



Aston St. Mary's Newsletter

Our value this half term is **Wisdom and Understanding**

www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk

18th October 2019

Diary Dates

Tuesday 22 Oct – Flu
vaccinations
Reception-Yr6

Friday 25 Oct – Non-
uniform bring a bottle

Monday 28 Oct –
Friday 1 Nov - Half
term

Wednesday 6 Nov –
Haffydown class trip

Thursday 7 Nov – 9.15
Shackadell phonics
workshop

Friday 8 Nov – Non-
uniform bring
chocolate

It is hard to believe that we are now approaching the end of the first half term of the school year. Despite being a long half term, it seems to have flown past with lots going on in school. The children have now settled into their new classes and it is wonderful to see the amount of learning that has happened already. We hope that you are enjoying our new class updates on the newsletters; these enable us to share just a few of the fantastic learning experiences that our children enjoy in school.

Last week, saw the PTFA AGM – thank you to all those who attended. We are a small school with a limited budget, without the hard work of our PTFA we simply wouldn't be able to offer our children many of the opportunities that they currently enjoy. For example, we now have 30 new ipads and 30 new laptops enabling all of our children to have access to this technology for two days every week – this is well beyond the resources offered in many other schools and was part-funded by our PTFA. The PTFA also enabled us to purchase around 1,000 new reading books last year. These have re-stocked our library and class book corners as well as updating our reading scheme for our younger children. In July, we took the whole school to the cinema to see Aladdin following our production of 'Aladdin Trouble'. It was the PTFA who provided snack boxes for all the children. We are so grateful to our small dedicated team of parents who organise the PTFA fund-raising. It would be lovely to see more parents get involved and support this important work which benefits all our children. Please speak to your class representative (see notices) if you are able to help in anyway at all.

Thank you to all parents for attending the consultations last week. It is by working together in this way that we are able to ensure your child makes the best possible progress in school. It was also lovely to receive such positive feedback via the parental questionnaires.

Thank you.

ACADEMIC YEAR 2019/2020

Autumn Term

Tuesday, 3 September 2019 to Friday, 20 December 2019

Half Term Break – Monday, 28 October 2019 to Friday, 1 November 2019

Occasional Day – Monday, 25 November 2019 - SCHOOL CLOSED

Spring Term

Tuesday, 7 January 2020 to Friday, 3 April 2020

Half Term – Monday, 17 February 2020 to Friday, 21 February 2020

Summer Term

Tuesday, 21 April 2020 to Friday, 17 July 2020

Bank Holiday – Monday, 4 May 2020 – SCHOOL CLOSED

Half Term Break – Monday, 25 May 2020 to Friday, 29 May 2020



Shining Stars were awarded to:

Liam H and Oscar C



Merits were awarded to:

Isabelle H, Favian, Harry M, Hettie, Ava K, Hanna, Harry C, Mia A, Aidan S, Max H, Isadora, Ruby, Lily-Anne, Jack M-B and Nyah

Attendance

Well done to **Shackadell** class for having the best attendance in September – pretty impressive in their first few weeks at school!

Results were as follows:

Shackadell: 99.4%
Orchard: 99%
Danes: 98.3%
Peartree: 96.9%
Haffydown: 96.7%



A Thought to Share:

‘Understanding is about being helpful and caring.’

Betsy (Orchard)

Notices

Younger Siblings

If you have any younger children who do not yet attend school, please inform Mrs Haigs in the office of their date of birth as it is helpful for us to be aware of likely numbers for admission into our reception class.

We are a small, over-subscribed school with limited places and it is therefore helpful to be able to predict possible demand.



Water Bottles

Please make sure that your child brings their water bottle to school containing fresh water each day. Please note, these should contain water only as it hydrates without providing extra calories or risking harm to teeth.

Mental Health Awareness

Today in school, we have been raising awareness of mental health and well-being through class-based activities. This supports much of the work that goes on in school on a day-to-day basis through our values, our PSHE curriculum, the daily mile and so much more.

Children are learning the importance of:

- Being kind
- Asking for help
- Everyone being unique
- A healthy body and a healthy mind
- Talking about it!
- Being mindful
- Making time for fun!



You will soon be receiving raffle tickets for the Christmas Fayre. This is one of our biggest fund raisers organised by the PTFA. There are sure to be lots of great prizes as well as a special prize for the child whose family sells the most tickets. Please support us by purchasing some tickets – **remember, every pound raised makes a difference to our children.**

Thank you



Non-Uniform Day – Friday 25th October

Wear non-uniform for a donation of

'a bottle of something'

for the Christmas Fayre

PTFA Roles

Chair: Mrs Julie McInerney

Vice-chair: Mrs Sarah Cooper

Treasurer: Mrs Adelo Fabunmi

Shackdadell Class Reps: Mrs Laura Viander and Mrs Charlotte Brazier

Peartree Class Rep: Mrs Rebecca Eddington

Orchard Class Rep: Mrs Sarah Cooper

Haffydown Class Rep: Mrs Julie McInerney

Danes Class Rep: Mrs Sammy Sapstead

*Thank
you!*

AUTUMN TERM DINNER MONEY FEES £2.60 per meal Please be advised that payments are due in advance

You can pay for meals online via the School Gateway or make cheques payable to Herts Catering Ltd (HCL). Cash payments are to be put in a clearly named, sealed envelope with the amount on the front. Receipts will be issued when being processed.

AUTUMN 1ST HALF TERM: 3.09.19 to 25.10.19 inclusive

All week (40 meals) £104.00

Wednesday only (8 meals) £20.80

Friday only (8 meals) £20.80

Wednesday & Friday (16 meals) £41.60

AUTUMN 2nd HALF TERM: 04.11.19 to 20.12.19 inclusive

All week (34 meals) £88.40

Wednesday only (7 meals) £18.20

Friday only (7 meals) £18.20

Wednesday & Friday (14 meals) £36.40

AUTUMN TERM: 03.09.19 to 20.12.19 inclusive

All week (74 meals) £192.40

Wednesday only (15 meals) £39.00

Friday only (15 meals) £39.00

Wednesday & Friday (30 meals) £78.00



Class News

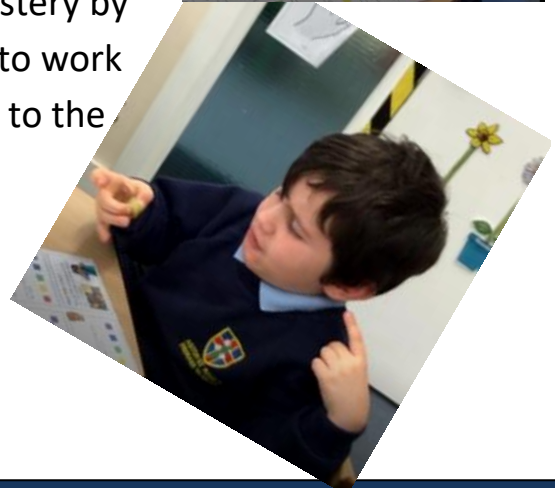
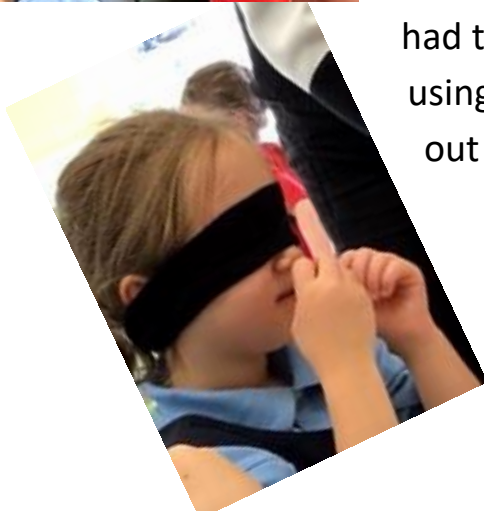
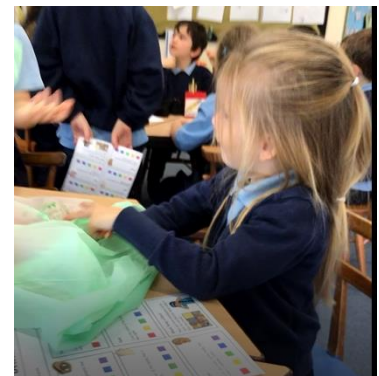


In Shackadell, we went on a lovely walk around Aston to look for signs of autumn which then lead to lots of discussions and interest the “deep dark wood” and the Gruffalo. So during our forest school session, we began to build different homes for all the animals in the story in our garden. Can you guess who this one might belong to?

Shackadell Class



Peartree Class
In science we have been learning about our senses. This week we all became ‘sense detectives’ where we had to solve a mystery by using our senses to work out the answers to the clues.



Class News

Orchard Class

In Orchard year 2 maths, we have been comparing length, capacity and mass. We visited different tables in the classroom to sort a variety of objects from least to greatest. Impressively, we all used our mathematical vocabulary to explain how we knew how to order them.



In Orchard year 3 maths we have been learning about place value, we have been using the variety of very useful manipulatives to create concrete representations of different numbers.

Haffydown Class

This week in maths we have been looking at multiplicative reasoning. We played this game in pairs. We built an array and then hid some from our partner with the paper. We had to make sure that we left the number of rows on display and how many were in one of the rows. Our partner then had to use this information to calculate how many cubes there must be altogether using their fact recall or counting strategies.

Congratulations to the first group of children to complete their Starbooks loyalty cards this half term by reading six or more books! Hanna, Joel, Favian, Juan and LJ all enjoyed their hot chocolate reward with marshmallows!



Danes Class

Last week, we enjoyed an art day. During the morning we learned about the life and works of Cezanne. We even learned to recognise his distinctive style so that we were able to identify which were his paintings when given a selection of work by Cezanne and Monet. Next, we learnt and used a wide range of art vocabulary to describe one of Cezanne's paintings in detail. In the afternoon, we used watercolour paints and practised painting backgrounds (sky) and foregrounds (trees). Later in the term, we will be painting watercolour landscapes – first of all linked to our learning about the world wars and then linked to our geographical study of the British Isles.

