We have been fortunate to have been given £100 from the



Wells Literary Festival and so chose 20 new

books which have

gone into classes for all children to enjoy. We have also been busy discussing how we can improve our library and even created some Christmas themed book displays.





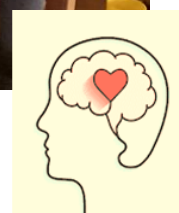


# Talking Mental Health



## Wellbeing Action Group

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to our Wellbeing Action Group (pupil leaders). They have volunteered to be a part of this group that will raise awareness and understanding of wellbeing and mental health across the school. They will be organising a fundraising event in February for Children's Mental Health Week. More information will be shared nearer the time.



Thank you also to the many parents who have put their names forward to join our Wellbeing Action Group. It is lovely to know that we have such great support and a real interest in developing our school's approach to wellbeing and mental health. I will be in contact in the New Year to share further information with those who shared their interest.



# A message from our School Governors

As we approach the new year, I am always mindful of the biblical quote in Acts 20, verse 35: "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Personally, I have taken great comfort that the author of these words didn't quantify what 'giving' is. I appreciate that, currently, life is challenging for everybody, and I find it hard to believe that there is someone out there that hasn't been affected in one way or another by the events of this year.

The school is no different. As a governor, I have had the opportunity to see first-hand how the changes emerging from COVID-19 restrictions, and entering the cost-of-living crisis, have challenged staff. However, I have also been privileged to attend meetings and have discussions with both staff members and volunteers who are working hard towards a brighter future. This extra effort has come through sacrifice freely given, and it is perhaps to this that the author of Chapter 20 in Acts is also alluding, when 'giving' is talked about.

If you visit the school website, the first words you will come across are "Learning together for life in all its fullness - John 10:10." This statement, I am pleased to say, is not a vision St Aldhelm's Church School holds alone and, as we begin to work with Multi Academy Trusts, it is clear that a shared vision with others will be important to enhance the school's development in the future. It's the word "together," though, that I'd like to focus upon currently. The offer for life in all its fullness is not just to our children but to us all as a school family within the local community. Each one of us within this family is gifted in one way or another. I invite you to consider how you may share your gift with the school as we work together in the year ahead.

All the best to you and yours in 2023

*Phil Edwards*

Foundation Governor

## St. Aldhelm's Community News

### Friends of St. Aldhelm's PTA

Thank you to everyone who supported the Christmas Fair and Christmas Raffle, both for the donations for the hampers and for buying tickets. Together we raised a fabulous **£924.82**. We hope that those who came to the fair enjoyed it and that the winners enjoy their prizes. It was lovely to see so many people and to have the help of both old and new PTA members 😊

