

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

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HEADTEACHER: Mrs P Cohen

ST. ALDHELM'S NEWS

November and December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Well, we're here, arriving at the end of the Autumn Term. It's certainly been another busy term with plenty of brilliant learning, good progress and festive fun and enjoyment. The children at St Aldhelm's are a real credit to you all. They continue to show such resilience, thoughtfulness and kindness, which has been recognised and complimented both in and out of school by visitors and members of the school and wider community.

I hope you enjoy reading about some of our highlights – it's a bit of a bumper issue! Please read on for [Celebrating Learning](#) p2; [Festival of Literature & Cathedral Exhibition](#) p3&4; [Anti Bullying](#) p5; [England Rocks](#) p6; [Christmas Art Showcase](#) p7&8; [Christmas Lunch](#) p9; [Incarnation](#) p10; [KS1 Nativity & Christmas Service](#) p11&12; [SEND, Talking Mental Health & Wellbeing](#) p13-15; [Governor Message](#) p16 and [PTA and Community News](#) p17-18.

The New Year will see our school converting to an academy and joining the Bath and Wells Multi Academy Trust. Mr Chorley and Mrs Phillips are ready to take the lead and I know you're in safe hands. We are thrilled that the new logo is ready for the new year and this new chapter in the school's journey. I extend a big thank you to Hannah Condry, one of our many talented parents, who has created the design. The one on the left is the uniform logo and the right will be used on the school communications.



I wish to say an enormous thank you to everyone as I finish as Headteacher of St Aldhelm's. I have had the absolute honour and privilege of carrying out the role for five years and 4 months. I thank the families of our school community for the support and cooperation along the way, the amazing team of staff for their hard work and resilience through the ups and downs, and the wonderful children of St Aldhelm's, past and present who have made every day worthwhile, fulfilling and rewarding. I will miss you all but will carry you with me as I begin another new chapter of my life. Thank you all!

TERM DATES for 2023-2024:

Christmas Break 18th Dec – 1st January 2024

02.01.24	INSET DAY 3
03.01.24	Term 3 starts for all children
16.01.24	Kilve Parent Meeting 3:30-4pm in Falcons
30.01.24	Year 5 & 6 STEM Challenge all day
	Cross Country Race, Palace Fields, Wells
08.02.24	Learning Showcase: Writing 2:45pm
09.02.24	Celebration Worship 9:10am
	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
27.03.24	Cross Country Race, Downside School
07.03.24	World Book Day
14.03.24	Learning Showcase: Maths 2:45pm
	Owls CLP Tech Rehearsal (details to follow)
15.03.24	Owls CLP Performance at St Paul's, Shepton
19.03.24	Cross Country Race, Millfield Prep School
20.03.24	Celebration Worship 9:10am
27.03.24	Easter Church Service
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

On behalf of the staff,
I wish you a very happy Christmas with peace, joy, love and hope for now and the future to come.

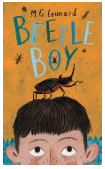
Kind regards
Pippa Cohen
Headteacher



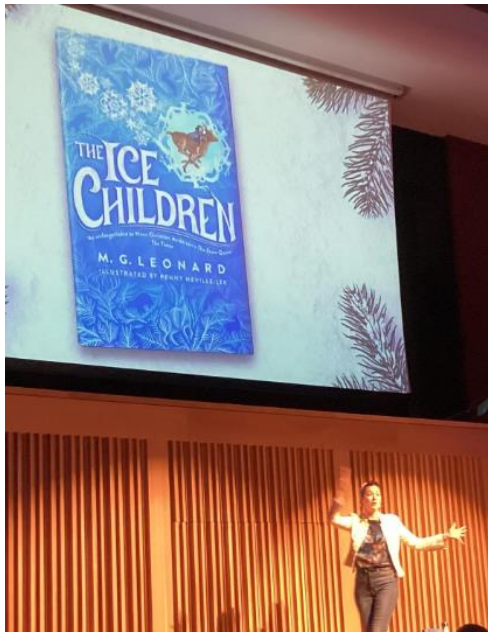


A big well done to all the children who received certificates in Term 2 for their progress, success and achievement with their learning behaviours ☺





Wells Festival of Literature



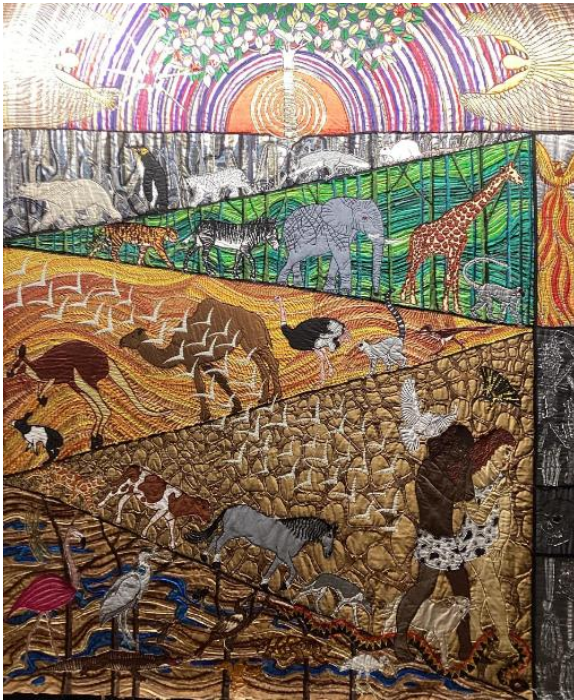
Year 6 had the best time at Wells Literature Festival at the start of the term, meeting M.G Leonard. The children loved meeting and having their books signed. She shared her journey as an author, answered their questions and was a great author to interact with.

It was so lovely to see and hear such a buzz around reading and creative writing. Mrs Cohen and I were really impressed with the children's behaviour, reflections and confidence in asking questions.



Threads Through Creation

Year 6 visit to Wells Cathedral



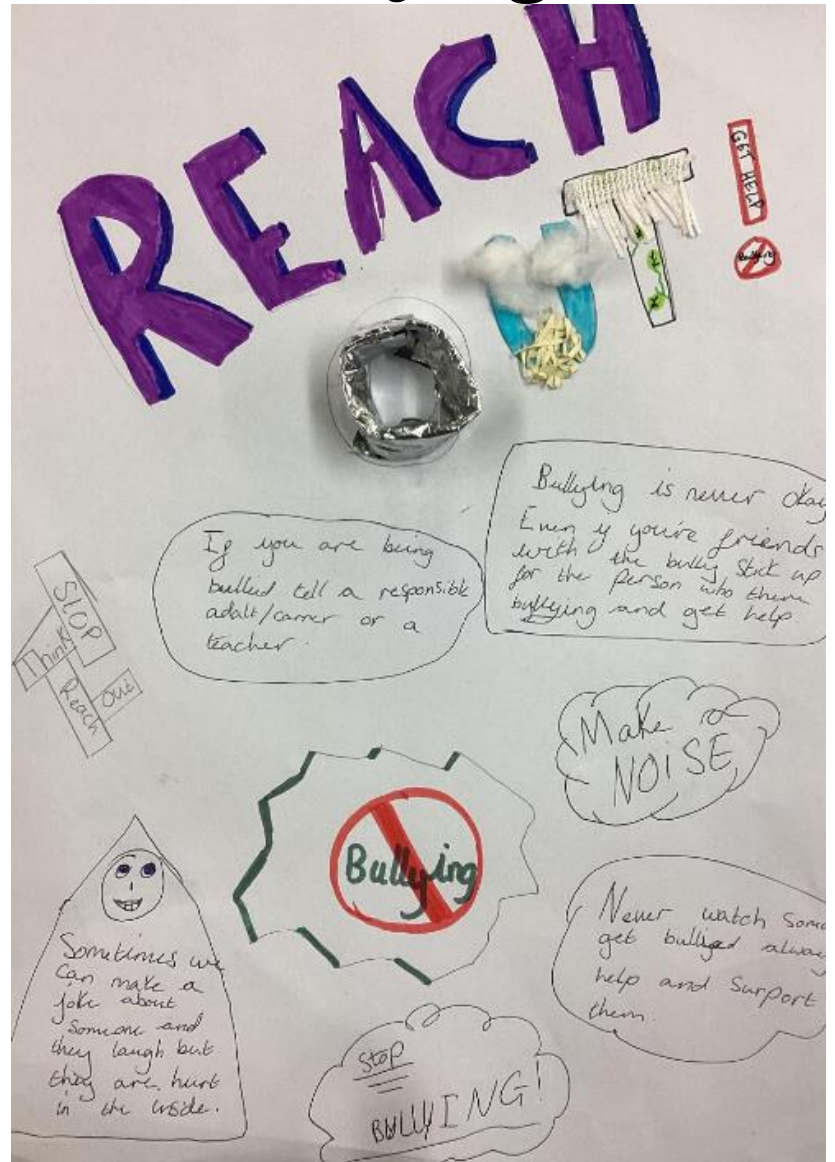
'Threads through Creation' was a spectacular sequence of twelve huge textile panels. It retold the creation story in the book of Genesis, which linked perfectly to our Christian value from the previous term. We were treated to a wonderful variety of colours, shapes, patterns – and of course lots of creatures! The children demonstrated fantastic reflection when explaining the panels, the reason behind the colours and images used, as well as the significance of each panel.



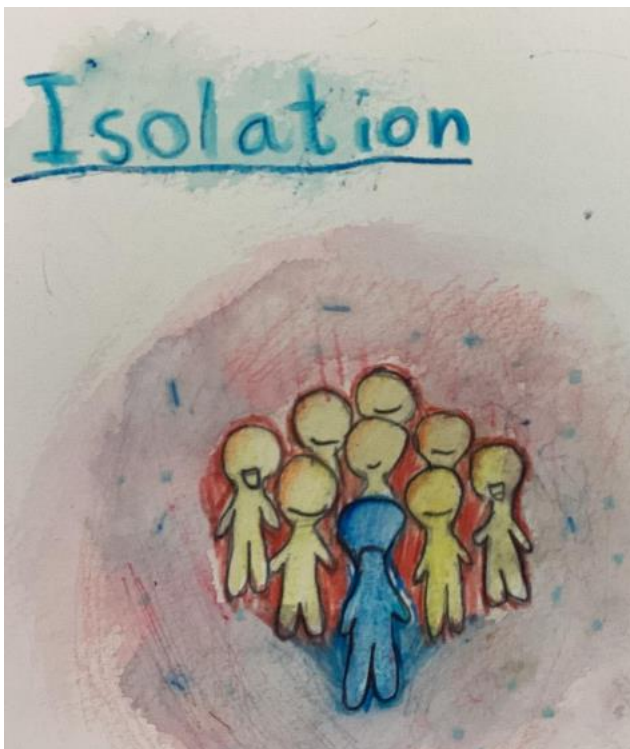
Anti-bullying Week



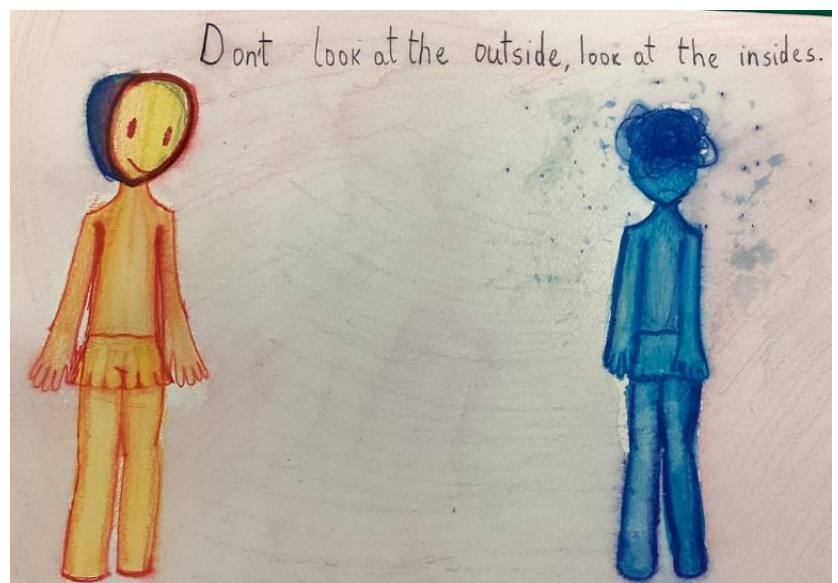
In Falcons, during Anti-bullying Week the children reflected well on what it means and the importance behind it. The focus this year was on making a noise about bullying and considering when banter is bullying. There were brilliant discussions and pieces of work sharing their reflection and maturity.



Esme thought about the key messages and created some advice in the form of a poster.



Elodie create a piece of art sharing how someone can feel.



Liza created a piece of art sharing how appearances can be deceiving.



🎸 ENGLAND ROCKS 🎸

From 14th November until 16th November, KS2 classes across school took part in the annual Times Tables Rockstars competition. It was fantastic to see such amazing competitiveness.

Well done to our top 3 year groups;

- 1- Y6 Falcons
- 2- Y5 Falcons
- 3- Y4 Kingfishers

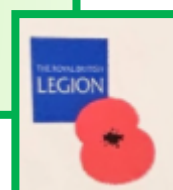
An enormous well done to the three highest scoring children in school as well, Austen, Hector and Maisie who collected their certificates and medals with pride in assembly.

I wonder which class will win next year...

		Austen Tuck ROCCO SNIDER Falcons Year 6 2023-24	4,521
		Hector Tuck FADUMA SCHNEIDER Kingfishers Y4 2023-24	4,309
		Maisie Calcutt ZIGGY ZEPPELIN Falcons Year 6 2023-24	3,703

POPPY APPEAL

The Shepton Mallet branch of the Royal British Legion wrote to thank everyone for the wonderful 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.



Christmas Art Learning Showcase

Robins



Nightingales



Magpies



Owls



Kingfishers



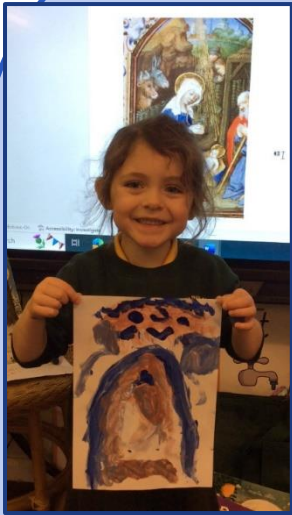
Falcons



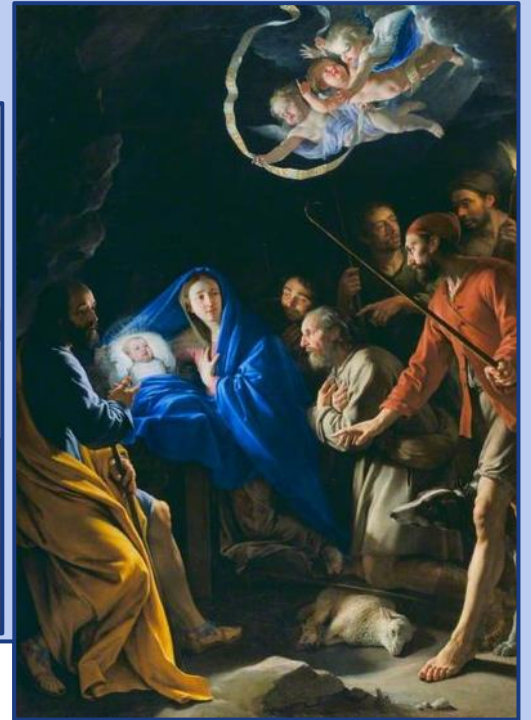


Christmas Dinner

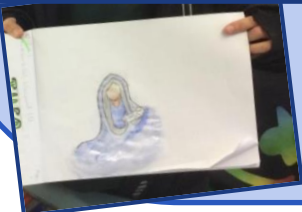




Incarnation



For two weeks of Advent, Reverend Gill led our whole school worship. She told the story of Jesus' birth using amazing pieces of artwork and encouraged the children to become art detectives to really look at the images. Many classes were so inspired they created their own Incarnation artwork using the precious blue colour Lapis Lazuli to show Mary and using colour and line to show how special Jesus was.





Nightingales and Magpies put on a fantastic Christmas performance of *A Magical Christmas Journey*. All children worked incredibly hard to learn their lines and songs and we are all very proud of them for putting on a magical Christmas performance!

Well done Nightingales and Magpies and thank you to Mrs Phillips, Mrs Pickett and the KS1 Staff Team.





Falcon's and Robin's Christmas Service 2023





Special Educational Needs and Disabilities



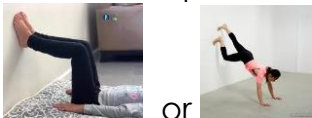
Sensory needs can occur when a child has difficulties receiving and responding to information from their senses. Children with sensory needs may find it hard to cope with things that trigger their senses, including sound, light touch, taste, or smell. We can all experience sensory needs at different times in our life. For children who experience these more regularly, trying a selection of activities everyday can help ease these needs.

Calming Activities

Press-ups on a wall: Count to 10. Repeat 3 times



Walk up the wall: Put feet flat on the wall and count to 10 before walking down the wall. Repeat 3 times.



Half press-ups from the floor: Push up from knees not from the feet.



Chair sit-ups: Place hands on seat of chair by thighs and lift bottom off seat of chair by straightening arms. Parent says, "Push." Then parent says, "Relax." Relax for a few seconds. Repeat 3 to 5 times.



Wheelbarrow walk



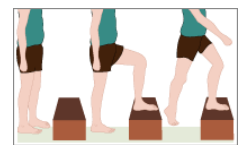
Alerting Activities

Jogging on the spot

Jumping

Step ups

Skipping



Organising Activities

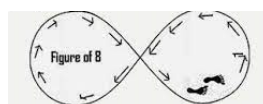
Walk along a straight line without wobbling off it, eyes fixed on a spot ahead to help balance.



Log rolls, hands clasped & arms stretched out above head



Infinity Walk: walk round 2 chairs, in and out in a figure of eight.



Crab walk

Crab Walk



Commando crawling



Obstacle courses: Go over and under a chair. Climb over a chair, through a hoop, then roll on a mat or the floor



Talking Mental Health



Parenting Support

As parents and carers, there are ways we can support our children to give them the best chance to stay mentally healthy. Encouraging and guiding a child to think about their own mental health and wellbeing are vital skills you can teach them from a young age.



Listen

Regularly ask your child how they're doing, to help them get used to talking about their feelings, and know there's always someone there to listen.



Support

Pay attention to how your child is feeling or behaving and try to help them work through difficulties. It may not be easy facing challenging behaviour, but try to help them understand what they're feeling and why.

Stay Involved

Show interest in their life and what's important to them. It not only helps them value who they are but also makes it easier for you to spot problems and support them.

Positive Routines

Try to have structure around regular routines, especially around healthy eating and exercise. A good night's sleep is also important, so have a fixed time for going to bed and getting up.



Parent Support

Parenting for a child can be tough at times. It's important to look after your own mental wellbeing, as this will help you support yourself while you are supporting others. Please click on the Young Minds picture to visit the website for further information, helpline and webchat.

The Mental Health Support Team are presenting a webinar on how to develop a family charter. Please follow this link <https://forms.office.com/e/itq4CRChM3> if you wish to access the live webinar.





Well-being Group



A huge thank you to the Well-being Group, their parents and all of you for supporting us at the Christmas Fair. I was so proud of the children for organising, setting up and delivering two brilliant stalls. The cake sale and Rudolph game were really popular. Well done to Daisy in Owls for winning the Pokémon plush prize.



**We
raised
£117.52**



A message from our School Governors

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We hope this newsletter article finds you in good health and high spirits. We are thrilled to share some further details that will shape a brighter future for our students and community. As you'll be aware our school is embarking on an exciting journey by becoming a part of the Bath & Wells Multi-Academy Trust (MAT). We understand that this decision may raise questions and concerns, and we want to assure you that your child's education and well-being remain our top priorities throughout this process.

Quality Education Remains Paramount:

Our commitment to delivering high-quality education remains unwavering. Joining a MAT is a strategic move to enhance the educational opportunities and resources available to our students. Our core mission of nurturing well-rounded, confident, and successful individuals remains at the heart of everything we do.

Local Governance Continues:

We want to emphasize that even as we join a MAT, our school will maintain a significant degree of local autonomy. Our School Board of Governors will continue to play a vital role in decision-making, ensuring that our school's unique character and values are preserved. Your child will still be part of the same close-knit school community they've come to know and love.

Collaboration and Resources:

Joining a MAT opens opportunities for us to collaborate with other schools, share best practices, and access additional resources. This collaboration will provide valuable support for our teachers and staff, ultimately benefitting our students by enriching their learning experience.

Transparent Communication:

We are committed to keeping you well-informed throughout this transition process. Updates will take place to ensure you have the latest information and a platform to ask questions or express any concerns you may have. Your engagement and input are crucial as we navigate this exciting journey together.

Your Feedback Matters:

Your opinions and concerns matter to us. We encourage you to reach out to us with any questions, suggestions, or feedback you may have. Your valuable input will help shape our path forward and ensure a smooth and successful transition.

Change can be daunting, but we firmly believe that this transition to a MAT will enable our school to thrive and offer even greater opportunities for our students. We are excited about the possibilities this change will bring and the doors it will open for our school community.

School Office: office@staldhelms.co.uk

Chair of Governors: aunderwood@staldhelms.co.uk

Thank you for your continued support and trust in us as we embark on this exciting journey. Together, we will ensure that our school continues to provide an exceptional education for our students.

Warm regards,

Adam Underwood

Chair, School Board of Governors

St. Aldhelm's Community News

Friends of St. Aldhelm's PTA

What a busy term!

Firstly, a massive 'thank you' to everyone who has supported the Friends of St Aldhelm's fundraising efforts this term. Either through helping to plan and volunteer for events or by coming along to enjoy activities and spend your hard-earned money. All your support is hugely appreciated and will help provide enrichment activities and resources for our children.

Following the AGM we are pleased to announce that the Friends of St Aldhelm's committee for the coming year:

Chair - Becky Leyton

Treasurer - Julie Brake

Vice chair - Izzy Luckin

Vice Treasurer - Carolyn Hysted-Edwards

We are so fortunate to have many parents and carers who are keen to be either a member of the PTA and/or help out at events. If anyone would like to lend your support you would be very welcome. There will be a meeting at the start of next term to arrange events for the rest of the academic year. Date and time of meeting TBC.

The Christmas Fair was supported by a huge number of very generous companies, individuals and parents/carers who donated raffle prizes, sweetie jars, hamper donations, refreshments, squishmallows and other prizes. So a huge 'thank you' goes to:

3 solutions, BGW Law, East Somerset Railway, Bath and West Showground, Mendip Raceway, Avon Valley, Mendip Activity Centre, Stonebridge Estate Agents, Agri-Elemental Ltd, The Highwayman Inn, Whitstones, The Boulder Rooms, Farrington Play Barn, Denela's, Co-op, Tesco, Aldi, Wainwrights, Wilmotts and all of our kind parents, carers and teachers.

With this generosity in mind we are delighted to announce that the total raised at the Christmas fair this year was £1998.73!!

Finally, the Friends of St Aldhelm's would like to thank Pippa Cohen for her support and encouragement over the past 5 years. Your positivity, generosity, and open-minded approach has allowed us to arrange fun activities for our school community, as well as raise funds to help provide opportunities for our children. Thank you for all you have done for us and our children, and we wish you all the best for your future.



**FUN-filled, Action-packed
Activities**

During the

Christmas Holidays



4 Days of activities

9:00—3:00pm

**FREE For
FSM Chil-
dren**

Shepton Mallet Infants School,
Waterloo Road, Shepton Mallet BA4 5HE

Christmas Half Term—18th to 21st December 2023 from 9:00—3:00

For more information please contact—hkh@sasp.co.uk



**FUN-filled, Action-packed
Activities**

During the

Christmas Holidays



Five Days of activities

9:00—3:00pm

£16.00



Shepton Mallet Infants School,
Waterloo Road, Shepton Mallet BA4 5HE

Christmas Half Term—18th to 22nd December 2023 from 9:00—3:00

—Xtra Hours Available

For more information visit: www.tlesportscoaching.co.uk or

call **01458 210799**



WELLS CATHEDRAL

Family Holiday Activities

EXPLORE • CREATE • DISCOVER

Book online at wellscathedral.org.uk/holidays






Christmas Crafts

December 2023

Get the holidays off to a festive start with these creative workshops for children:

A Host of Angels Monday 18 December
Make an adorable angel decoration to hang on your Christmas tree.



Colourful Candlelight Tuesday 19 December
Transform a jam jar into a beautiful candle holder, inspired by the Cathedral's stained glass.



Festive Foliage Wednesday 20 December
Use natural materials to make a festive centrepiece to adorn your table this Christmas.



Scan to book:

Or drop in on the day (subject to availability)

£2.15 per child / £1.10 if eligible for free school meals; accompanying adults FREE

Please note: children must be accompanied by a responsible adult and only assistance dogs are allowed at our Family Holiday Activities



CHRISTMAS CRAFTS - family holiday activities at Wells Cathedral this December!

Find kings and shepherds, stars and angels on our Christmas trail around the Cathedral – then get creative and make a festive decoration to take home.

Monday 18th December: A Host of Angels

Make an adorable angel decoration to hang on your Christmas tree.

Tuesday 19th December: Colourful Candlelight

Transform a jam jar into a beautiful candle holder, inspired by the Cathedral's stained glass.

Wednesday 20th December: Festive Foliage

Use natural materials to make a festive centrepiece to adorn your table this Christmas.

Book online at wellscathedral.org.uk/holidays or drop in on the day (subject to availability).

Sessions at 10am, 11:15am and 2pm.

£2.15 per child / £1.10 if eligible for free school meals.

Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

CHRISTMAS CRAFTS - three days of family holiday activities at Wells Cathedral this December!

Monday 18th – Wednesday 20th December

Follow our family trail around the Cathedral this Christmas, and make a festive decoration to take home!

Book online at wellscathedral.org.uk/holidays or drop in on the day (subject to availability).

Sessions at 10am, 11:15am and 2pm.

CHRISTMAS CRAFTS - family holiday activities and Christmas trail at Wells Cathedral this December!

Monday 18th – Wednesday 20th December

For more info and booking visit wellscathedral.org.uk/holidays