



ST. ALDHELM'S VA CHURCH PRIMARY SCHOOL
CHELYNCH PARK, DOULTING, SHEPTON MALLET, SOMERSET, BA4 4PL

Tel: (01749) 880376

www.staldhelms.co.uk

staldhelmsoffice@educ.somerset.gov.uk

HEADTEACHER: Mrs P Cohen

ST. ALDHELM'S NEWS

October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

This month has continued to see our children attending school and progressing with some amazing learning. The Covid-19 measures and the recent announcement of a second lockdown, certainly isn't stopping our staff and children focus on the important matter of education. I am so incredibly impressed by the resilience and behaviours of the children at our school. They show their curiosity and thirst for knowledge, motivating and inspiring us every day to do the work we do. We are very lucky to work within an amazing team of staff who are ensuring our school goes from strength to strength. The commitment and resilience from staff is astounding and our children and families are lucky to be so well prepared, cared for and nurtured at what is a difficult time for us all. Thank you to parents and carers who have taken the time to write thoughtful and kind messages of thanks and support to staff - they are much appreciated.

Since our first newsletter, we have enjoyed a Maths Problem Solving Day, Social Media launch, Mad Science Assembly, Harvest Service led by Year 1 and 4, Cricket coaching, on top of all the other wonderful learning opportunities the children experience each and every day. Please make sure you visit the school website to see the Latest News articles for all events that have taken place as well as posts on Tapestry and ClassDojo.

It was great to hear such positive comments from our online parents' evening meetings. Thank you to all parents who have shared how well their child has settled into school or their new class and how engaged their child is with their learning. There is a real positivity about school and a buzz of activity – a great first term. We will be carrying out informal assessments this term to gather how children are progressing with their learning and inform planning for terms 3 and 4.

We hope you all enjoyed a wonderful half term and caught up with family and friends before the lockdown. Make the most of the quieter weekends to rest and recharge. Plan to do a little less so that everyone gets the break they need, particularly the children.

Kind regards
Mrs P Cohen
Headteacher

Term 2

02.11.20

INSET DAY

03.11.20

Back to school for children

04.11.20

Maths Problem Solving Day

05.11.20

Cricket Coaching starts for KS2

09.11.20

Remembrance Week

11.11.20

Remembrance Day

13.11.20

School Photographs – individual and siblings in school (no younger siblings)
Children in Need (details to follow on Tapestry and ClassDojo)

16.11.20

National Anti-Bullying Week
Odd Socks Day

19.11.20

Flu Vaccinations YR-Y6

24.11.20

Rugby Tots Masterclass for EYFS and KS1

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 for Save the Children

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

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

Remembrance Week

During the first week of Term 2, children have been thinking and reflecting on the theme of Remembrance. This year we have not been able to support The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal as we did last year, due to Covid-19 measures. Instead, Miss Juden, our humanities lead, and Miss Wood, our creative arts lead, have led the whole school in a Remembrance project. Last week or this week, every child will make their own poppy using clay. These will be laid down in a whole school installation on Remembrance Day, 11th November, as we carry out our socially distanced act of worship and remembrance activities in our class bubbles. Look out for further details to follow in a Latest News article on the website and more details in the next newsletter on this Remembrance project.



Monday 16th November 2020

To launch Anti-bullying week on Monday 16th November, everybody is welcome to wear **Odd Socks** for the day.

A great opportunity for us to celebrate our individuality and what makes us unique.



Talking Mental Health



What is mental health?

We all have mental health. Mental health is about our feelings, our thinking, our emotions and our moods. Looking after our own and our children's mental health is important.

Our Top Tips



Make conversations about mental health a normal part of life: Anywhere is a good place to talk - in the car, walking the dog or cooking together. Model everyday talk about feelings. This could include feelings of characters in books or about characters.



Ask open questions: Such as "How did your day go today?" This will help to extend the conversation.



Offer empathy rather than solutions: Show that you accept what they are telling you but don't try to solve the problem.



Calmly stay with the feelings that arise: It can be our automatic reaction to steer away from difficult emotions.

During these unprecedented times, we all find ourselves facing new challenges. For many, this will bring about new anxieties, for others, it may worsen existing worries. Somerset are offering the chance to speak to a Psychologist with any concerns arising for you, or your family.

If you would like to access this service, then please email EPSHelpline@somerset.gov.uk with the following information:

- Your name
- The name of your child's school
- Times and dates that you are not available for consultation



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.



As a member of staff within the school, I am elected as a staff governor. I am the Health and Safety link governor, on the Admissions Committee and the Communications Committee. As H&S link governor I have about 3 visits a year with Mrs Barton, the School Business Manager, where we check policies and procedures are in place and are being followed to ensure that the school is a safe environment to be. The Admissions Committee meet as and when required to discuss applications and to agree policies. The Communications Committee is currently busy promoting our school within the community ready for the 2021 - 2022 applications.

Outside of school, I have spent the past 10 years supporting Wells RFC as a first aider for my son's team. I thoroughly enjoyed watching him and the team play on a Sunday, usually in the wind and rain. Now he has gone to University it is time to find a new hobby! During the summer, we welcomed a rescue dog into our home and are looking forward to exploring the countryside with her.

Rachel Manship

Staff Governor



Having been a foundation governor for St Aldhelm's School since 2017, this September I was appointed as the Chair of Governors which in such an extraordinary year has been an undertaking full of challenge. Our focus as a board has been to ensure the safety of children whilst providing them with a rich and accessible learning program. I am tremendously proud of the entire staff team for the way they have adapted to the challenges and for achievements they have made supporting children and families. We're now moving into admissions season and it's important that we're able to reach out to

all parents, beyond those of the school, to encourage applications for reception intake 2021-2022 and any potential children to fill in-year spaces, which will help the growth of the school and ensure a continued and strong future for all the children in our school.

Outside of my commitments to the school, I work within essential services for international trade helping freight to move across borders and through ports. And when I'm not working, I can be found tinkering with Land Rovers or walking the dogs across our wonderful countryside where I have always lived.

Adam Underwood

Chair of Governors

New Staff at St Aldhelm's

We are really pleased to share that we appointed two new lunchtime supervisors last term and have welcomed Mrs Philpott and Mrs Pitman to our Midday Supervisory Assistant Staff Team.



We monitor and review our school meal provision; making changes to ensure the food is appealing, liked by the children and tasty. New on the menu this week, was pepperoni pasta bake, which went down very well. Do check our menus on Wisepay as your child may be interested or benefit from a hot lunch as we move into winter.

Becky
Allsop

Mel
Ricketts

Deborah
Philpott

Janine
Pitman

Zoe
Dingle

We are also pleased that we welcome two new support staff. Rosanna Holman has started as our new Office Administrator this week. For anyone who has already made contact with the school office, I'm sure you will have found that she is quickly getting to know our systems and is extremely helpful in sorting queries and giving information you may need.

Gemma Coldwell also joins our staff team to work with a child in KS2. "I'm extremely happy to be working here and looking forward to getting to know everyone."



Rosanna Holman
Office Administrator



Gemma Coldwell
1:1 Learning Support Assistant

Item for Parents from Gov.UK Lootboxes in Games - Have your Say

Lootboxes are items that can be bought in games with 'mystery' contents. This can include ways of customising a character, weapons, a new player for a sports team or a range of other items which are designed to tempt the player to make the purchase. Because getting the best items is based on chance, some people believe they are a form of gambling.

The UK government is asking for the views of young people and parents about lootboxes and are inviting us to complete their survey by November 22nd 2020.

To take part in the survey go to:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/loot-boxes-in-video-games-call-for-evidence>