

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

ST. ALDHELM'S NEWS

November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

November has proved to be a challenging month for many, with the second lockdown in place. I hope you are all keeping well and reached out for friendship and support when it's been needed. Well-being and mental health continue to be a priority for children and staff. I hope you are making it a priority for yourselves, your families and friends too.

A Kindness Calendar is a good resource to dip into when needed and reminds us to be kind to ourselves and others. Giving – doing things for yourself and others creates a happier and kinder world:



This month, we have enjoyed a whole school Maths Problem Solving Day, Cricket and Rugby sessions, and an Anti-bullying week. We also considered and reflected during Remembrance Week, holding our moment of worship and silence on the 11th day of the 11th month. Please read on for further details and make sure you visit the school website to see the Latest News articles for all events that have taken place, as well as class stories and posts on Tapestry and ClassDojo.

Assessments have been carried out over the last couple of weeks to gather how children are progressing with their learning. These assessments are carried out in a way that ensures all children have the opportunity to perform at their best. It allows us to review learning this term and prepare for learning going into the spring term. Class teachers will be in touch with any learning that would benefit from further practice at home or any difficulties your child may be having.

We now step into the exciting time of Advent, where we countdown to our special festival of Christmas and all the joy and hope it brings. We appreciate that we will have to do things differently this year, but will make sure that the magic and wonder of the nativity story reaches and reminds us all of the true meaning of Christmas.

Kind regards
Mrs P Cohen
Headteacher

Term 2

- 08.12.20 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle' assembly
'Schools Against Waste' workshops for Y1&2 and Y3&4
- 11.12.20 National Christmas Jumper Day
Donations please for Save the Children and the Children's Society
- 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 Class Christmas Parties
End of Term 2

19th December – 3rd January ~ Christmas Holiday

Term 3

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

13th – 21st February ~ Half Term Break

Term 4

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

LEST WE FORGET



Whole School Art Project For Remembrance 2020



This year as part of our Remembrance Day all the children made their own clay poppies to create a school Art installation.



The project was inspired by the public art installation at the Tower of London in 2014. More than 800,000 ceramic poppies were planted at the Tower of London. They cascaded out of a window and into the Tower's dry moat. Each poppy represented one of the British and Colonial soldiers who died in World War One. The artwork was created by Paul Cummins but put together with the help of the stage designer Tom Piper. The children watched a video that explained the process the artist and his team followed to make the clay poppies and then had a go at making them themselves.



The children learned how to get the air bubbles out of their clay and roll it out ready for cutting into a poppy shape. They had the option of using a template to help them follow the process of cutting out a poppy shape using clay tools. Older children could use this too or challenge themselves by making their own template. The children then had a go at making the poppies 3D.



The poppies were left to dry and then painted black and red. The children then carried their poppies to our outdoor remembrance service.



We managed to come together as a whole school, in our bubbles, to hold our Remembrance Service. We gathered outside to show our respects, holding our clay poppies, whilst Mrs Cohen played the Last Post.



After our Remembrance Service, all the poppies were laid in a crucifix at our school entrance to create our very own St Aldhelm's Art installation. We were very lucky that the sun was shining to showcase our wonderful work.



Lest we forget...





Everyone across the school also had the opportunity to take part in a Zoom Virtual 'Historic Workshop' in the morning, where we could all learn more about World War One. The workshop gave us the chance to learn all about the events which are said to have started the war, the allies involved, the repercussions for Germany following the end of the war, and also the importance of Armistice Day.

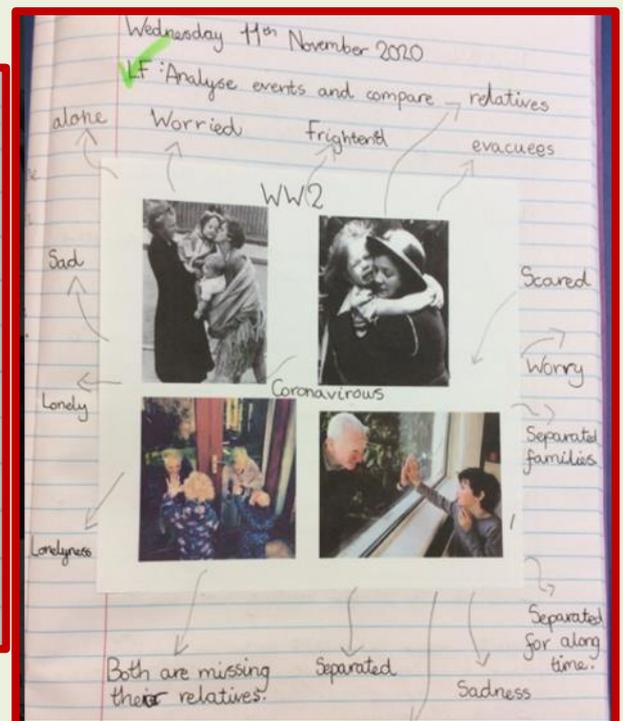


Key Stage One then went on to use images of soldiers from the First World War and thought of very thoughtful questions to investigate. They were particularly interested in their uniform and how they earned their medals.



Key Stage Two took on more of a comparative approach, between the events throughout World War One and the recent pandemic. We realised that there are actually lots of comparisons. We had rich discussions about how we could not see our loved ones for some time, reminisced about the supermarket madness, and could see correlations to rationing.

War	Coronavirus
Bombs booming	Telly, watching
rats nibbling	game, playing
ships sinking	path, walking
4 years lasting	people, coping
people hiding	jobs, losing
America joining	family, missing
trenches smelling	home learning
trenches crumbling	too old going
trenches flooding	Zoom calling
people dying	hand washing
	social distancing



Cleaning Staff at St Aldhelm's

This month, we have welcomed Brenda Button onto our staff team. Mrs Button has joined Mrs Baker in taking care of school cleanliness. I'm sure you can appreciate the added responsibilities of ensuring we continue to comply to Covid guidance, but will be happy to hear our school is shining and gleaming! Thank you Mrs Baker and Mrs Button. We really do appreciate your hard work and the way you care about keeping our school so clean and tidy.



Mrs Baker



Mrs Button



ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

Monday 16th - Friday 20th November 2020



A great opportunity for everybody to celebrate:

Differences
Individuality
Uniqueness



Odd Socks Day

During the week, each class focused on age appropriate elements of anti-bullying, including:

- different types of bullying
- what to do if we are feeling worried
- how to be a good friend





ROBLOX
Powering Imagination

According to the Roblox website, 'Roblox is the world's largest interactive social platform for play.' For those of you who are unfamiliar with the game, it is a multi-player online gaming platform which allows children to play and create a variety of games in a 3D world. Roblox is free to play and available on all modern smartphones, tablets, desktops, Xbox One, Oculus Rift, and HTC Vive.



AGE RESTRICTION
13+

What parents need to know about **ROBLOX**

ROBLOX STUDIO

The Roblox Studio allows users to create their own games and 'worlds' for others to play on the platform. As the games are user generated, it gives users the freedom to potentially include things you do not want your child to be exposed to, for example, weapons, violence and even pornographic content. There are no age restrictions on the games created in the Roblox Studio and to remove games from the platform Roblox relies on people reporting negative/violent content.

CHATTING & FRIEND REQUESTS

Whilst the games in Roblox are aimed at 8 to 18-year-olds, there are currently no age restrictions for signing up. This means that both adults and young people can play and communicate with each other and send friend requests through the platform. Once a friend request is accepted, this means that they can communicate with each other outside of gameplay.

ROBUX ONLINE PAYMENTS

When a user creates a game, they earn something called 'Robux', which works as a currency within the platform and enables the purchase of upgrades and memberships. If the created game is of good quality and attracts multiple players and in-game adverts, children have the ability to earn a lot of 'Robux.' Once a user has earned a certain amount of Robux, they can convert this to real cash and withdraw it to a PayPal account. To withdraw money, users need to be over 13, have a PayPal account and have paid for the Roblox premium subscription.



National Online Safety

Top Tips for Parents

ALERT!
Tell your children to be careful and to think twice before they click any random advert or popup. There are a lot of phishing scams that advertise free Roblox etc. with the intent of stealing your child's personal information.

UNLIST SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS

Make sure your child's social media accounts are not listed in the settings/account information. If they are, advise them to set them to private or remove them from their account. This will ensure that nobody will be able to find and contact them on their social media platforms outside of Roblox.

CHECK SHARED INFORMATION

In the account settings, check that your child is not giving away any personal information in their bio/profile. For example, their full name, phone number or snapchat name. If you see that they have, explain why this is potentially dangerous and remove immediately.

2-STEP VERIFICATION

Roblox has a great two-step verification security feature which we recommend you enable to add an extra layer of security to your child's account.

HAVE A CHAT ABOUT 'GRIEFING'

Griefing is when someone purposely upsets another player in a game. This can be done by setting traps, damaging or stealing something from another player, intentionally killing them and generally doing something in the game to spoil their gameplay. Essentially, 'Griefing' is a form of cyberbullying and can be extremely frustrating and upsetting for players.

RESTRICT PAYMENT METHODS

Roblox is a free to play game, but there are still options to make additional in-game purchases. If you do not want your child to make payments, ensure your card is not associated with their account. If you are happy for your child to make payments in the game, but want to restrict spending, we suggest using a games console gift card. These can be purchased in specific amounts, which will enable you to restrict how much your child spends and removes the need for a credit/debit card to be used with their account.

DISABLE IN-GAME CHAT

Roblox is great for children to play together and chat to each other. However, if you want to completely turn off in-game chat for your child (meaning they cannot contact anyone, including their friends) you can do so by following these steps: When logged in, go to the Account Settings page by clicking on the gear icon at the top right corner of the page, then click Settings. Next, click on the Privacy tab and under 'Who can chat with me in game?' select 'No one'.

IS YOUR CHILD

Unfortunately, there are a lot of videos showing children how to bypass the settings on Roblox, so first ensure your child to set up some safety features. There are additional safety features for children under 13, for example having their posts and chats filtered for inappropriate content and behaviour, so it is worth checking that your child has set up their account with the correct age. You can find this in their account settings.



SOMERSET County Council



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.



My name is Ali and I am a foundation governor at St Aldhelm's School. One of my roles I carry out is the link governor for SEND provision in the school. This means that I meet up each term with Mrs Newman to discuss policies and how these work within the school to ensure that all children have the same opportunities to flourish during their time at school. Additionally to this, I am also on the pay and performance panel for the school.

Some of you may recognise my dog in the photo, he is Odie the school reading dog. We attend school on a Monday afternoon when Odie (who is a Pets As Therapy assessed dog) listens to some of the children reading to him.

Outside of these commitments, the animal theme continues! I work as a vet nurse at the University of Bristol Vet School. Here I lead a team of vet nurses working in the surgical theatre department as well as training and lecturing to undergraduate vets and vet nurses. In my spare time I can normally be found exploring the countryside around Doultling with Odie and my family or out in my garden, always accompanied by one or two of my ex battery chickens!

Ali Mann

Foundation Governor



I have been a Parent Governor with St Aldhelm's for just over a year and am part of the Finance Committee and Communications Committee. I am the monitoring governor for the Creative Arts and Foundation Subjects, which enables me to gain a greater insight into how these fundamental parts of the curriculum are supported across the school on behalf of the Governing Board. My daughter is currently in Year 1, with two older children having previously attended St Aldhelm's, so I have seen many changes throughout the last ten years, but always been impressed by the great environment provided and dedication of all at the school.

Outside of school commitments, I enjoy travel, walking and cooking. I work as part of the leadership team for a Health and Social Care staffing partner following a career supporting vulnerable adults with their daily lives. We are all acutely aware of how this last year has affected everyone, and being on the front-line of support through the challenges faced in supporting others has given me a unique perspective of when organisations are 'getting it right' in these difficult times. This perspective means I can honestly say that I can recognise the commitment to continuing learning and providing 'normality' from all at St Aldhelm's is over and above in all areas and am privileged to be part of the Governing Board.

Liam Dutton

Parent Governor

December Kindness Calendar

During December, children will be encouraged to learn about and practise kindness with our December 'kindness calendar'. Times have been challenging this year, and we have all had to cope with many changes to our lives. The British Red Cross is dedicated to helping create resilient communities, being kind and connected is an important part of resilience. Their new kindness calendar was created to help children see the power and strength of kindness and friendship in supporting themselves and others in overcoming challenges and changes.



We hope children will reflect on the meaning and importance of kindness and friendship as well as learn new ways to show kindness and think about the power of kind words.

KINDNESS CALENDAR

Use the kindness calendar throughout December to record your kind acts and see the positive impact your kindness makes to yourself and those around you. When you have completed a kind act you can tick or colour in the snowflake for that day.

There are some suggested acts of kindness in the pack to help get you started.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday



Suggestions of how we can show Kindness ...

- ❖ Call write or video chat with a friend or relative you have not seen for a while.
- ❖ Invite someone new from your class or bubble to play with you at break time or in the park.
- ❖ Take five minutes to learn a new coping skill, for example, breathing with colour.
- ❖ Donate any unwanted books, clothes or toys to a charity shop.
- ❖ Perhaps you could do a toy exchange with a friend.
- ❖ Share your kindness by encouraging others to be kind to each other.
- ❖ Be kind to your body and mind.

- ❖ Write or draw all the things you like doing that help you to be kind to yourself, such as listening to music, making something or playing.
- ❖ Think of three kind words to describe yourself.
- ❖ Look at old photos together with your family and think about happy times.

- ❖ Do some mindful colouring to help you relax.
- ❖ Make sure you look after yourself. You can do this by getting plenty of sleep, exercising and eating healthy things.
- ❖ Think about being kind to the earth and climate.
- ❖ Use scrap paper to draw on and put used paper in the recycling bin.
- ❖ Make and share homemade gifts with friends and family.
- ❖ Do something helpful for a friend or family member.
- ❖ Tell a school friend or sibling, three things you like about them.

- ❖ Take a walk and note down something that flies, something that is furry and something that is green.
- ❖ Noticing things around you is a good way to be in the present moment.

