

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

ST. ALDHELM'S NEWS

January and February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

At last! School seems to have returned to some normality. We have been able to come together as a whole school, to interact, share, celebrate and enjoy for all of Term 3. Obviously excluding today, due to Storm Eunice, when we've had to close due to the extreme red warning. Life is certainly not predictable but I hope everyone is keeping safe!

It has been wonderful to restart our visits and visitors to enhance our curriculum activities and enquiries. We have welcomed a brilliant new brass teacher for our Y4 children, an astronaut for Kingfishers and Y5 Falcons, as well as Reception Robins visiting the church for the first time. Further trips and visits are planned for all year groups during the remainder of the Spring or the Summer Term. Details will be shared when details are confirmed at the appropriate time. Clearly these are dependent on parental contributions but I know you will agree that these opportunities are extremely valuable and beneficial to your child and worth every penny. Families whose children receive the Pupil Premium Grant will be supported with a contribution to the costs of such trips or visits.

Please read on for Celebration Certificates for Term 3 [page 2](#); Brilliant Brass [page 3](#); Year 4 & 5 Space Detective Workshop [page 4](#); Number Day [page 5-7](#); Supporting Mental Health [pages 8](#); World Book Day [page 9](#); Internet Safety Day and Online Safety Message [page 10](#); and Message from Governors & Community News [page 11&12](#).

We look forward to inviting parents in next term, please see dates for Parent Consultations, Learning Showcase, Easter Service and Celebration Worship. We also look forward to restarting our extra-curricular clubs.

I hope everyone has a lovely half term and we'll see you back at school on Monday 28th February.

Kind regards
Pippa Cohen
Headteacher

School Dates:

Half Term 19th – 27th February

- 28.02.22 Term 4 starts for all children
Booking opens for School Clubs
PTA Meeting 2pm New parents welcome!
- 01.03.22 Booking opens for Parent Consultations (28th and 31st March)
- 03.03.22 World Book Day
Bedtime Story 5-6pm
- 10.03.22 Y4 Parent Multiplication Tables Check Meeting 3:30-3:50pm
- 28.03.22 Autism Awareness Week
Parent Consultations 3:30-6pm
- 31.03.22 Parent Consultations 3:30-6pm
- 04.04.22 Learning Showcase 2:45pm
- 07.04.22 Easter Service in Church 9:30am
Led by Falcons and Magpies
- 08.04.22 Celebration Worship 9:10am
End of Term 4

Easter Holiday 9th – 24th April

- 25.04.22 Term 5 starts for all children
- 02.05.22 Bank Holiday**
- 3-27.05.22 End of KS1 Assessments (Year 2)
- 9-12.05.22 End of KS2 Assessments (Year 6)
- 17.05.22 Photographer-class groups & leavers
- 23-25.05.22 Y4/5/6 Residential Trip - Great Wood
- 27.05.22 Platinum Jubilee Celebrations
End of Term 5

Half Term 28th May- 5th June (Bank Holidays 2nd & 3rd June)

- 06.06.22 Term 6 starts for all children
- 24.06.22 INSET DAY – school closed to children**
- 22.07.22 End of Term 6
- 25.07.22 INSET DAY – school closed to children**
- 26.07.22 INSET DAY – school closed to children**



A big well done to all the children who received certificates in Term 3 for their progress, success and achievement with their learning behaviours ☺





Brilliant Brass

Year 4



Have you got what it takes to be an astronaut?

Kingfishers and Falcons were put to the test!

Retrain your brain



Physical Fitness!



Teamwork!



Clear Instructions!



Fiddly tasks with huge space gloves!



Multi-tasking! Step ups and backwards maths!



NSPCC Number Day – Friday 4th February 2022



We were SO impressed with all of the effort that families went to for their Number Day costumes. There was such a wonderful atmosphere around the school, as children had fun with number. We were delighted to raise £198, which will be split between the NSPCC and new maths resources for the school.



Nightingales did a carousel of number activities including counting in ones and multiples and really enjoyed singing some number songs too.



Throughout the week, Numbots was launched for everyone in Reception. Robins logged into Numbots and started to explore the different activities involving subitising and counting. Also, they collaborated to create this wonderful Numbot of their own.



Magpies enjoyed number games in PE, especially the odd and even number version of the tag game Rats and Rabbits.

They also explored number art inspired by Jasper Johns, tried to think of as many calculations for a given total, as well as taking part in NSPCC Rocks on Times Table Rockstars.

NSPCC Number Day – Friday 4th February 2022

**Number
Day 2022**

Owls really enjoyed their NSPCC Rocks challenges and worked really hard to beat their scores...as well as singing and moving like rockstars!



Kingfishers tried their hardest in the NSPCC Rocks competition as well as creating their own Supermover songs for a times table they found tricky to a rock song. The results were absolutely brilliant.



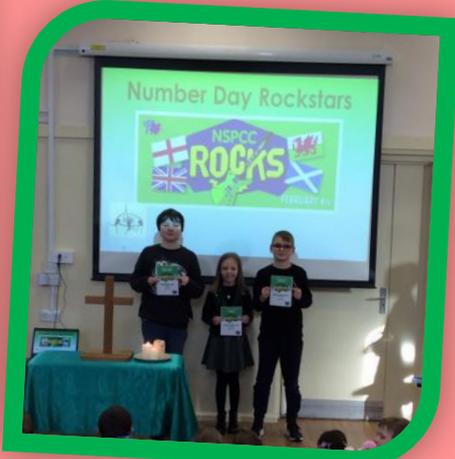
Falcons loved being rock stars for the day. They started their day taking part in the NSPCC Rocks competition. During this time, they were able to improve their accuracy and speed.

As part of the focus on number, they had two numbers to focus on. These were 27 and 36. The children wrote inside the numbers all the facts they knew.



Later in the day they split into year groups and made their very own Supermovers video, to well-known rock tracks.

NSPCC Number Day – Friday 4th February 2022



Congratulations to our winners for each class; very well deserved first, second and third place winners in Magpies, Owls, Kingfishers and Falcons. A special well done to our overall top three winners for the school.

We look forward to next year when we can get a little closer to the national leaders.





Supporting Mental Health Self-Esteem



What is self-esteem?

Self-esteem is how a person feels about themselves. Most children will have dips in self-esteem as they grow up. This could be due to different stages and challenges in life or different pressures that may affect them. Although there are things that can affect all of us, we all respond differently to different experiences, challenges and events. This can be hard as parents to support, especially if we did not foresee these responses.

Our Top Tips

Ways I can help my child with their self-esteem:



Ask about things they enjoy and find rewarding. You could ask them to tell you about three good things that went well during their day. If they are struggling to do this, you share first. These could be very small things, but they are still positives to highlight.



Let them know you value effort rather than perfection. Children can miss out on lots if they don't try because they are too worried about not 'succeeding'. Reassure them it's okay to make mistakes and that it's all part of life. Let them know that getting it wrong is not the end of the world - it happens to everyone and it's how we learn.



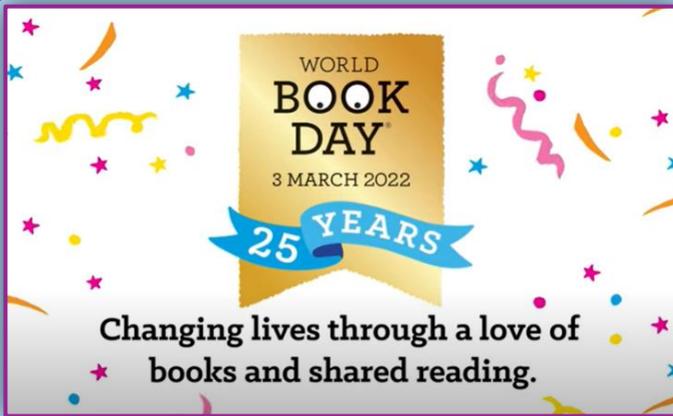
Show them and remind them of how much you love them. Show your child lots of love and be positive about them as a person – tell them what makes them special to you. Hearing these positive things regularly helps them to believe them about themselves.



Somerset County Council have launched a mobile health service for parents and young people in Somerset making it easier to get health and wellbeing advice. This is available Monday-Friday from 9am-5pm.

Parents of children 0-4 years: Text 07480 635514

Parents of children 5-19 years: Text 07480 635515

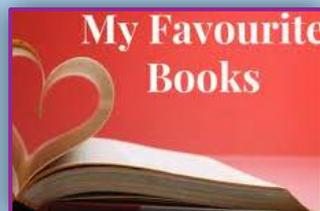
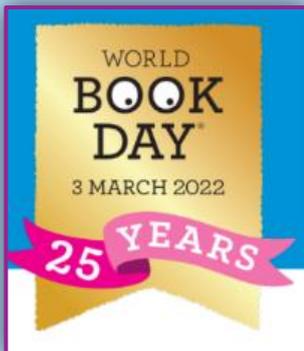
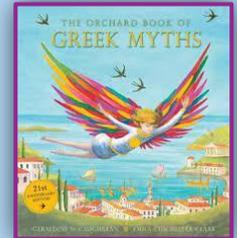
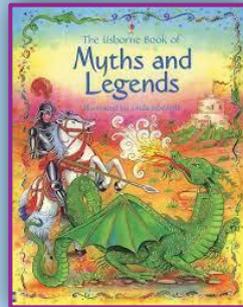


In 2022, we are celebrating the 25th anniversary of World Book Day – with the message for all children ‘you are a reader’!

Children will already have come home with their World Book Day Token, ready for you to use for either for the £1 book for free, or to go towards a book or audio book that you wish to buy. This will be in shops from today.

During WBD week, all classes will explore wonderful stories from the book ‘Once Upon a Tune’ written by James Mayhew. It will be an opportunity to explore music and art, as well as reading and writing skills.

Inspired by the stories, our theme for World Book Day will be Myths and Magic. We’re looking forward to seeing you come to school dressed as a mythical creature, a character from a Greek Myth or legend, or as a magical person



On World Book Day, our classes will mix so that each child can share a favourite book with someone in a different class. As the expectation for home learning Read and Respond will continue over the holidays, children may like to read some favourite stories and decide which one they would like to bring in to share. These don’t need to be related to our theme, but can be any favourite book.



Finally, we will be hosting a Bedtime Story session. Please see the letter sent out yesterday for the details.

Regular Reader Class Competition



Whilst promoting the enjoyment and development of reading through World Book Day, we also congratulate Nightingales for being our first winners of the Regular Reader Class Competition. Well done Nightingales for being super regular readers. Keep up the good start...I wonder who it will be next?



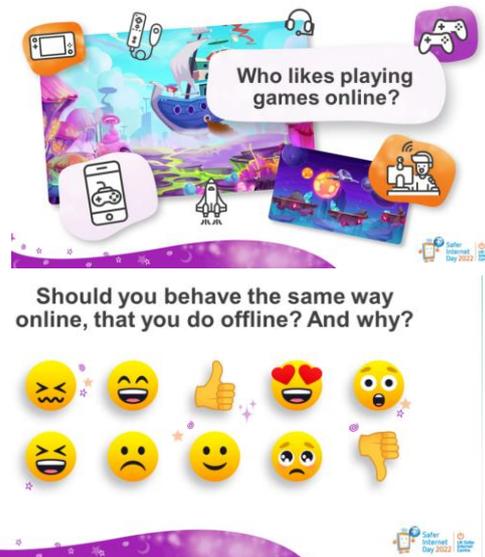
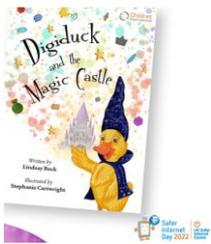
SOMERSET
Libraries

We share this message from the local library service: SOMERSET LIBRARIES - IDEAL FOR FAMILIES!
www.somersetlibraries.co.uk/amnesty Visit your local library to borrow up to 20 children’s books at a time! PLUS: If you have any outstanding charges for overdue, lost or damaged books incurred before the 21st January 2022 these will be cleared from your account, no questions asked! Simply pop into your local library and speak to a member of staff. What’s more, until the 31st March 2022, there are absolutely no charges, including requesting books from other libraries, DVD & Talking Books hire charges and no fees for late returns, for anyone under 18.



On Safer Internet Day this year, we explored the theme 'All fun and Games? – Exploring relationships online'

In our whole school worship, we discussed and shared which games we play online and on which devices. We shared our initial thoughts about behaviour online and offline. This was followed up by appropriate age related activities back in classes.



Do you know what your child is playing online and on which devices?

Talk with them about how they keep themselves safe online. This might be through their behaviour, telling you if they don't think something is right and keeping passwords safe.



Free Online Safety Guide

What parents need to know about Wink

Wink's description on the App Store and Google Play *does* state that the networking app "is for friendships only", although more worldly readers may consider that a rather feeble deterrent. The app launched in 2020, and there has already been at least one criminal trial resulting from an adult meeting up with a minor who they befriended through Wink.

The app requires users to be at least 13 – but with an absence of effective age verification, there is nothing to stop someone younger from simply entering a fake date of birth. Children occasionally connect with strangers online simply to increase their friend count, which is just one of potential risks highlighted in our #WakeUpWednesday guide to Wink.

Online safety for children is everyone's responsibility. Please find a helpful online safety update for parents here...

Click on this box to visit the National Online Safety website and download the free parent guides

Home / Training / Guides

What Parents Need to Know about Wink

[CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD](#)



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. Be mindful of what older siblings may be accessing too as this could be having a direct impact on younger members of the family. 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

As RE and Church School Link Governor, my role is to work closely with Mrs Phillips as RE subject leader and Mrs Cohen as Collective Worship leader. This enables me to get an insight into what teaching and learning looks like in practice, which helps the full Governing Body as well as ensuring staff are doing all that they can to drive improvement of our Church School.

This year, I have witnessed the school, and especially Reception Robins, performing and celebrating the story of Jesus at Christmas. Their pride in their characters was very clear as they told what is an important event in the Christian calendar. It was evident this was the start of their own journey in learning what is important to Christians.

At St Aldhelm's, as well as Christianity, the children are given the opportunity to celebrate and study Judaism, Hinduism, Islam and the non-religious viewpoint of Humanism. Each have their own beliefs, stories and events, which are important for our children to be able to understand.

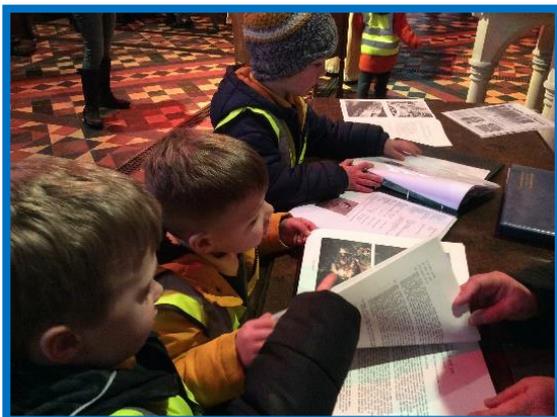
In my role and as a member of the Church School Ethos Group, I also have more detailed knowledge of Christian Distinctiveness, which I strive to ensure runs through all of the priorities and policies. I have been able to see how the school's Christian Values of creativity, friendship and community, service, thankfulness, perseverance and truthfulness are shown in the children's and staff's attitude towards each other, the school and the community.

We are fortunate that we have the village church 5 minutes' walk from our school where the children can investigate and learn how the Church was founded in Douling and the links with our school. I have been delighted to have shared and taken part in visits to the church, including a visit to explore Baptism, where the children demonstrated their excellent prior knowledge, which enabled them to ask thoughtful questions. A more recent visit, the first for some children to a church, was a truly special experience. The children were mesmerised by the church, its windows and the feeling of peace it gave them. The children showed total respect for where they were and they soaked up the information like sponges.



Chris Pulsford

Foundation Governor



Friends of St. Aldhelm's
PTA

PTA Meeting 28th February
at 2pm in the Oak Room (old
Y4 classroom), at school
All welcome!



*Job Opportunities
at St Aldhelm's*

Job Vacancies at St. Aldhelm's VA Church Primary School:

Breakfast and After School Club Supervisor

Five days a week – term-time only

Emotional Literacy Support Assistant

Three sessions a week – term-time only

Please see our school website [here](#) for further details if you are interested. Please also share with anyone you think may be suitable and interested in the roles available.

Ofsted
Good Provider

SEXEY'S
SCHOOL

Join us for our
Boarding Open Day on
Saturday 26th March 2022

Register at
www.bit.ly/SexeysOpenDay
or scan the QR code

f t g

Sexey's School is a league-topping, Church of England, co-educational state boarding and day school for 11-18 year olds. New local part-time boarding offer now available.

Based in Bruton, Somerset | Visit www.sexeyssomerset.sch.uk | Email admissions@sexeyssomerset.sch.uk