

ST. ALDHELM'S VA CHURCH PRIMARY SCHOOL
CHELYNCH PARK, DOULTING, SHEPTON MALLET, SOMERSET, BA4 4PL

Tel: (01749) 880376

www.staldhelms.co.uk

office@staldhelms.co.uk

HEADTEACHER: Mrs P Cohen

ST. ALDHELM'S NEWS

June and July 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Wow! It's hard to believe another year is over! We are so fortunate to have enjoyed the successes and achievements of another academic year. A huge well done to all the children for their brilliant learning behaviours and making the great progress from their starting points in September. We are so proud of you all! We are particularly proud of our Year 6 children, who have come to the end of their primary school journey and are ready for their next chapter. We thank them for all they have contributed to our St Aldhelm's community, wish them a very happy summer and all the very best of luck for their time at secondary school.

I hope you enjoy reading about some of our highlights – it's a bit of a bumper issue! Please read on for [Celebrating Learning Behaviours](#) p2; [Royal Message](#) p3; [Reflection Learning Showcase](#) p4; [Trips and Visits](#) p5-13; [Panto Pandemonium](#) p14&15; [Sports Day](#) p16-22; [Talking Mental Health](#) p23 and [Governor & PTA Message](#) p24&25.

I wish to take this opportunity to say a very big thank you to the staff team that have worked so hard to make this year a great success. They give so much more than each school day to provide the best for the children and their time, dedication and hard work doesn't go unnoticed. I thank all our parents and carers who have worked in partnership with us, supported events across the year and most importantly been involved in their child's learning and social journey in 2022 to 2023. Your children are a credit to you! And last but not means least, I thank the children for being their wonderful selves and bringing joy and fun to our everyday. It's a privilege to serve, teach and care for you.

We say a particular thank you to Mrs Marshall who leaves our school this week. You have been a fantastic LSA and your support to and for the children and staff of the school will be missed. We wish you well in your next chapter and hope the future brings good things to you.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer and that you fill days happily, looking after each other and making the most of experiences you have together.

Kind regards
Pippa Cohen
Headteacher



TERM DATES for 2023-2024:

04.09.23 INSET DAY 1

- 05.09.23 New school year starts for all children
- 11.09.23 Kingfishers & Falcons Welcome Meeting 3:30-4pm
- 13.09.23 Nightingales & Robins Welcome Meeting 3:30-4pm
- 14.09.23 Magpies and Owls Welcome Meeting 3:30-4pm

- 20.09.23 School Photos – Portraits & Family
- 04.10.23 Harvest Service – provisional date tbc

20.10.23 INSET DAY 2 – End of Term 1

Half Term 23rd – 27th October

- 30.10.23 Term 2 starts
- 02.11.23 Year 6 Wells Festival of Literature
- 20.11.23 Flu Vaccinations for all year groups
- 04.12.23 Y1&2 Christmas Performance this week
- 13.12.23 Christmas Service – provisional date tbc
- 15.12.23 End of Term 2

Christmas Break 18th Dec – 1st January 2024

02.01.24 INSET DAY 3

- 03.01.24 Term 3 starts for all children
- 09.02.24 End of Term 3

Half Term 12th – 16th February 2024

- 19.02.24 Term 4 starts
- 26-28.02.24 Kilve Residential Trip for Y4, 5 & 6
- 28.03.24 End of Term 4

Easter Break 29th March – 12th April 2024

- 15.04.24 Term 5 starts
- 06.05.24 Bank Holiday
- 24.05.24 End of Term 5

Half Term 27th – 31st May 2024

- 03.06.24 Term 6 starts
- 28.06.24 INSET DAY 4
- 23.07.24 End of Term 6
- 24.07.24 INSET DAY 5

Summer Break 25th July – 3rd September 2024



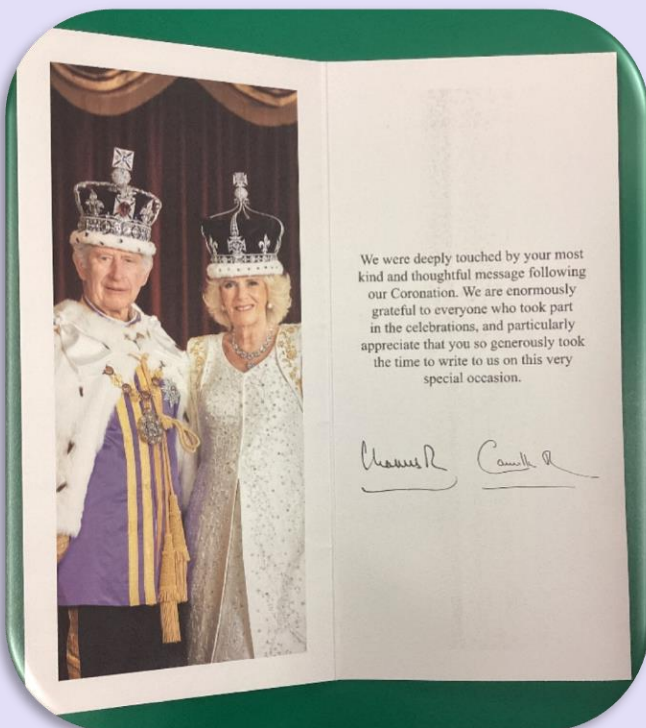
A big well done to all the children who received certificates in Term 6 for their progress, success and achievement with their learning behaviours ☺



A Royal Message from the King!

We were all delighted to receive official correspondence from Buckingham Palace last week.

Children in Owls and Falcons had written to and created artwork for the King on the special occasion of his coronation. They shared some of their wishes for his reign, having discussed this together in worship and in class.



Enquiry Learning Showcase



Parent Quotes – "I'm so impressed with how much my child's handwriting has developed, looking at her books at the learning showcase." "We are so pleased with our child's progress in Year 2, specifically his writing."



Parent Quotes: "I can't believe how much your writing has improved. You've done so well!"



Parent Quotes:
"I can really see the progress my child has made. Thank you."
"The words my child is using in their writing is amazing."
"You can really see their love of art and being creative."

Noah's Ark Farm



Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5 all enjoyed a visit to Noah's Ark Zoo Farm, where they took part in a workshop based on conservation and environmentalism. They even got to meet some of the animals up close.



As they explored the zoo, the children did sketches of some of the animals and made notes of all the different countries and continents they came across.

Robin Class Trip to Carymoor Environmental Trust



On Thursday 15th June Robin Class enjoyed a wonderful day at Carymoor Environmental Trust. The children took part in the 'Minibeast Mayhem' Workshop to enhance their learning about different types of Minibeasts and to learn more about their habitats.



At first the children set off to the meadow where they used the large nets to sweep the long grass for Minibeasts. The children were great at using the identification sheets to learn which Minibeasts they might be.



Meadow sweep
Sweeping for Minibeasts!



Identifying
Minibeasts!

After lunch we visited the pond. The children had the opportunity to look at and match the different minibeast as part of a minibeast bingo game. The children finished their day sat in the woodland making their clay Minibeasts. We were so impressed with the individual creations the children had made using clay and found sticks, leaves and pine cones.



The staff at Carymoor commented on how brilliant Robin class were at listening and concentrating today, especially on such a hot day. You should be very proud of yourselves. Well done, Robins! We would also like to say a HUGE thank you to our wonderful Parent helpers on the day!



Shelly the Giant
Mechanical Snail
came to visit!



The children couldn't believe their eyes when they saw a GIANT SNAIL appear on the school field this term!

Robin Class were very lucky to learn lots of new Snail facts and had the opportunity to ask Shelly the mechanical snail their own questions.

Children across the school were also able to meet Shelly during their playtime on the school playing field.

A HUGE Thank you to Mr and Mrs Young (From Tall Tails Theatre Company and lovely parents at our school) for bringing Shelly the mechanical snail into meet everyone.

The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience!





Year 6 Legoland



Trip





YEAR 6 PILGRIMAGE SERVICE



Year 6 had a wonderful day in Wells Cathedral, where they joined other Year 6 children to take part in a Pilgrimage Service. The children were amazing and led the banner procession and candle lighting parts of the ceremony. We then took part in the workshops that followed. Thank you to the PTA for continuing to fund this experience.





Panto Pandemonium!

Key Stage 2 delivered 3 fantastic performances of 'Panto Pandemonium'. All children worked incredibly hard, and we are very proud of them all! Well done Owls, Kingfishers and Falcons!



Oh yes, it is!

Oh no it isn't!

Hisssssss!



Boooooooooo!



He's behind you!



Sports Day 2023

KS2 Sports

On Friday 7th July we enjoyed our annual Sports Day. Our KS2 started the day by participating in a number of activities demonstrating the range of skills they have learned over the year. The children had the opportunity to beat their personal best in jumping, throwing, skipping and tennis skills. The children took part in more competitive races such as the relay race, hurdles and sprint later in the morning. Year 6 enjoyed their leavers race to finish as EYFS and KS1 came to cheer them on! It was fantastic to see how well the children supported one another. Great participation and team spirit. Well done!



Owls



Kingfishers





Falcons



Year 6 Leavers



Good Sports!

Year 6 Leavers Race

Year 6 enjoyed their final race by dressing up and racing to the finish line with their suitcases. Don't they look the part! Well done, Year 6!



Sports Ambassadors

A HUGE Thank you to our Amazing KS2 Sports Ambassadors. They all did a great job in helping to set up and replenish equipment. They demonstrated the activities well to support and encourage our younger children. This enabled the day to run smoothly. Super Sporting role models. Well done!

EYFS and KS1 Sports

In the morning our EYFS and KS1 children enjoyed watching and cheering on our KS2 children during their races. In the afternoon the children participated in a number of activities demonstrating the range of skills they have learned over the year. The children had the opportunity to beat their personal best in jumping, throwing, obstacle course, 'Fill your house', and football skills. The children took part in more competitive races such as the hurdles race, egg and spoon and sprint to finish. Our KS2 children enjoyed cheering on our younger members of the school. It was great to see the children participate so well and how they showed such encouragement and support for their friends. A very enjoyable day for all. Well done!



Robins





Nightingales



Magpies



Thank You PTA

A huge **Thank You** to the **PTA** for providing refreshments for spectators on the day. The tea and scones were quite a treat! And thank you for the lollies for the children to enjoy on a very hot Sports Day!

YOU'RE
TEA-RRIFIC!





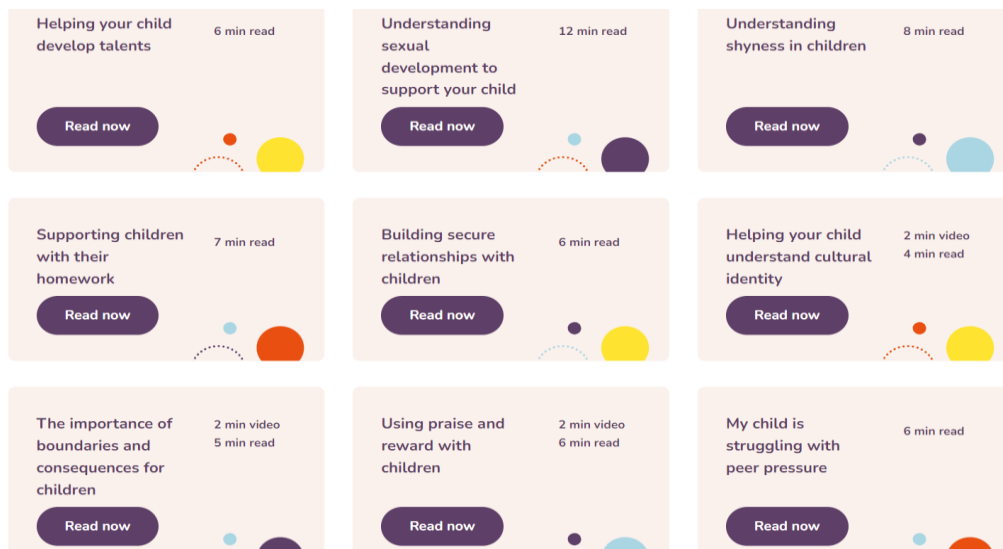
Talking Mental Health



Parenting Support

As parents and carers, you play a crucial role in your child's mental health. This can be daunting, especially if you are unsure what to do next. Below is a link to a wealth of videos and short articles that give smart tips and practical advice.

<https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/>



Muscle relaxation exercises can help relieve tension in both parent and child. These types of exercises are a good way to support self-care and bond.

1. Sit or lie down and make yourself comfortable.
2. Breathe in, clench your right hand, notice the tension in your hand and arm.
3. Breathe out, relax, notice the difference.
4. Breathe in, clench your left hand, notice the tension. Breathe out, relax, notice the difference.
5. Notice how comfortably heavy your hands and arms feel when you let them relax.
6. Breathe in, clench your thighs and buttocks, notice the tension.
7. Breathe out, relax, notice the difference.
8. Breathe in, bend your feet up, notice the tension in your legs and feet.

What's this good for?

- Soothing aches and pains
- Letting go of tension

A message from our School Governors

How do Governors monitor progress at St Aldhelm's?

Like many schools, St Aldhelm's is supported by a Governing Board consisting of members from the school and also from the wider community. The Governing Board oversee the Headteacher of the school and staff team around all management and operations at St Aldhelm's and therefore require different sources of information to provide adequate governance, such as Full Board meetings, focus group meetings and monitoring visits.

Monitoring visits covering all of the curriculum at St Aldhelm's allow nominated Governors to have 1-1 time with a Subject Lead (usually a member of the teacher team from the school) to review the progress throughout all year groups. All subjects learnt by the pupils at St Aldhelm's, along with specific support areas such as SEND and Safeguarding, are covered with Monitoring visits to named Subject Leads.

During the visits we ensure that we are able to collect information around several areas to ensure that there is sufficient progress and support overall. These areas include:

- Subject Lead Review: Looking at the expertise, training and welfare of the Subject Lead, allowing any support requirements (such as challenges faced) that can be aided by the Governing Board where able, to be communicated effectively into Full Governing Board meetings and/or be supported by the School Leadership and Management Team.
- Document Overview: A review of the bespoke Curriculum Plan, Curriculum Maps and Action Plans relating to the monitored subject to ensure that these documents are available to teaching staff, allow monitoring by the Subject Lead and give a clear indication of the progress being made in the area, and identified goals for each year group.
- Pupil Input: The most important voice contributing to the development and implementation of any subject area is that of our pupils. Monitoring visits allow the Governing Board to gain feedback on what each year group and the pupils as a whole say, along with their thoughts and ideas for future goals. This is obtained through observation, monitoring tools supported by the Subject Lead, and designated time to gather pupil voice across all year groups.

Monitoring visits are shared with the Full Governing Board to allow us to keep a robust overview of development and progress throughout St Aldhelm's. They are also used to form part of the Quality Assurance monitoring as part of our regulatory requirements from Ofsted.

Liam Dutton

Parent Governor



Staff wish to say a big thank you to the governors for providing a Governor Staff Lunch this week. It was a lovely opportunity to come together and appreciate everything the governors and staff do for the children of St Aldhelm's School.

St. Aldhelm's Community News

Friends of St. Aldhelm's PTA

On behalf of the PTA, we wish to thank everyone who helped with the recent fundraising. The film nights held over 2 nights were a success with the children loving their popcorn and hotdogs. For some it's was their first experience of watching a film on a large screen with lots of other children.

The village fete was well supported with lots of stalls run by families of the school. Regardless of the weather everyone enjoyed themselves. More recently, the school disco, to which all the year groups were invited, saw some brilliant moves on the dance floor. A huge thank you to the parents who face painted some beautiful images which the children proudly displayed. It is the first disco since 2018 and it proved to be very much enjoyed and well supported.

Watch out in September for more upcoming events and dates of PTA meetings. Everyone is welcome and all the money raised goes for the benefit of all the children at school.

I joined the PTA in 2018 in which I have been part of a working team helping to raise funds for the children of St Aldhelm's School . I am handing over the reigns to the new committee and I wish them ever success for the future.

Best wishes
Chris Pulsford



GET HANDS-ON WITH SCIENCE AT SOMERSET EARTH SCIENCE CENTRE!

Have you ever wondered what sound looks like, how a rocket works, or what's inside your body?

Cambridge Hands-On Science (CHaOS) is touring the UK this summer, with a team of friendly Cambridge students and hands-on experiments to answer these questions and many more!

Join us for a **FREE** day of family-friendly fun at the **Somerset Earth Science Centre** on **Thursday July 27th**, from **11am-4pm**.

 contact@chaossience.org.uk
[cambridgehandsonscience](https://www.instagram.com/cambridgehandsonscience)
[chaossience.org.uk](https://www.chaossience.org.uk)
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Summer Reading Challenge 2023

Ready, Set, Read!

Presented by The Reading Agency.
Delivered in partnership with libraries.



Illustrations by Loretta Schauer and logo artwork by Jojo Everett. All © The Reading Agency 2023.

A reminder that the Summer Reading Challenge has been launched. Please visit Shepton Mallet Library over the summer break for more information or visit their website.

[Summer Reading Challenge](#)