

# Aston St Mary's Primary School

## Weekly Update 3.2.12

### Dates for your diary

13 <sup>th</sup> to 17 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Half Term
9 <sup>th</sup> March	Reports out to parents
14 <sup>th</sup> March	Parent consultation
30 <sup>th</sup> March	Term ends 2.00 pm
17 <sup>th</sup> April	Children return to school for summer term

### PTFA Dates for the diary

9 <sup>th</sup> February	Disco 4.30-5.30 pm KS1, 5.30-6.30 pm KS2 Tickets £2.00 each
23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Pamper evening 7.00 pm to 10.00 pm
16 <sup>th</sup> March	Wine and Wisdom at Village Hall (time to be confirmed)
30 <sup>th</sup> March	Easter Egg Hunt 2.00 pm
27 <sup>th</sup> April	Square Dance
23 <sup>rd</sup> June	BBQ and Camping
1 <sup>st</sup> July	Aston Summer Fete

**Help Us Keep Vulnerable People Warm and Well this Winter** - HCC has teamed up with NHS Hertfordshire, district councils and the voluntary sector to secure a grant from the government to help vulnerable Herts residents to keep warm and stay well this winter. If you are in contact with families on low income who may be struggling to heat their homes in the colder months, please encourage them to contact HertsHelp on 0300 123 4044 to find out what extra help might be available to them.

**Free School Meals Application** - Apply by phoning the customer services number on 0300 123 4048 or online [www.hertsdirect.org/freeschoolmeals](http://www.hertsdirect.org/freeschoolmeals). Please see overleaf for benefits of applying.

**School Council/Shire Catering** - The school council met with Shire Catering earlier this week and discussed the pupil choice menu. The children requested more of their favourite puddings and are looking into ways of recycling. A very worthwhile meeting at which the school council's views were taken on board.

**Shackadell - Guinea Pigs** - The children in Shackadell class would love a pet to look after. Do you know anyone who looks after guinea pigs and is expecting a new arrival that could be donated to the school? If so, please contact Mrs Wright. Your support is greatly appreciated.

**Early Surfers' Zone** - This is a website designed for teachers, parent and carers of 3 - 7 year olds, to help introduce the idea of internet safety, in an age appropriate, fun and engaging way. [www.kidsmart.org.uk/parents](http://www.kidsmart.org.uk/parents)

**Out of Your Hands Mobile Phones** - Did you know that 1 in 5 children aged 8 - 16 have had their mobile phones stolen? Or that 6% of 10 to 15 year olds have received unwanted and nasty emails, texts or abusive postings on a social network. The website [www.outofyourhands.com](http://www.outofyourhands.com) has been developed to help educate young people aged 7 to 16 on the responsible way to own, operate and safeguard their mobile phone with a section specifically for parents.

Best wishes

**Severe Weather** - In preparation for the future bad weather, please be advised of the following. Due to the parentmail messaging service being so overloaded, we will not be using this form of communication to advise you of closures. We would advise you, however, to listen to either BBC Three Counties Radio (103.8 fm) or 106 Jack FM (previously Hertbeat) (106.7 and 106.9) where the school closures/arrangements will be mentioned. Please also check [www.hertsdirect.org](http://www.hertsdirect.org) for updated news. After checking these sites and radio station, if you still wish to check with the school directly, please see our website [www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk](http://www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk) or check the answer phone message which will be available after 8.00 am. The decision to close school in severe weather is based on local conditions and an assessment of risk for both staff and children. Consideration needs to be given to the roads in the village which will be very different from those in Stevenage (where the main roads have been gritted). When the police and motoring organisations such as the AA recommend that motorists undertake only essential journeys this is considered to include travel to work and school. We hope these arrangements will help in the bad weather and hope that there will be minimal disruption to the children's learning.

**Lip Balm** - Please do not provide your child with a lip balm to bring into school. There is a health and safety issue regarding children swapping/borrowing each others which is a cause for concern. If your child needs this, please apply liberally before the school day. We thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

**Merits** were awarded this week to Thomas, George H, Luke S, Laura, Lucy H, Ben G and Natalie.

**Shining Stars** were awarded to Jools and Jacob. Well done to you all

**Thought to Share** - "He will keep in perfect peace all those who trust in him, whose thoughts turn often to the Lord!" Isaiah 26:3 The Living Bible

Best wishes

Lynne Williams and Margaret Gibbs  
Headteachers