

ST. ALDHELM'S NEWS

September and October 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

We have enjoyed a great first term of the year, seeing the children moving happily into their new classes. It has been wonderful to welcome our new Reception Robins into the St Aldhelm's community. They are well settled into routines now and showing us their many interests and talents as well as embracing new learning.

Thank you to Nightingales and Kingfishers for a fabulous Harvest Service in Church. You led a super worship that made us all think about being thankful, not wasteful – a very timely message. Thank you to all families too for joining us and for your kind donations for Harvest this year. We were able to make a generous contribution to the Salvation Army and this was gratefully received.

It was great to see our Falcons at the Wells Festival of Literature this week. Meeting and being inspired by an author, motivates children to read and write alike. Reading is a priority for our school development this year and this was our focus for our first Learning Showcase. Our results from last year prove we are teaching and learning well, meeting national expectations and significantly so at the end of Key Stage 2. Our focus has to be to maintain this great attainment, but also to raise the children's enjoyment and desire to read. You can support this by ensuring your child reads aloud most days and shares their opinions and understanding with you. We also recommend that you routinely read to your child. Every class has a daily Class Book Time and they love it! Listening to and picking up good language, ideas and storylines, will enthuse and inspire your children.

We hope that you have found the parent consultation meetings helpful and are more informed about how your child is doing at school. Going forward with the year, please get in touch with your child's class teacher via Tapestry or ClassDojo, if there are queries you have about your child's learning or wellbeing.

Please read on for [Celebrating Learning Behaviours](#) p2; [Learning Showcase](#) p3, [Falcons Anglo Saxon Day](#) p4&5; [Harvest Service](#) p6; [Festival of Literature](#) p7; [Talking Mental Health](#) p8; [Online Safety](#) p10; [Governor Message](#) p12 and [Community News](#) p13.

I hope you have a good half term break. We look forward to seeing you on Monday 31st Oct for Term 2.

Kind regards

Pippa Cohen

Headteacher

TERM DATES for 2022-2023:

21.10.22	End of Term 1 Half Term 22nd – 30th Oct
31.10.22	Term 2 starts for all children
23.11.22	Dance Festival for Y5 at Whitstone
08.12.22	Celebration Worship 9:10-9:40am Christmas Performance Nightingales & Magpies 2pm and 5:15pm
09.12.22	Christmas Jumper Day Christmas Fair
13.12.22	Christmas Church Service Robins & Falcons 9:30am Christmas Lunch
15.12.22	Christmas Craft Learning Showcase 2:45pm
16.12.22	Class Christmas Parties End of Term 2 Christmas Holiday 17th Dec - 2nd Jan
03.01.23	INSET DAY – school closed to children
04.01.23	Term 3 starts for all children
10.02.23	End of Term 3 Half Term 11th – 19th Feb
20.02.23	INSET DAY – school closed to children
21.02.23	Term 4 starts for all children
31.03.23	End of Term 4 Easter Holiday 1st – 16th April
17.04.23	Term 5 starts for all children
01.05.23	Bank Holiday
26.05.23	End of Term 5 Half Term 27th May - 4th June
05.06.23	Term 6 starts for all children
23.06.23	INSET DAY – school closed to children
21.07.23	End of Term 6



A big well done to all the children who received certificates in Term 1 for their progress, success and achievement with their learning behaviours 😊



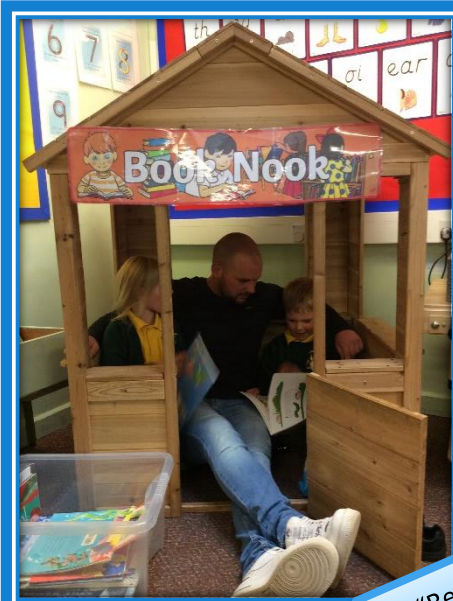
Robins received their first certificates in class 😊



Learning Showcase



In Kingfishers, it was popular to share the reading scrapbook. It was lovely to hear a pupil describing the book shelves to his grandad, "This is where we come for a funny one, or over here for an adventure story."



"Reading is magical"



"I can believe how well my child is learning their phonics already"
~ Robin parent



"Just like you did in the Reading Showcase, I have been using the Reading Dogs this week to help with my child's reading at home!"
~ Magpie parent



FALCONS

ANGLO SAXON DAY



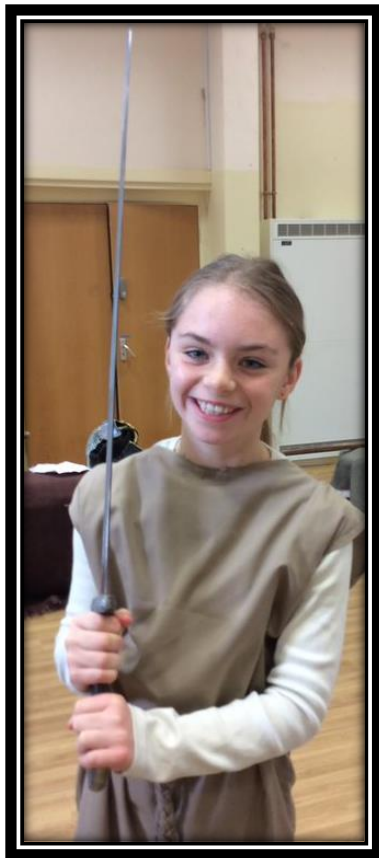
In Year 5/6 Falcons, we took part in an Anglo Saxon Day as part of our enquiry project. We dressed up as Anglo Saxons to help us get into role and spent the day as historians. We had a visitor who led the day and we all took part in many amazing activities. Here are some of the photos from the day and quotes from the children.



"I can't even pick one thing, as there were so many things I loved about our Anglo Saxon Day."



"I was really proud that I could use my history skills to figure out what the artefacts were and what they were made of."



"If the Anglo-Saxon's had won the Battle of Hastings, our country would be very different today. I think it's amazing that King Alfred the Great tried to unite what is England today."



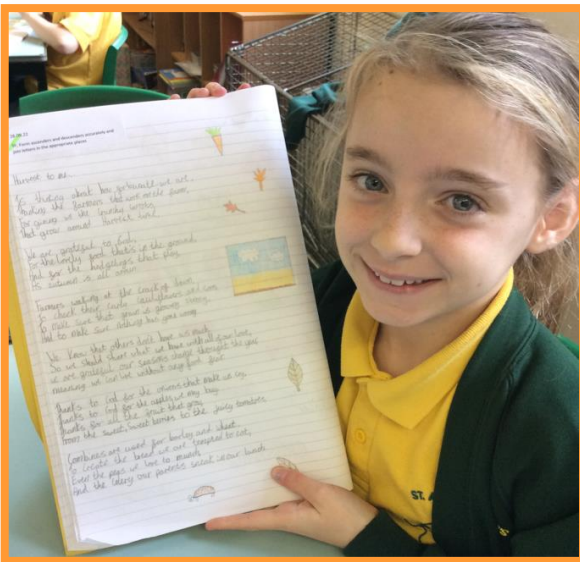
"I loved handling the weapons and playing the games. I didn't realise that the Anglo Saxons ate brains and they didn't have potatoes in Britain back then."



"I didn't realise how heavy chainmail would be. I don't know how they wore it all day let alone fight in it."



Harvest Service



Nightingales and Kingfishers delivered a fantastic Harvest Service in Church to share with the other children in school, and adults who joined us, the importance of giving at this time of year.

There were some fantastic actors and actresses in Year 1, who were fantastic at remembering their acting as part of their parable - Elijah and the Widow.

Thank you for all of the kind donations that have been brought to school to be donated. We know that times are tougher than ever at the moment, so the generous donations are particularly appreciated.

Kingfishers accompanied the acting by reading with great volume and clarity. They also performed a whole class 'pop-up poem' that they had worked on collaboratively and shared.



Year 6 loved the opportunity to meet Author Dan Smith at the Wells Literature Festival. We were able to find out about his very interesting life, the inspirations for his characters and stories and to meet him personally to have our books signed, as well as asking our own questions. The children had the opportunity to buy some of his books and it was lovely to see and hear such a buzz around this experience and reading. Year 6 children found it so valuable that they shared this with this Year 5s, and already the children are reading one of his books and loving comparing their stories with their friends.





Talking Mental Health



Are you interested
in mental health
and wellbeing?



Do you have an
interest in developing
your understanding
and sharing this with
others?

WANTED

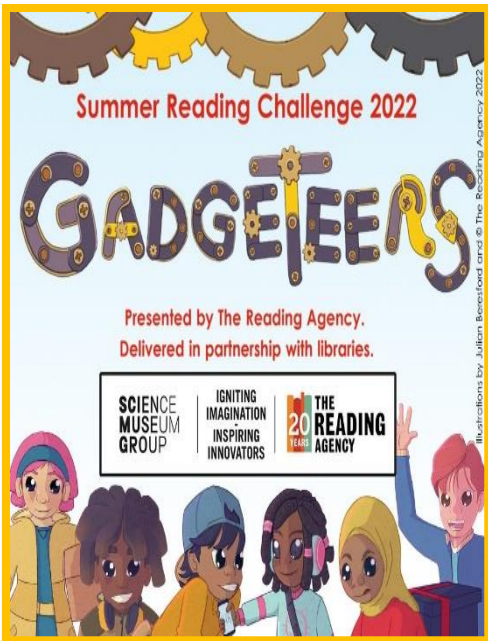
Mrs Newman (Senior Mental Health Lead) is looking to create a Wellbeing Action Group. This will be made up of children, parents, teachers, supporting staff and governors.

The Wellbeing Action Group will help to continue the great work that the school already does towards personal development, understanding mental health and promoting wellbeing. The group will come together at different points in the school year to discuss ways we can move further forward as a school. This may also include ways to raise funds for further resources / activities.

It will require the commitment of one meeting per term, plus supporting the completion of any actions jointly created. If this is something you would be interested in taking part in, please register your interest with Mrs Newman via email by 9am on the 25th November. Please title your email: Wellbeing Action Group FAO Mrs Newman.

cnewman@staldhelms.co.uk

Congratulations to all that participated in the Reading Challenge!



After School Club Activities Term 1



Children are having great fun in our After School Club that is run by Miss Webb and assisted by Miss Catlin. The children love doing the various activities that are organised, especially when it includes getting mucky!

Our After School Club is run from 3.25pm to 5.30pm during term-time. Please see below for Autumn Term 2 activities. To book, please go to the School Gateway App and book directly here.

November 2022						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Fireworks						
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Around the World						
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Carnival Week						
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
World Cup			USA Thanksgiving			
28	29	30				
World Cup						

December 2022						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1	2	3	4
			World Cup			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Winter Christmas						
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Christmas				🌲		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Online safety for children is everyone's responsibility. As parents and staff, one of the ways we can take responsibility is to be aware and informed ourselves about online activities.

We are increasingly aware of children accessing and using sites and platforms that are not appropriate for their age. Please be aware and use helpful online safety updates to help you...

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about YOUTUBE KIDS

YouTube Kids is a child-friendly version of YouTube which offers a colourful and easy-to-navigate environment that's suitable for young children. This app is easily accessible and available for mobile devices, which can be downloaded without needing the YouTube app on the device. Despite YouTube Kids seeming like a very child-friendly platform, it has raised concerns over its advertising and inappropriate content seeping through the curation process.

SETTING UP

1 Download the YouTube Kids app and connect your own YouTube channel.

2 Input your child's name, age and birth month.

3 Select the types of videos you want to include for your child based on their age and your own personal choice.

4 If you decide to approve the content yourself, the app will present you with sample videos for you to accept and reject.

5 Once you've made your choice, you're ready to use the app!

Advice for Parents & Carers

REMOVE ADVERTISEMENTS

Like YouTube, adverts on YouTube Kids are also quite pervasive. If you decide you don't want your child being exposed to adverts, you can subscribe to YouTube Premium which will remove adverts on YouTube Kids. However, it's worth remembering that this doesn't block adverts that content creators decide to make as part of their content, and children are still able to access channels from branded fast food or toy companies.

BE WARY OF UNSUITABLE CONTENT

YouTube Kids has a far lower chance of showing unsuitable material than YouTube, but there are still reports of malicious users deliberately uploading inappropriate content. It's important that your child feels able to talk to you if they were ever exposed to upsetting content in the future. It's also safest to report inappropriate videos: tap the three dots in the corner of the video and select 'Report'.

DISABLE SEARCH OPTION

YouTube Kids allows you to disable the search feature, which you may find useful in preventing your child from unintentionally finding age-inappropriate content. Doing this will also give you more control over what your child is watching. It's also worth noting that setting an age limit will ensure that your child is only exposed to recommended videos that are deemed suitable for their age group.

RESTRICT VIEWING TIME

The YouTube Kids app provides you with the option of setting up a timer to monitor and limit your child's daily usage, which automatically stops the video when it reaches the set time. It may be best to make use of this feature to prevent screen addiction - which can potentially lead to children playing up too late, affecting their mood and concentration the following day.

MONITOR WATCH HISTORY

YouTube Kids has also made it possible for parents and carers to see what their children are watching on the app by clicking on the 'Recommended' icon on the top right of the home screen. It may also be worth having a look at what your child has recently watched by clicking on their history tab. The red bar on the video shows how much of the video has been watched.

WATCH TOGETHER

It's important to make YouTube Kids a fun and positive experience for your child. This may require spending time finding channels and content that you and your child will enjoy and benefit from. Try introducing family sessions where you can share the most enjoyable videos that you and your child have recently watched. This can be a great way of giving you and your child many new things to talk about with each other.

Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (c.g.w.s@nons.org.uk) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing insights with expert coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Ludoz of Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



What Parents Need to Know about YouTube Kids

A free online safety guide on YouTube Kids.

Click on the boxes below to link to the website for full guides

What Parents Need to Know about FIFA 23



Published 12th October 2022

This week's free online safety guide focuses on FIFA 23. It highlights a number of risks such as age-inappropriate chat, scammers and addiction.

VIEW THIS GUIDE

What Parents Need to Know about BeReal



Published 5th October 2022

This week's free online safety guide focuses on BeReal. It highlights a number of risks such as strangers, location sharing and visible personal data.

VIEW THIS GUIDE

The best way to know what your child is doing online, is to keep talking to your child about what they are enjoying playing or doing online. Having open communication is the way to make any online activity transparent. It will help you as parents and your child to keep safe online.

A message from our School Governors

Welcome to the first of our regular updates from the school governors. Earlier this year the government published its Education White Paper which outlined strategies for schools and as a responsible governing board we must assess and take proactive actions to ensure a sustainable and positive future for the school and, importantly, the children.

One key strategy in the White Paper, is for all schools to be working towards full academisation in a MAT (multi-academy trust) context by 2030. This would be a significant change for the school but with careful and timely consideration we can ensure this results in a beneficial outcome and would lead to stronger financial security and greater curriculum support.

As time passes by, our options will diminish and so the schools full governing board has agreed to form a working group which will start the process of finding a MAT with the greatest opportunities for the children and school. This would be a long process and is far from conclusive at this stage, however we want to keep you informed as we progress.

On a more personal note, I hope you all managed to enjoy the hot summer that we've had this year and are now starting to look forward to seasonal festivities. As we are all acutely aware, costs have been on the rise and continue to do so, this is a worrying time for individuals and organisations, our school included, and although we can't see an immediate end to this, we can help by supporting each other where and when we can.

Adam Underwood

Chair of Governors

St. Aldhelm's Community News

Friends of St. Aldhelm's PTA

As we draw closer to our Annual PTA meeting, we are looking for someone to take over as Chair Person as my child is in Year 6 and leaves next July.

I am willing to walk the whole process of what being a Chair is all about if you would like to discuss further.

Please contact me, Chris Pulsford, on our parents page if you would like to know more.





We would all like to wish Mrs Cullen a relaxed retirement after 15 years of working with Breakfast and After School Club children at St Aldhelm's. The children and staff were invited to join Mrs Cullen for an afternoon tea party to celebrate and thank her for her time with us.



We currently have a vacancy for:

Learning Support Assistant for November 2022

Please look on our website under School Information for details:
[Current Vacancies - St Aldhelm's VA Church Primary School \(staldhelms.co.uk\)](http://staldhelms.co.uk)

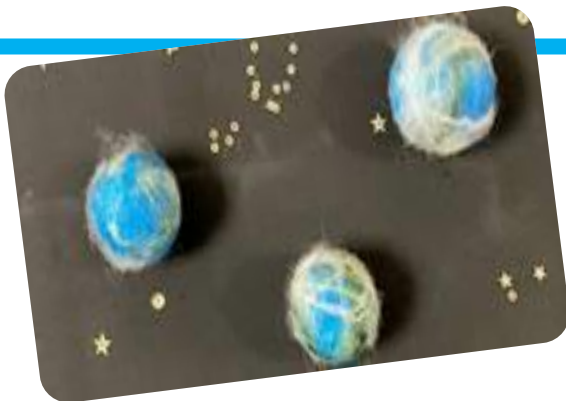
GAIA has landed at Wells Cathedral! And we're delighted to be offering some exciting activities for families over the **October break**.

Come and see Luke Jerram's touring artwork – a 7 metre model of the earth as it looks from space!

You can pick up a free **Earth Explorer Trail leaflet** which takes you on a tour of the Cathedral whilst picking up tips on how to become a Steward of the Earth.

Book onto a **felting workshop** where children can make their own mini-Gaia as a beautiful souvenir of their visit. [Available to book here](#)

For further information, visit <https://www.wellscathedral.org.uk/cathedral-events/gaia/>



Free Half Term Workshop

Shepton Mallet Library

Come and make an illuminated hedgehog as part of this years' Window Wonderland display at Shepton Mallet Library

Monday 24th October

10:30am - 12:30pm

FREE



**Illuminated
Autumn at
Shepton Mallet
Library**

COME AND MAKE AN ILLUMINATED HEDGEHOG AS PART OF SHEPTON LIBRARY'S WINDOW WANDERLAND DISPLAY!

**HALF TERM
MONDAY 24TH OCTOBER
10:30 - 12:30AM, FREE**



Paddleboat Theatre - Free Family Show Hansel and Gretel

Also if parents would like to book tickets there is a free family theatre show at St Paul's Junior School of Hansel and Gretel by Paddleboat theatre suitable for ages 3+, FREE

Tuesday 29th November 4-4:45pm, FREE

Link to register for tickets is here: [REGISTER HERE](#)

Holiday Fun Club 

Mini Mojos  **BOOK NOW!**

PLAY CREATE EXPLORE 

Shepton Mallet Infants School, BA45HE
West Pennard School, BA68NT

**October half term!
24-27th October**

The great outdoors,
arts & crafts,
sensory fun,
games & challenges,
'stretch & shine',
cosy corner and more!
Visit our website for
further details

Years 1-6
from £22 per day
Sibling discount £20
Extended care from
£4.50

For more info:
visit: www.generationbe.net/schools
call Min: 07809110832

**CHILD CARE
VOUCHERS
ACCEPTED** 

