

ST. ALDHELM'S NEWS

March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

How lovely it has been to enjoy the sunshine this week. It might have been brief but it is certainly a welcome sign of Spring and hopefully there will be more to come.

It has been a great month, not least because the children all returned to school on 8th March. We are so incredibly grateful for the way parents and carers fulfilled the remote learning plan and prepared the children for the return to school. Children settled back in brilliantly and have quickly got back into school routines and expectations. They never cease to amaze us with their resilience and happy attitudes. Read on for **Celebrating Learning** on [page 5-11](#).

We all enjoyed taking part in **World Book Day** this year. Thank you to Mrs Phillips who led the Decorate Your Window initiative as well as the wonderful Flotsam book, used by all classes. Throughout this year, reading has remained a priority and will continue to be so. It was great that children could share favourite books and stories, creating a buzz about reading. See [page 2&3](#) for pictures.

Science Week was very popular this year. Thank you Miss Horgan for leading and promoting Science. It was evident through the remote learning that this subject area is of interest to many of our children. The focus on 'scientists and their work' as well as The Tomato Challenge inspired some great learning and positives attitudes. More on [page 4](#).

Next term we look forward to inviting parents to a **Parent Consultation Evening**. This will provide an opportunity for parents to discuss their child with their class teacher, sharing remote learning experiences, the return to school and an update on attainment and progress against age related expectations. Booking for appointments will be live today on Wisepay.

We hope you all have a Happy Easter weekend and are able to enjoy the break with your families. It will be wonderful to meet up and see friends or wider family that you haven't seen in a while. Please do keep safe and stay within the roadmap out of lockdown rules. This will keep you and others safe, ensuring a return to school on the 19th April 2021.

Kind regards
Mrs P Cohen
Headteacher

Term 4

- 31.03.21 Virtual Easter Service
for children (Teams)
01.04.21 Mufti Day
End of Term 4



**2nd – 18th April ~
Easter Holiday**

Term 5

- 19.04.21 Back to school for children
29.04.21 Deadline for booking Parent Meetings
04.05.21 Parent Consultation Meetings
06.05.21 Parent Consultation Meetings
3:30-6pm both days (Microsoft Teams)
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
tbc Y6 Virtual Pilgrim Day
25.06.21 INSET DAY
23.07.21 End of Term 6



World Book Day Week

R.L.D. OK AY 2021

Shepton Mallet and surrounding villages
World Book Day windows.

Decorate your windows for Thursday 4th March.

St Paul's
2M PLEASE REMEMBER THE SOCIAL DISTANCING RULE AND AVOID GATHERINGS



St. Aldhelm's collaborated with the other local schools to create the 'Shepton Mallet and surrounding villages World Book Day Windows'.

St. Aldhelm's families created their own displays and then hunted for others on World Book Day. It sparked positive talk about books and stories, which supports our continuing promotion of good reading attitudes and habits. Thank you for continuing to engage and support your child's reading practice and enjoyment at home. If you've lapsed a bit, it's never too late to get into a regular reading routine. Happy reading!

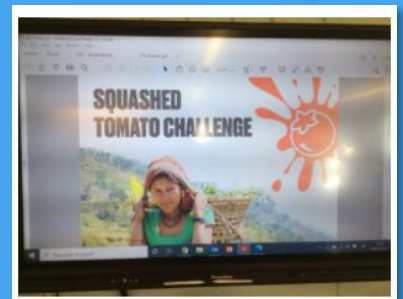
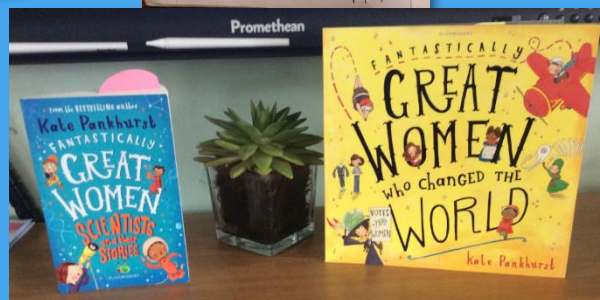
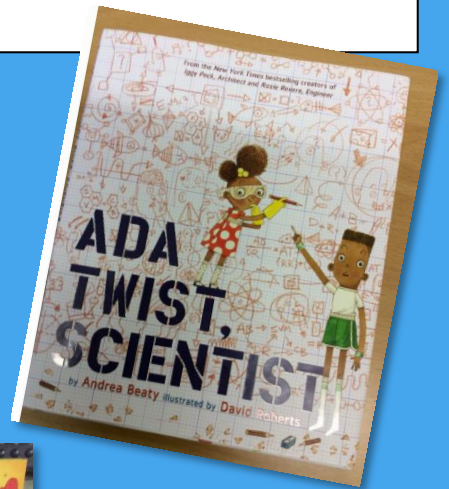
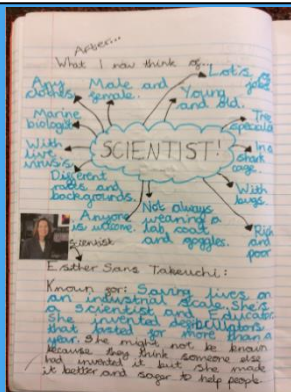


British Science Week 2021

Science Week had two different strands this year. We looked at smashing stereotypes - opening the children's eyes to all the different STEM careers available and breaking down barriers to who is a scientist.

Secondly, we thought about innovating for the future. Children were given the task of designing a tomato carrier to safely transport tomatoes down the mountainside in Peru.

There was so much creativity and amazing collaboration shown by all the children across all year groups!





Reception Robins



Science



Our Five Senses Science learning was inspired by the story *Ada Twist the Scientist* by Andrea Beaty and David Roberts. The children took park in a range of exciting experiments to further explore their sense of sight, smell, hearing, touch and taste.



Colour fountains!



Celebrity Get My Hand Out Of Here!



Source of sound game



Smelling Jars

PE - Gymnastics

Reception Robins have been travelling along, through and off the apparatus using interesting movements, demonstrating star and pencil jumps whilst dismounting. The children showed a good technique throughout take-off and landing remembering to bend their legs to cushion impact.



Maths



3D Shape - Matching everyday objects



3D Shape - Slide or roll?



Making 10



Year One Nightingales

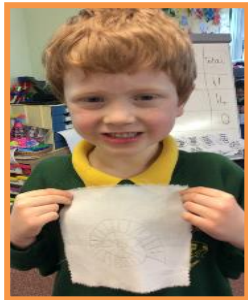


Year 1 Highlights for February and March - we started our enquiries at home and continued them back at school.

Who is Mary Anning and why do we remember her?



Salt dough fossils



Textile fossils



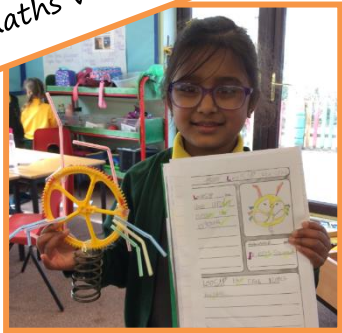
Dinosaur maths



Lots of real life writing about fossils and Mary Anning

Lots of opportunities for real life maths with weighing

FLOTSAM



BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK



Exploring our senses - working collaboratively solving problems

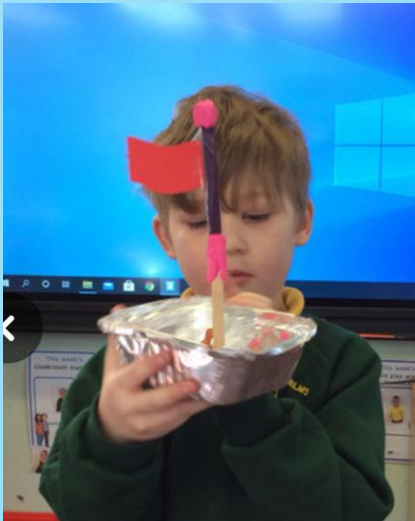




Year Two Magpies

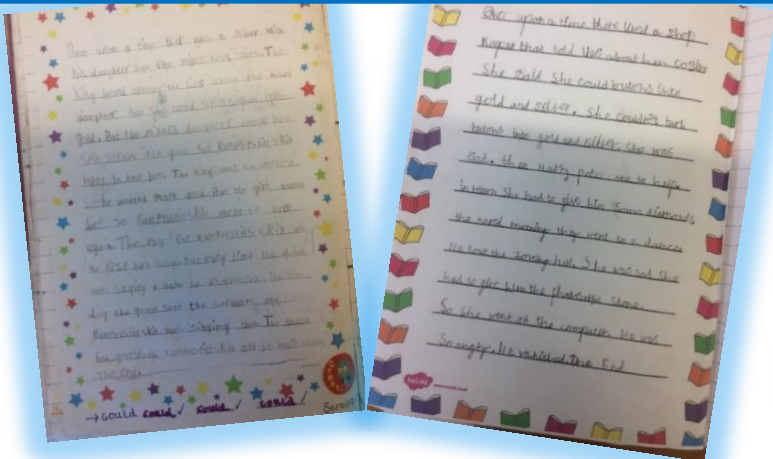


Science – Following on from ‘Flotsam’, Year 2 worked collaboratively to try and make boats that could float on the ocean. They also created lots of scientific questions in response to ‘Ada Twist’, which we read for Science Week, and used our senses to identify all sorts of different smells.



PE – Year 2 have really enjoyed their Team Games this term. They have been very resilient working collaboratively with children in the class who they might not usually choose to play with. This has developed the children’s skills working with a range of partners and teams!

Writing – Following on from their reading during remote education, children have been retelling the story of Rumpelstiltskin and innovating their own version of the story. They really enjoyed planning, saying, writing and reading their stories and books!





Year Three Owls



We've been looking at mummification since being back at school. We learnt about the process and then began our own mummification of some tomatoes!

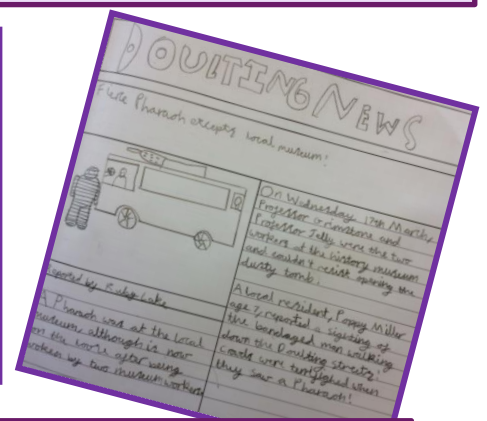
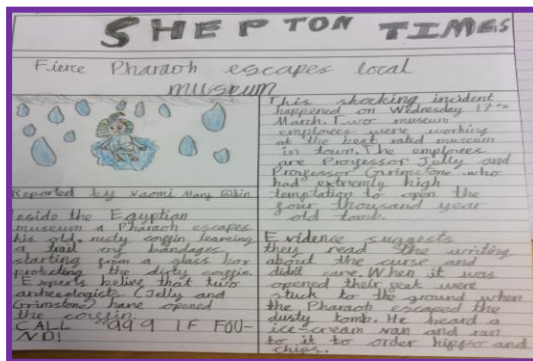
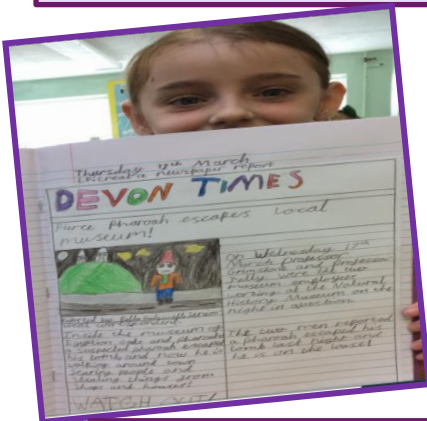
Year 3 have been great at using the experiment we did together to think about new experiments they might try... mummified pineapples and oranges could be next!

We couldn't believe that the mummification process actually works! Look at how mouldy our 'control variable' went!



Super SPAG!

Since being back at school, we have been practicing our spellings in a range of ways. We've found that the dienes we normally use for maths make great 'game style' lettering and we've found macaroni is the perfect alternative to inverted commas (speech marks)!



There's a Pharaoh on the loose!

In our class text, a Pharaoh escapes a local museum and ends up roaming the streets! Year 3 have taken this story and applied it to our local area! I'd avoid Collett Park if you're out and about! ☺



Year Four Finches



Reading

We have had a big focus on reading for pleasure in Year 4. Children have enjoyed regular opportunities to read and share with their classmates the books they have been reading. As a class, we have been reading short stories all about survivors. Keep up the great enthusiasm!



Extreme Earth: Volcanoes

Year 4 have loved discovering lots of information about volcanoes. We have used our mapping skills to locate where earthquakes occur and found out this is along plate boundaries. We have also created some beautiful volcano inspired artwork using different materials.



PE

Year have loved being active this term, through regular track time and PE lessons. Children have shown great resilience and determination. We have completed lots of different exercise circuits, working on different muscle groups. In netball, we have been focusing on accuracy when passing and receiving the ball.





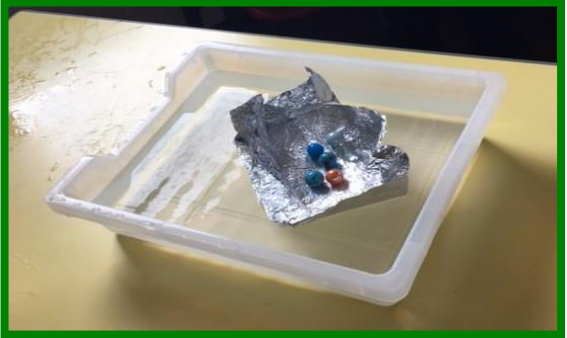
Year Five Woodpeckers



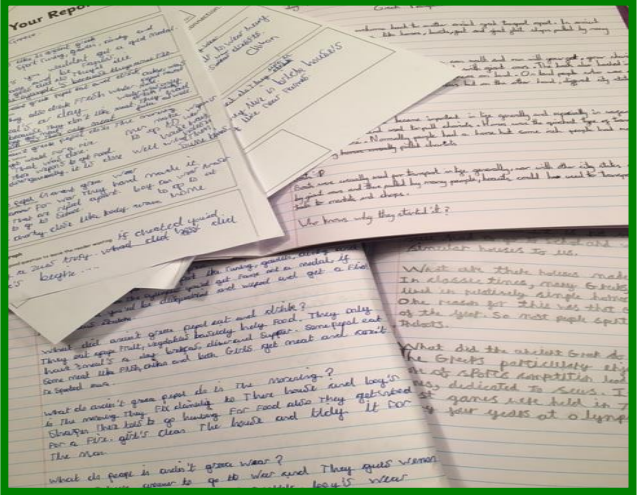
Who said maths was boring? Y5 have used practical percentages with matching pairs, dice decimals to play 'rounding decimal' bingo and cube counting as they figure out tenths, hundredths and thousandths. Using equipment and games secures the new concepts we have been learning about in a fun and visual way.



How many marbles can you keep afloat? Y5 have been learning about forces with different experiments – seeing them in action, drawing hypothesis and conclusions.



Writing non-chronological reports – Y5 have carried out research using non-fiction texts from both book and internet sources. They have then planned and written non-chronological reports. They have written reports on Ancient Greeks and this week chosen our own topics to write about. We are currently editing and publishing...



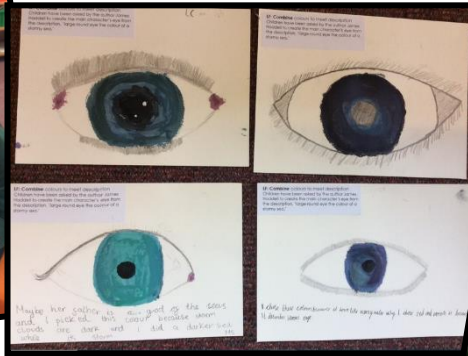
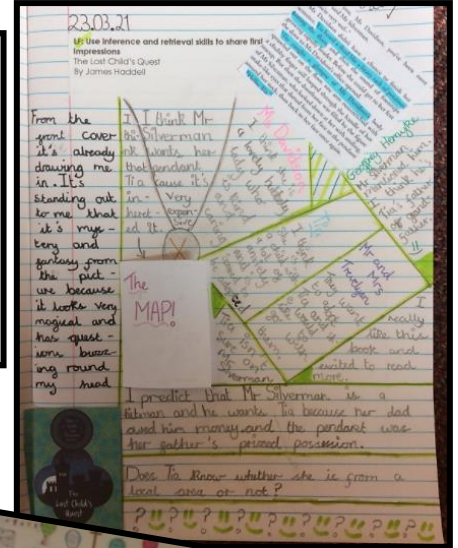


Year Six Blackbirds



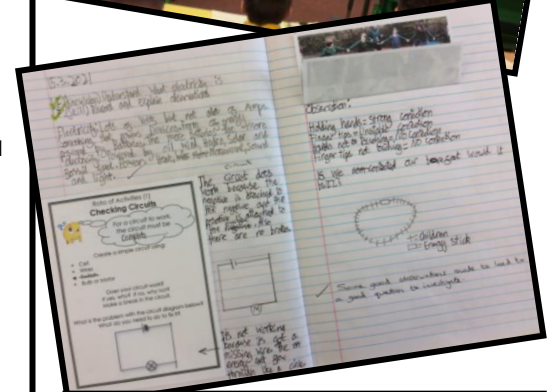
Reading – The Lost Child's Quest

In Year 6, we have been in contact with James Haddell, the author of our new class book. He has introduced his story to us and we have loved sharing the work we have carried out so far. Year 6 are loving the story and are applying a range of VIPERS skills effectively. Their engagement and curiosity has been fantastic. James Haddell has set us challenges to complete, which all have been keen to accomplish. It has been lovely to see their love of reading shine through.



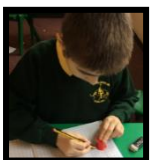
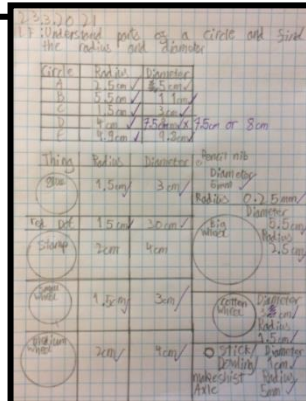
Science

A highlight this term has been the amazing science work Year 6 have produced. During our work in Science Week, the class discussed a range of issues around stereotypes and challenging these. The questions and discussions they had about diversity and just how many occupations require STEM skills were fantastic. The children have used a range of scientific thinking and skills with the challenges they have been given; including their work in Forest School.



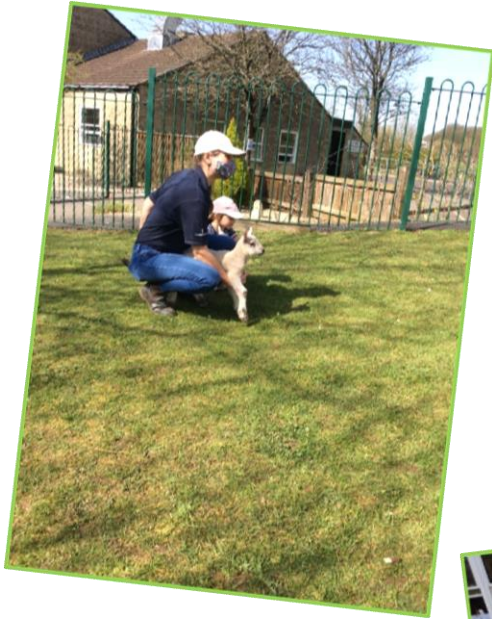
Maths – Real Life Links

Year 6 have applied their Maths skills brilliantly this term. They have seen how these skills are needed in real life. They have investigated how the diameter of a wheel and the shape of the chassis can affect the speed of their prototype buggy. They were able to make many links to DT and Science.





Spring has sprung!



As part of our enquiry into “What is special about this time of year?” Emily’s mum brought in two gorgeous lambs to share with Year One. The children asked some great questions and we learned all about their food, when they were born and how they are looked after as well as stroking them and holding them too. ❤️ 🐑

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 am part way through my first term as a Co-opted governor with the responsibility of being the link governor for safeguarding. What does a co-opted governor actually mean? It's a position that the board of governors will vote on and fill based on relevance and experience of a skill set for a set position.

In my day job I have worked for the emergency services for 17 years as a front-line member of staff. I have a keen interest in safeguarding and as a result have attained a number of safeguarding qualifications and experience including becoming a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) along with the operational delivery of safeguarding in the community. The school has a fantastic and proactive DSL Team which I get to meet regularly. As with all governors the role is purely strategic so I do not get involved with any of the operational side of Safeguarding at school.

I have two children at the school, one in year 6 and another in year 3 which builds my links to the school and strengthens my drive, in terms of commitment to the school. Over the years I have seen the school develop and become stronger year by year.

Alongside this I run one of the local uniformed youth organisations which caters for those aged from 12 – 20 years of age. Through this as a cadet myself I was taught to fly and gained a great many of skills and experiences. I

Tom Miller

Co-Opted Governor

We look forward to hearing from Jenny Short next month. She is in the process of moving house and therefore been a little busy! We look forward to hearing more about her role next time.



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 – bexnmoo@hotmail.com



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 the Easter Bingo Night, they continue to work hard for the benefit of the children at the school. Mufti Day was initiated by the PTA and donations will be very much appreciated for resources at school for the children.



March Draw for the 100 Club:

First Prize £20 Adrienne Hardiment

Second Prize £10 Peter Brake

Third Prize £5 Abigail Wareham



The staff wish to thank Doultong Social Group for their very kind and thoughtful gift of Easter Cakes. These were delivered on the last day of the term, perfectly timed for staff to enjoy with a coffee or tea.

We really appreciate your kindness and would like to wish you a very happy Easter.

