

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

ST. ALDHELM'S NEWS

April and May 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

I'm not sure if it's just me, but time certainly seems to be whizzing by and I can't believe we have come to the end of our penultimate term of the year! It's been another great term of learning and progress, activities and experiences, and successes and achievements.

I wish to say a big well done to all children in Y2 and Y6 who have carried out national assessments this month. The focus, resilience, knowledge and skills you have shown is such a credit to you all and shares the culmination of all the hard work and learning that has taken place through the whole of each key stage. Thank you to our amazing staff team who have contributed to the attitudes, behaviours and learning successes of the children. Assessments for writing and other subject areas will take place next term, when all other year groups will complete their assessments too.

It's been great for classes to enhance their learning out of the school environment and on trips to other places. We know how much these experiences positively impact the learning. It's a great time of the year to get out and about and with the half term and the summer holidays not far away, you may wish to plan in trips out with your child to support and extend your child's learning. You don't have to go too far, a visit to the library to choose some books of interest is just as beneficial. Tap into what excites and interests your child and support existing or new enquiries to motivate and inspire them.

I hope you enjoy reading about some of our highlights and celebrating your child's individual successes and achievements. Please read on for [Celebrating Learning Behaviours](#) p2; [Enquiry Learning Showcase](#) p3&4; [Y1 Trip to Lyme Regis](#) p5; [Coronation Celebrations](#) p6-8; [Well Done Year 6](#) p9; [St Aldhelm's Gathering](#) p10; [Talking Mental Health](#) p12 and [PTA Message](#) p13.

I wish to say a public thank you to Miss Wood for her six years of teaching at St Aldhelm's and her wonderful contribution to the children at the school. We all hope she has made a good start to her new job and wish her the very best for her future adventures.

I hope you all have a fun-filled and sunny half term and look forward to seeing you back at school on Monday 5th June.

Kind regards
Pippa Cohen
Headteacher



TERM DATES for 2022-2023:

Half Term 27th May- 4th June

05.06.23	Term 6 starts for all children Noah's Ark Zoo Farm Trip for Y3,4&5
08.06.23	Y2 Synagogue Trip
09.06.23	Summer Reading Challenge Assembly Maths MABLE Whitstone (selected Y6)
12.06.23	Phonic Screening for Y1 children
13.06.23	Film Night for Y4,5&6
15.06.23	YR Carymore Trip Film Night for Y1,2&3 English MABLE Whitstone (selected Y6)
21.06.23	New Reception taster session 1
23.06.23	INSET DAY – school closed to children
28.06.23	New Reception taster session 2
30.06.23	Year 6 Lego Land Trip
04.07.23	Mini Taster day Norton Hill Y6
05.07.23	Moving Up Morning Blue & Whitstone Y6 Transition Day New Reception Teddy Bear Picnic 1:45-2:45pm
06.07.23	Y6 Wells Cathedral Pilgrim's Day, Service, Lunch & Workshop Norton Hill Y6 Transition Day
07.07.23	Sports Day
08.07.23	Doultong & School Summer Fete
10.07.23	Reflection Learning Showcase
12.07.23	Y6 Sports Day at Whitstone KS2 Summer Performance 5pm
13.07.23	KS2 Summer Performance 5pm Reports out
14.07.23	PTA School Disco
18.07.23	Celebration Worship 9:10am
19.07.23	Y6 & Families BBQ at Whitstone
20.07.23	Leavers Service in Church
21.07.23	Last day of academic year
04.09.23	INSET DAY
05.09.23	New school year for all children



Enquiry Learning Showcase

Robins



Magpies



Owls



It was great to have so many parents in for our learning showcase. Owls really enjoyed sharing what we have learnt about our local area and creating a new attraction that the children would like to visit in our local area.

Kingfishers



Kingfishers loved sharing their books with their grown ups and then unscrambling the words written in the runic alphabet too to discover the answer to some clues as well as decipher some Viking God names.

Falcons



Falcons shared their learning from our many enquiry projects this year, as well as their recent presentations on Victorian crime and punishment. The children created Victorian criminal profiles with their parents and grandparents. They applied their existing knowledge to make their source as realistic as possible.

Year 1 Nightingales Trip to Lyme Regis



Year 1
Nightingales
visited
Dinosaurland
Fossil Museum in
Lyme Regis to
enhance and
consolidate their
Enquiry Learning
about Mary
Anning.



They enjoyed looking at
fossilised dinosaur eggs,
ammonites, ichthyosaurs,
trilobites, and many other
creatures.



The museum houses the largest
collection of fossils in the
Southwest. The children then
enjoyed a question-and-answer
session with Museum owner and
Palaeontologist Steve, whose
collection of fossils were on
display.





We were very lucky with the weather and Nightingales enjoyed lunch in the park and ice creams on the beach before walking along the sea wall to go fossil hunting!



Nightingales worked brilliantly and collaboratively to look for fossils on East Cliff Beach in Lyme Regis.



We found lots of ammonites in the rocks at Lyme Regis and some of the children were even lucky enough to find smaller fossils in rocks that they could bring home.



Coronation Celebrations



In Falcons, we created art linked to the Coronation and sent this to the King. We also shared our artwork with Year 1 and created some joint pieces (designed our own orb and sceptre). Later in the day, we enjoyed a tea party and made fruit kebabs out of red, white and blue fruit.



Reception Robins enjoyed celebrating the Kings Coronation with Coronation Crafts and Afternoon Tea in class. A big thank you to Mrs Chapman for the delicious Coronation cupcakes!



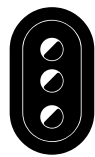
An afternoon fit for Kings and Queens in Kingfisher, who joined Owls to celebrate the King's Coronation. A Royal Banquet of scones and jam, fruit and squash with their decorating Royal Coronation cups. Waltzing on the playground together as though were in a royal ballroom together.

Some fantastic drawings of the St Edwards crown!

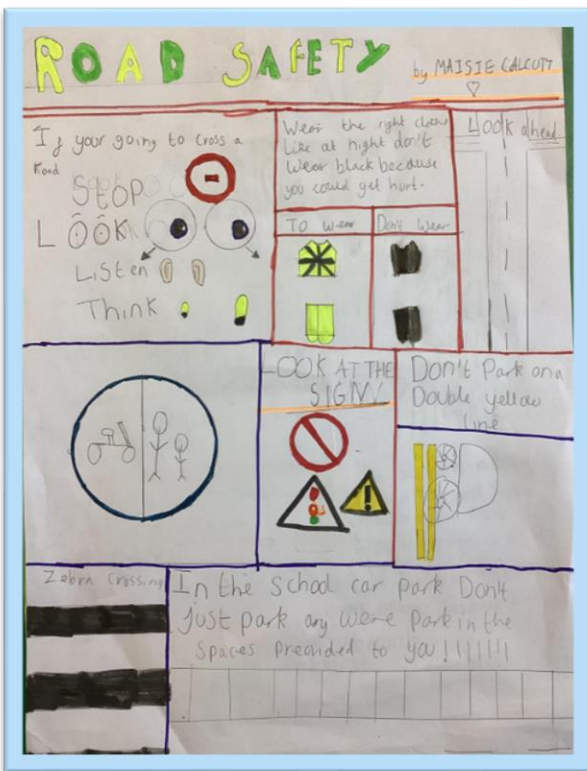


Magpies thoroughly enjoyed our Coronation Day Celebration. We held tummies in and heads high for the Crown Parade and took part in Royal Crafts to create commemorative bookmarks and Union Jack wreaths, along with fantastic singing throughout the day!

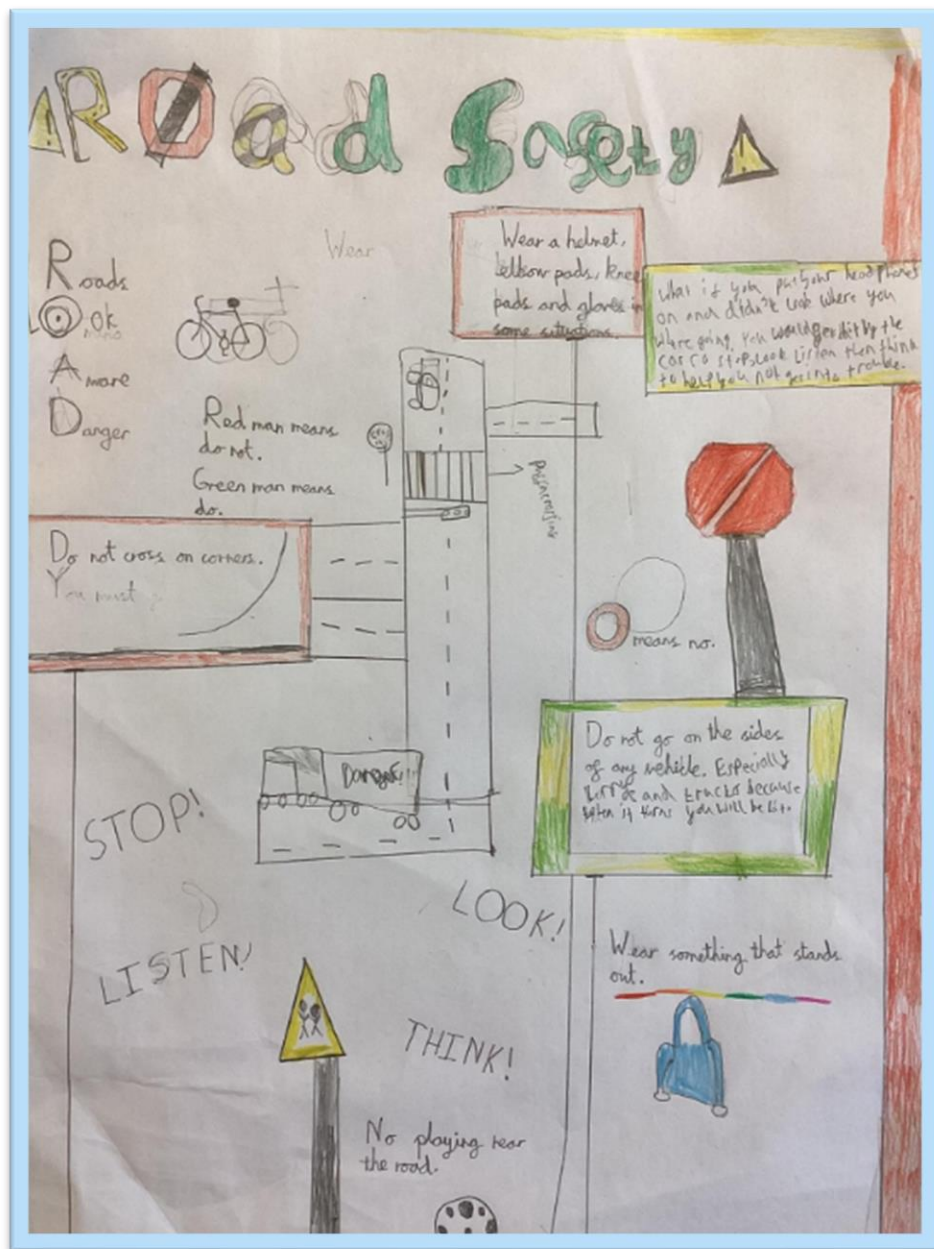




ROAD SAFETY



Each class was visited by Barry, a road safety speaker 🚦 It was great to see and hear the brilliant knowledge the children already had which impressed our visitor. They learnt more about key road signs and the importance of being seen. Many children were surprised by how big a lorry's blind spot is 🚚 Falcon's created some informative



WELL DONE YEAR 6



👑 Wow Year 6 👑 You have been truly amazing!

Both Mrs Newman and I have been so impressed with Year 6's effort, resilience and attitude shown during their SATs week. There was phenomenal focus shown with lots of clear strategies being used.

Well done for being positive and showing great determination👑



St Aldhelm's Gathering

Saturday 20th May 2023

Last weekend, children, staff and governors of the school, represented St Aldhelm's, Doultong, at the St Aldhelm's Gathering. The event was held at Sherborne Abbey, a beautiful location for a gathering of many different churches, schools and groups across the South West, who have a link to St Aldhelm.



Rev. Gill prepared and led the craft activity of designing and printmaking. All designs reflected the riddles we had shared as a group.

The morning was spent sharing and performing short pieces inspired by St Aldhelm, founder of Sherborne Abbey in AD 705. Groups performed songs, theatre pieces, storytelling, poems and arts and crafts. Our school shared riddles and a song. With only a small group able to perform on the day, the children did brilliantly and were excellent ambassadors for the school.



We met the serving Bishop Karen, who complimented the children on their enthusiasm and contribution to the day.



The beautiful banners that children in Falcons and Magpies had helped to design, were created by Rev. Gill, and made by most children in Magpies and KS2 beforehand. They were on display for the day. Children were part of a procession of banners at the start and end of the service in the Abbey.



I wish to say a big thank you to the children for their brilliant performances and participation on the day. I also thank Rev. Gill, Chris Pulsford, Liam Dutton, Mrs Newman and Mrs Phillips for the time and support they gave for this occasion.

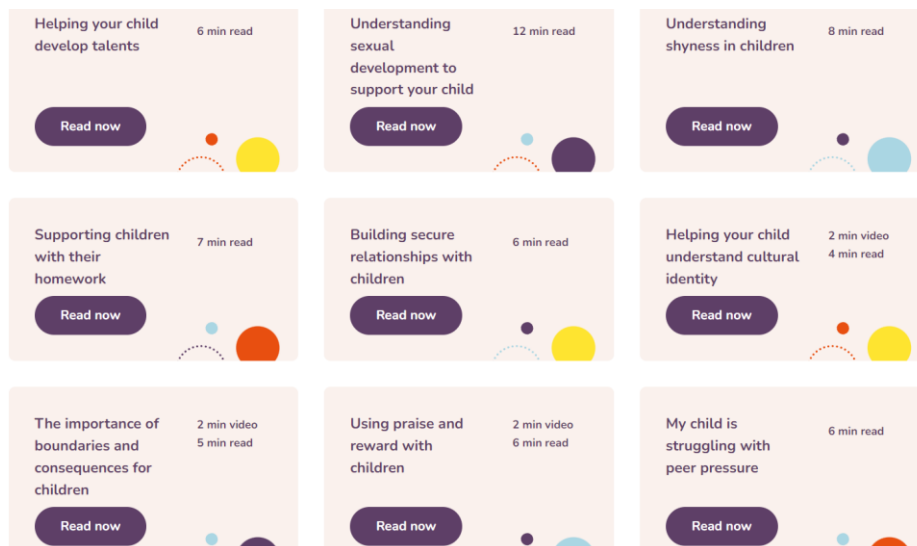


Talking Mental Health

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/>

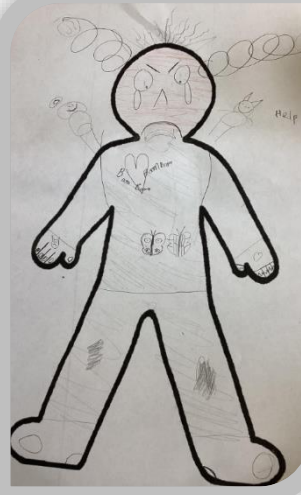


Muscle relaxation exercises can help relieve tension in both parent and child. These types of exercises are a good way to support self-care and bond.

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?

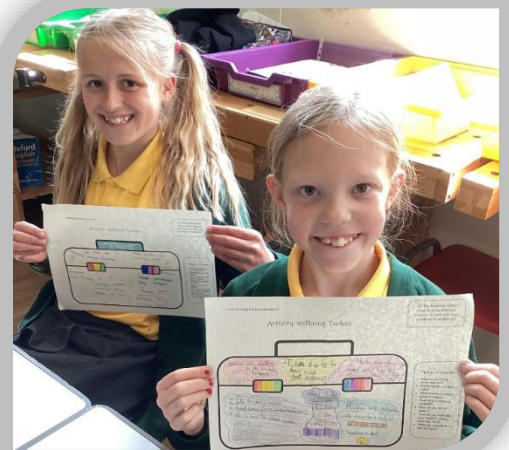
- Soothing aches and pains
- Letting go of tension



Mrs Newman arranged for Mel Young (a whole school approach practitioner from the Mental Health Support Team) to work with the key stage 2 (KS2) classes on emotions and understanding these. The children learnt about the different parts of their brain and why some emotions become really big and cause us to 'flip our lid.' All KS2 found their workshop really engaging and helpful. Year 6 had an additional session around transition support, which they all found beneficial. It allowed them the opportunity to share their worries but more importantly understand and explore strategies to support.

Mel was incredibly impressed with all of KS2. She passed remarks on what emotionally literate children we have at St Aldhelm's and how articulate they were at sharing their thoughts and feelings.

KS1 will have their session soon.



ST ALDHELM'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

CROSS COUNTRY CLUB

The Children have enjoyed running out of the school grounds this term. We have been impressed with the children's progress with pace and stamina already and it was lovely to enjoy a lolly at the finish of our final session of this term.



St. Aldhelm's Community News

Friends of St. Aldhelm's PTA

The PTA are delighted to share some exciting fundraising plans for the final term of the year.

- ✚ **Tuesday 13th June** – Film Night for Years 4, 5 & 6
- ✚ **Thursday 15th June** – Film Night for Years 1, 2 & 3

Both of these will take place immediately at the end of the school day and further information regarding timings, film choice, refreshments and ticket price will be shared shortly.

- ✚ **Saturday 8th July 12-4pm** – School & Village Fete. Come and join us for a fun filled day of games, stalls, beer tent, BBQ & more!
- ✚ **Friday 14th July 5.30-7pm** - whole school disco, including face painting, glow stall, tuck shop, glitter tattoos and more.

We are so grateful for all the help and support that so many of you and your children offered to make the Christmas Fair such a success. If anyone can spare some time to help support any of the events above, it would be much appreciated. Please contact either Chris Pulsford – 07935 008288 or Becky Leyton – 07411 692642



Mini Museum Open Day Somerset Earth Science Centre Saturday 27th May 11am-3.30pm

Come and see our fascinating collection of Mendip Rocks, Minerals and Fossils

Bring in your own fossils and rocks for identification by experts

Fossil & Mineral displays

Get creative with our fossil arts and crafts

Bring a picnic or sit by the lake with tea and cake

Fossils and dig kits available to purchase

Light refreshments available, onsite parking next to Wainwright Quarry

Somerset Earth Science Centre, Moons Hill Quarry
Stoke St Michael, BA3 5JU.
www.earthsciencecentre.org.uk

