

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

# ST. ALDHELM'S NEWS

December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Well here we are, at the end of the term already! The build up to Christmas is such a special time in school and we have all thoroughly enjoyed a particularly festive couple of weeks. It's been excitement all the way from Advent Calendars and Advent Worship, to dressing up for Nativity and Christmas Jumper Day, to Christmas Crafts and Christmas Lunches. Read on for pictures and more details. It's a bumper edition!

This month has also seen the culmination of the term's learning and what fabulous progress and achievements we have seen. Whether that has been through learning behaviours shown in everyday activities, in assessment tasks or particular one-off opportunities, children continue to impress us in so many ways. Look ahead to **pages 5-11** to see some of the learning we celebrate this term. Thank you for supporting particular areas of learning, shared by your child's class teacher. We thank you too for your support in keeping up the home learning, making the time for reading, spelling and number practice and consolidation. This is of such benefit to your child and shows them their value, both at home and school.

As we move into the fourth week of Advent this Sunday, we remind ourselves of the hope, peace, love and joy Christmas brings. Please make sure that you stop or pause and enjoy the key moments – not always easy in our ever busy lives. We've talked at school about having time for reflection when lighting a candle. Maybe you could build this into each day. We hope you enjoyed the Nativity video and that the magic and wonder of the story reminds us all of the true meaning of Christmas.

I hope you all stay safe and well during the break and wish you a very happy Christmas from all the staff of St Aldhelm's.

Kind regards

*Mrs P Cohen*

Headteacher

## 19th December – 3rd January ~ Christmas Holiday

### Term 3

#### 04.01.21 INSET DAY

- 05.01.21 Back to school for children
- 01.02.21 Children's Mental Health Week
- 11.02.21 Science Experience - Explorer Dome Visit. Details to follow next term
- 12.02.21 End of Term 3

## 13th – 21st February ~ Half Term Break

### Term 4

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

## 2nd – 18th April ~ Easter Holiday

### Term 5

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

## 29th May – 6th June ~ Half Term Break

### Term 6

- 07.06.21 Back to school for children
- 24.06.21 Athlete Visit and Assembly
- 25.06.21 INSET DAY



We wish to say a very big thank you to the Wilmot family who very kindly gave us a beautiful Christmas tree this year. It has made the entrance to school look festive and everyone has really enjoyed it.

**Thank You!**

KINDNESS CALENDAR: DECEMBER 2020

<https://www.actionforhappiness.org/calendars>

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

#DoGoodDecember

[www.actionforhappiness.org](http://www.actionforhappiness.org)



# Christmas Jumper Day 2020





# Christmas Lunch 2020





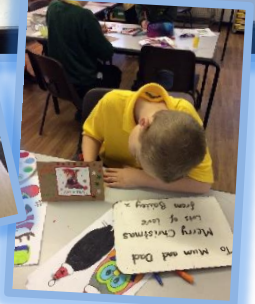


**A very big thank you  
Mrs Allsop and Miss Dingle  
for our lunches  
"It was the best"  
"It was delicious"**





# Christmas Craft Week







## Reception Robins



We have been so impressed with Florence's **accuracy** with spelling both in school and out of school. A spelling superstar, Florence!



Accuracy



Edie is a **reflective** learner. She often stops, thinks and shares her thoughts on her own and others learning. Edie also reflects on what makes a good friend and shows kindness to all. Edie strives to do her best in all areas of the Early Years curriculum. We are very proud of you!

Reflection



Independence



We are so proud of Dexter's achievements with his reading this term. Dexter has shown determination to learn his tricky words and can now read new books **independently**.



Amelia and Isabella have worked **collaboratively** in forest school this term. It was lovely to see how they supported each other when using the hand drill and other tools. Great teamwork girls!



Resilience



Harry has shown **resilience** in his learning this term. He has shown determination and perseverance with his Maths learning. Harry can now recognise and order numbers to 10. Harry has also started to apply his number knowledge, creating his own number sentences, finding the total using the Numicon. A real achievement, Harry. We are super proud of you!

Collaboration





# Year One Nightingales



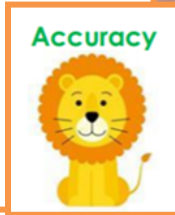
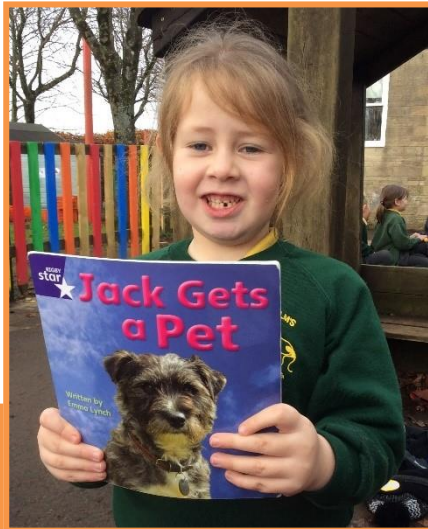
**Independence** – Eda is so much more confident to communicate now. She is being brave to share her ideas and will use her signs and mouth words. She listens so carefully and applies this to her own independent work with great success.



**Collaboration** – Emily collaborates well with everyone in Year 1, Nightingales. She listens to her partners, helps others, is kind to everyone and will ask for help when she needs it.



**Resilience** – Holly has made so much progress this term, especially in reading and this is brought about by her great attitude to learning. She keeps trying, even if she finds the learning tricky.



**Accuracy** – Darby shows accuracy in everything that she tackles, whether maths number facts, handwriting, patterns, drawing, phonics or colouring.



**Reflection** – Warner listens and thinks very carefully about what other people say. He thinks about what he knows already and makes links between different areas of learning.



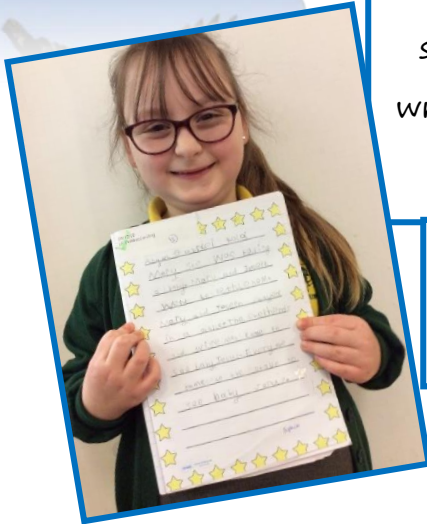




## Year Two Magpies



Miss Wood has been really impressed with **Sophie** as she has shown great **resilience** with her writing working really hard to get her writing on the line!



Resilience



Chase has shown lots of **independence** this term!

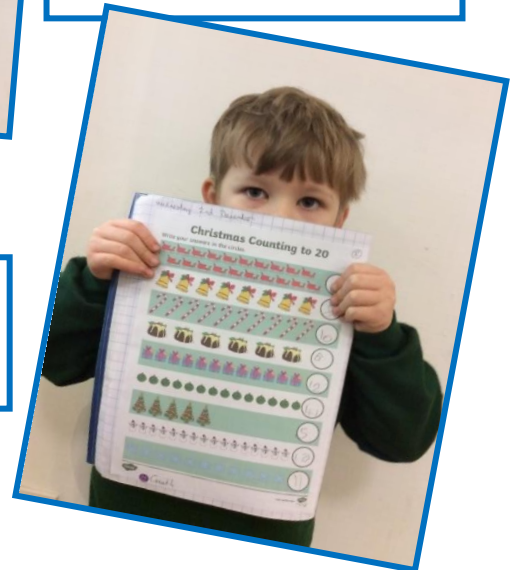
Miss Wood and Miss Bayley have been so pleased with how well I am following routines by myself!

Gracie has shown lots of **accuracy** in her work this term! Particularly some brilliant writing in about our project- Well done!

Accuracy



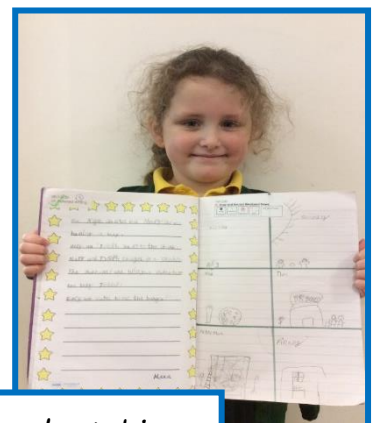
Independence



Soraya has shown fantastic **collaboration** with other children in the class. She is always ready to help others and listen to their idea during group work!



Collaboration



Alana has been **reflective** this term by taking on board feedback and editing and improving it to produce her best 'polished' work!

Reflection







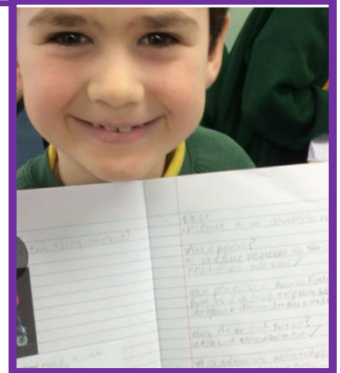
## Year Three Owls



**Accuracy:** This term **Arthur** has been working on his **accuracy** to develop his handwriting in class. He's been trying a new strategy that requires lots of focus, but he is concentrating well and seeing great improvements. Well done Arthur.

**Resilience:** **Logan** has shown fantastic **resilience** this term and approached every new challenge positively. He is especially enthusiastic to try tricky problem solving challenges in maths. He also listens to feedback and is becoming super at editing his work. Well done Logan.

Resilience



Accuracy



**Independence:** **Evie** has been demonstrating some fantastic **independence** throughout her writing this term. She tries so hard to independently apply any skills we have been working on and is exploring some super new language too! Well done Evie.

Independence



Collaboration



**Collaboration:** This term **James** has been a particular star with his **collaboration** with others. He works really well in a small group to share his ideas and is also great to have as a team mate in cricket as he shows great sportsmanship to all! Well done James.



**Reflection:** **Maisie** has demonstrated her ability to be a **reflective** learner this term. She has been extremely reflective and conscious of her peers feelings and ideas, especially during Anti-Bullying week. Maisie can reflect on her positives, areas for development and is constantly trying to improve every day! What a superstar.

Reflection



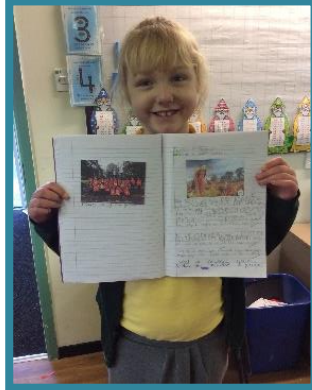


# Year Four Finches



**Eden-Rose** has shown she is a very **independent** learner. She listens well to instructions and then happily focuses well on independent pieces of work. I have been so impressed with her Roman inspired writing this term.

**Independence**



**Mitch** has shown such **resilience** this term. He has tried his best with every single piece of work. Mitch never gave up even when things got tricky, especially with Maths and Writing. Well done, Mitch.

**Resilience**



**Reflection**



**Ronnie** has been a really reflective learner this term. He has amazed us in Science with his thoughtful **reflections** about why and how things might have happened. He thinks carefully about all his work and how to improve for next time – great work, Ronnie.



**Collaboration**



**Accuracy**



**Isia** has shown she is becoming much more **accurate** with her work in class. It has been great to see her independently using the purple polishing pen to improve her work as well as working precisely in Maths. Well done!

**Ruby Miller** has focused lots on good **collaboration** this term. She has tried hard to work well with her class mates both in and out of the classroom. Great team work, Ruby.





## Year Five Woodpeckers



**Resilience** - Daisy-Mae's positivity is infectious – her smile, which is ever present, is always there to cheer children and adults. If Daisy-Mae finds anything hard, she will persevere and try her best. She embraces all learning opportunities and has achieved great things.

Resilience



**Oliver** has had a super start to the year, filled with many successes, such as achieving his level 2 pen award. Oliver is a **reflective** learner, who takes on feedback and strives to improve. He has made super progress and has been a superstar in our classroom.



Collaboration



Reflection



**Alfie** is a fantastic and **reflective** team player. He will always get stuck in with any activity and play an important role within his team. He has a gentle, empathetic side that also means he is a good friend and will always look after and out for his peers.



Accuracy



**Harry** thrives on learning and completing each and every task to a high standard. He ensures he is **accurate** in all subjects, he will discuss and reflect new learning and ensure he applies it consistently. If he is given a target, he will ensure he meets it. Harry is an incredibly hard worker who is kind and supportive of his peers.



Independence



**Felix** joined us this half term and quickly became a valued and popular member of the class. He has shown a real creative flare, which we have loved to see. He throws himself into all challenges with enthusiasm and has shown commendable **independence** and will persevere if he has faced difficulties.





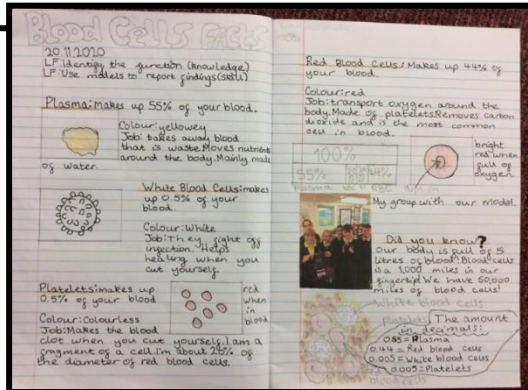


## Year Six Blackbirds



### Independence

**Emily R** showed great **independence** when creating her fact file on blood. She applied her Maths, English and Science skills to produce this informative text.

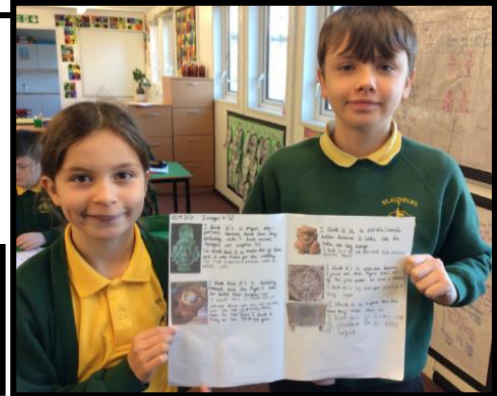


### Independence



### Collaboration

**Tai and Imogen** worked brilliantly together to investigate a range of artefacts. They shared ideas, asked thoughtful questions and presented their findings together.



### Collaboration



### Reflection

Whilst making our wreath for Advent, **Lily** created a brilliant **reflective** poem sharing her message of hope, love, joy and peace.

### Reflection



### Accuracy

Well done to **Chloe** for her brilliant Maths work. Her **accuracy** meant she could solve the Christmas Maths challenge.

### Accuracy



### Resilience



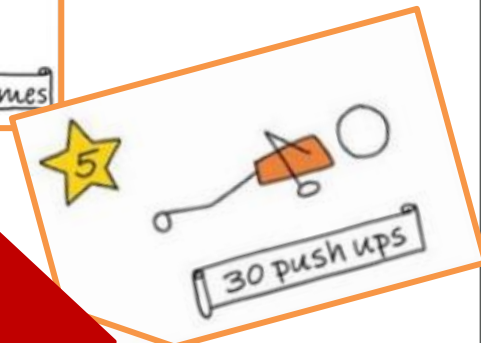
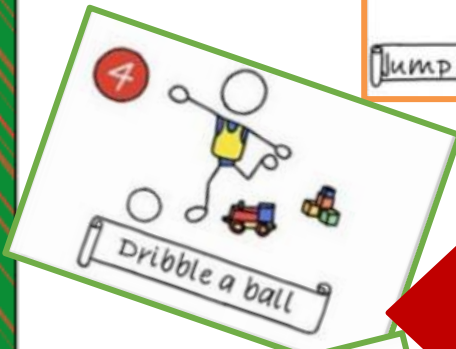
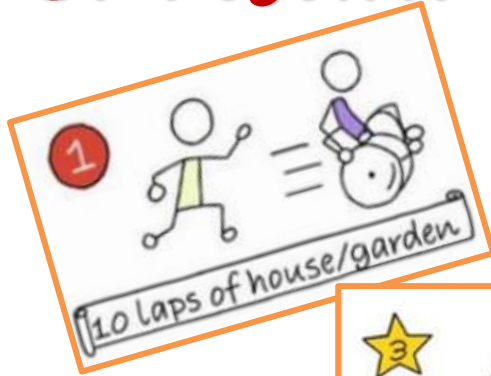
### Resilience

**Finley** showed great **resilience** during our dissection work. He not only handled the heart but dissected it to find the different chambers.





# St Aldhelm's Christmas Challenges



Can you  
complete  
all 10  
challenges?

Can you  
show  
resilience?

Can you  
improve  
your time?





# A message from our School Governors

Each month, we look forward to introducing you to two of our school governors; to share a little bit about us, who we are and what we do.



I have lived in Doultong Parish for over forty years during which time I have been a governor on two separate occasions. I was a teacher but am now retired. During my time in education, I have taught both in primary and public schools and in the latter part of my career, I became a Marketing Manager for Kings Bruton and Hazlegrove schools.

For quite some time now I have been a parish councillor for both Cranmore and Doultong and a trustee of SOS Africa, a local charity which funds the education of township children in South Africa.

Clearly education is still very much in my thoughts and it was for this reason that I was happy to agree when asked, to be a Local Authority Governor for St Aldhem's School. I sit on various committees as governor and I also monitor the Maths. I am really happy to be a member of the St Aldhem's Community; it is a school of which we can all be very proud.

*Ann Crowcombe*

Local Authority Governor

Many of you will recognise me in my teaching role; I have been teaching at St Aldhelm's for over 11 years, having been Deputy Head for nearly 6 years. I am so proud of our special school: its wonderful reflective children, dedicated staff and the community that it serves.

My role as a Governor began as Staff Governor and then I later become a Foundation Governor when the school converted from a Voluntary Controlled Church School to a Voluntary Aided Church School. Foundation Governors are nominated through the church and ensure that the principles of the church are incorporated in all aspects of governance within the school. My roles within the board include supporting new Governors so that they are familiar with our school and the way it runs, as well as all of the technical educational language. I also sit on the Church School Ethos Group which ensures that our Church School distinctiveness is visible and runs through everything that we do as a school.

Like the teaching and learning and leadership, I have seen the Governance of the school strengthen, to an efficient, strategic team who have the staff and children of St Aldhelm's at the centre of all of the work that we do.

*Amanda Phillips*

Foundation Governor







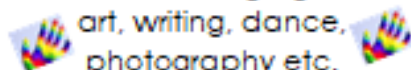
# Talking Mental Health



With the excitement of the Christmas break and the anticipation of the 25<sup>th</sup>, our emotions can go on quite a rollercoaster journey. It can be hard to follow the children's normal weekly routine which can cause some anxiety for both parents and children. Below are some top tips that can help manage those feelings.

## Our Top Tips

**Give children creative outlets.** Creativity is a natural way for us to learn and express ourselves. This could be through games, art, writing, dance, photography etc.



**Create a plan / new routine.** Plan out what will be happening either a couple days at a time or for each week.

**Encourage exercise.** Getting active can really boost and help regulate our mood. This could be just going for a short walk.



**Get enough sleep.** A good sleep routine is really beneficial. It can be an even bigger challenge at this time of year, so checkout these tips.

**Working with your children on breathing exercises.** Already developing strategies to support children can really help when they are starting to feel overwhelmed. This could be the five-finger breathing exercise.

## Sleep tips for Children



Get into a regular bedtime routine

Keep regular sleep & wake times



Relax before bedtime



Make sure your child feels safe at night



Check noise & light in your child's room

**MANAGE YOUR BREATH**  
with your hand







## Friends of St. Aldhelm's PTA



We are really lucky to have a very supportive and committed PTA. Even during these difficult times where they have been unable to organise and hold a Christmas Fayre or put on a disco, they continue to work hard for the benefit of the children at the school.

This month has seen the first draw for the 100 Club.



First Prize £20 Lorna Wilmot



Second Prize £10 Katie Bassett



Third Prize £5 Liz Barton

Bonus Christmas prizes of sweets Jo Hockey and Sophie Trott



If you haven't signed up and wish to take part in the next draw in January, it's not too late. The payment for the remainder of the year will be £ Complete the slip and return with payment to the school office.

In the New Year we will be able to share the resources and experiences the PTA have agreed or plan to fund for the children. If you want to become involved with the PTA, please contact a member of the committee. Please see the website for the PTA page which provides details of who's who.





# E-Safety Christmas

## Top tips:



### Set up parental controls

Most phones, tablets and consoles allow you to customise settings to determine which games can be played, how communication can be made and the content that is accessible.



### Check age ratings

Before downloading or installing new games or visiting gaming websites, always check the age rating. Many popular games and apps have content which might not be suitable for younger ages.



### Go digital free before bed

Try to limit device use in the hour before bedtime as it can interfere with a child's sleep quality and healthy sleep patterns. Set up screen time limits or downtime hours when apps are no longer available to use.



### Maintain a balanced lifestyle

It is important that children do not become addicted to their devices and engage in other healthy activities. Remember to have some tech free family time and enjoy the outdoors.



### Have regular conversations

Start regular conversations with your child about their online lives. Make sure you know what they are accessing and who they are communicating with. Reassure children that they can share their worries or concerns with you.