

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

ST. ALDHELM'S NEWS

September 2020

Dear Parents

I am so pleased to share the excellent start everyone has made to our new academic year. Following school closure and an unsettled holiday, where many families were unable to get away, all children have settled back into routines well. Children have made good relationships with their class teachers and covered a lot of learning already. Our new Reception children have settled into 'big school' very well and are enjoying school life. See [page 2 and 3](#) for our new class pictures.

This term children have explored the topic 'What Makes Me, the Me I Am?', including thinking about their well-being, and begun their author study. Last week children enjoyed our first Maths Problem Solving Day this year. The focus was on finding many possibilities with bead patterns for necklaces. Children used a variety of different investigation skills and systems to explore. Please see our news article, under Latest News, on the website. We have also had an e-safety week where children have discussed the importance of keeping safe online, looking in detail at 'I am kind and I am responsible'. Again, please see our Latest News article on the website.

Our Harvest Service will be a virtual one this year. The whole school will be led in worship by Y1 and Y4. Please see [page 4](#) for how you can support Harvest in our community this year.

Well done to children who took part in writing for the Time Capsule Book. [Page 5](#) celebrates participants and winners.

Class teachers are very much looking forward to seeing parents online for Parent Consultations appointments next week. Please book your appointment time if you haven't already.

Take care and stay safe.

Kind regards
Mrs P Cohen
Headteacher

Term 1

09.10.20 **Christmas card designs, orders & payment must be bought into school – deadline today!**

- 12.10.20 Parent Consultations 3:30-6pm
- 15.10.20 Parent Consultations 3:30-6pm
- 20.10.20 Mad Science Virtual Assembly
Y2 Phonic Meeting for Parents 4:30-5pm
- 21.10.20 Virtual Harvest Service for children 10am led by Y1 & Y4 with Rev Hunter Dunn
- 23.10.20 End of Term 1
Open School 4-6pm
- 24.10.20 Open School 9-12 noon

Term 2

- 02.11.20** **INSET DAY**
- 03.11.20 Back to school for children
 - 04.11.20 Maths Problem Solving Day
 - 11.11.20 Remembrance Day
 - 13.11.20 School Photographs – individual and siblings in school
 - 16.11.20 Anti-Bullying Week
 - 19.11.20 Flu Vaccinations YR-Y6
 - 14.12.20 Christmas Craft Week
 - 15.12.20 Virtual Christmas Nativity Performance
YR, Y1 & Y2 Christmas Lunch
 - 16.12.20 Y3 & Y4 Christmas Lunch
 - 17.12.20 Y5 & Y6 Christmas Lunch
 - 18.12.20 End of Term 2

Term 3

- 04.01.21** **INSET DAY**
- 05.01.21 Back to school for children
 - 12.02.21 End of Term 3

Term 4

- 22.02.21 Back to school for children
- 01.04.21 End of Term 4

Term 5

- 19.04.21 Back to school for children
- 28.05.21 End of Term 5

Term 6

- 07.06.21 Back to school for children
- 25.06.21** **INSET DAY**
- 23.07.21 End of Term 6

NEW CLASSES 2020



RECEPTION
ROBINS



YEAR 1
NIGHTINGALES



YEAR 2
MAGPIES



YEAR 3
OWLS

YEAR 4
FINCHES



YEAR 5
WOOD-
PECKERS

YEAR 6
BLACK-
BIRDS



Harvest 2020

Once again this year, Year 1 and Year 4 will lead our Harvest Service, although it will be shared virtually with each class via Microsoft Teams rather than in the church. We are delighted that Reverend Hunter Dunn will also join us online. We will of course share images of our Service with parents via Class Dojo and the school website too.

During the time of lockdown, we had time to stop and reflect and consider how fortunate we were for the blessings that we have in our lives. Harvest offers a similar chance to 'notice' and to 'give' something to help others; whether a kind word or action, prayer or a donation to our local Salvation Army food bank. There is an ever-increasing demand for their services, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Salvation Army need our help. From Monday 12th October, each morning and afternoon, there will be boxes at the front and back gate for Harvest Collections. If you are able, please look at the stock levels image with your child, talk about why we give at Harvest, buy and donate something together.



Music Lessons

Instrumental lessons have begun again with our external music teachers and it is wonderful to see children pick up from where they finished earlier this year, with some taking exams in the near future. If your child is interested in starting to learn a musical instrument and would like lessons, please call the school office or contact the music teachers directly by email:



Helen Brock – violin – helenbrock_hb@yahoo.co.uk
James Davidson – guitar – jwfdavidson@yahoo.co.uk
Becky Whiting – piano and flute – bexmoo@hotmail.com





Time Capsule Entries



During lockdown in the summer term, children were invited to write entries for a Time Capsule book, initiated and set up by Victoria Heales, one of our parents and school governor. Although we didn't receive as many entries as we might have hoped, the ones received were absolutely brilliant and will contribute to the project. Mrs Heales had a super hard time of judging them but praises everyone who took part, particularly the three winners.

1st - Arya H (Y2)

2nd - James B (Y3)

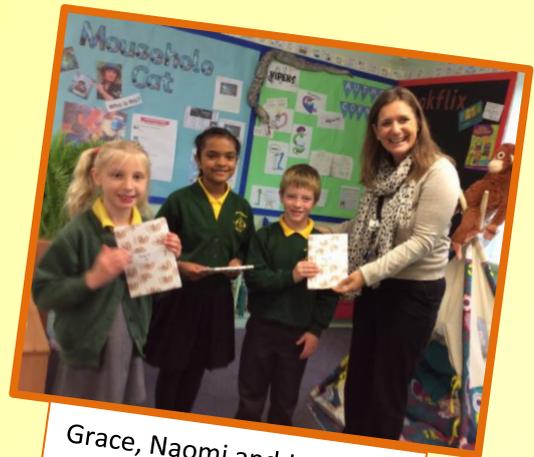
3rd - Emily R (Y6)



Arya Y2



Emily R Y6



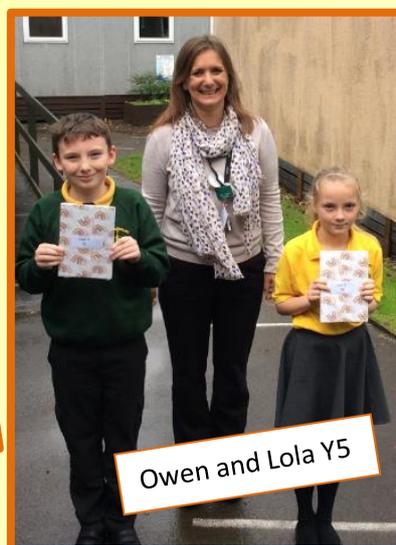
Grace, Naomi and James Y3

"The artwork and writing was just of such a high standard and it's brilliant work about a really important time in our history."

Children received a gift wrapped copy of Victoria's book with a little thank you letter inside. Congratulations to the winners who received vouchers too.



Ezra and Amy Y1



Owen and Lola Y5



Eden-Rose and Ruby W Y4

St Aldhelm's
Church Primary School, Doultong

OPEN SCHOOL



Friday 23rd Oct 4-6pm

Saturday 24th Oct 9-12 noon

Call to book 01749 880376

Reception 2021

Other year spaces currently available

Our school will be holding **Open School** sessions on **Friday 23rd** and **Saturday 24th** October for prospective **parents**. Whilst we would always prefer for families to visit us and see the learning in action, we are unable to do that this year. Anyone with a preschool child will be making their decision about where they send their child to school next September. This decision has to be made and an application submitted to Somerset County Council in **January 2021**. We really advise visiting us to see the school facilities, the opportunities on offer at St Aldhelm's and most importantly slideshows of the children who already attend the school. Staff will be on hand to show you around and answer any questions. We also have some vacancies in some of our classes and welcome any in-year applications. Please do share the date with any friends and family who are viewing schools for their children. For first time applications visit: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/education-and-families/apply-to-start-school/> and for more information or contact the school office on 01749 880376.