



Aston St. Mary's Newsletter

Our value this half term is Generosity

www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk

22nd November 2019

Diary Dates

Monday 25th November

Occasional day – school closed

Friday 29th November

Christmas Decorations Day –
Children may wear Christmas jumpers to school

Sunday 1st December

CHRISTMAS FAYRE
12 – 3pm

Tuesday 3rd December

Peartree class visit

Friday 6th December

PTFA Wreath Making
Evening 7:15pm

Dear Parents and Carers,

Where do the weeks go? It is hard to believe that we are heading towards the end of November and that school will soon be decorated for Christmas and our usual daily timetable will soon begin to include lots of festive events. It is therefore very appropriate that our school value this half term is Generosity. Last week, the children came to school looking very cosy in their pyjamas and onesies. Your generosity enabled us to raise money for Children in Need. Thank you for your donations. We hope that many of you will also want to give generously to the 'Foodshed' Reverse Advent Calendar – in this way we can help to make the festive period just a little bit easier for families who may be less fortunate than ourselves.

This week it has certainly begun to feel like winter, with ice on the car in the morning and slippery pavements to beware of. At Aston St. Mary's this doesn't stop us from enjoying time outdoors. Please make sure that your child has suitable outdoor clothing to keep warm during break and lunchtime. It is great to see Haffydown class enjoying Forest School sessions each Wednesday afternoon. We are so lucky to be able to enrich our children's education with such experiences; we are very grateful to Mrs Skull for her enthusiasm and dedication and for enabling these sessions to take place.

Please remember that we have our occasional day on Monday. We hope that all members of our school community will enjoy a happy and relaxed long weekend. We look forward to seeing the children back in school on Tuesday.

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:

Niamh
Lucas V.
Vinnie
Mika
Jayden
Harry C.
Blake
Teddy



Merits were awarded to:

Logan, Saffiya, Jayden, Aiden O, Finlay W, Valentina, Tallulah, Isla L, Leyla, Isadora, Tate, Vrushti, Sophie, Jessica J, Joshua A, Jack C, Danny, Oscar C, Jack F, Harlee, Freddie, L J, Lily-Anne, Georgia, Teddy, Primrose, Isla C, Sebastian, Evie, Muctarr, Aidan S, Willow

Attendance

Well done to **Shackadell** class for having the best attendance again in October – what a great start they have made to the school year!

Results were as follows:

Shackadell: 99.0%
Haffydown: 97.7%
Danes: 96.1%
Orchard: 95.9%
Peartree: 94.2%

Some Thoughts to Share:

'Generosity is giving not receiving – like Jesus taught us when he gave his life for us. Also, in the war soldiers gave their lives for us.'

Summer – Danes

'Generosity is basically when someone thinks of someone else and is kind and helps them.'

George – Danes

'Generosity is giving and feeling proud to have helped someone.' **Poppy - Danes**

Notices

Christmas Decoration Day

We are all looking forward to our Christmas decoration day on Friday 29th November. On this day we decorate the school for the festive period. Children are invited to wear a Christmas jumper with their school uniform.



Christmas Fayre

Sunday 1st December 12 – 3pm

With just over a week to go, we are all very excited about our Christmas Fayre. This is an important fundraiser in our school calendar and we are very grateful to the hard work of the PTFA for their hard work in organizing the event.

Thank you to everyone who is helping make it a success, for example by bringing in decorated jars, buying raffle tickets, donations of bottles and chocolate etc. We hope to see as many families there as possible on the day.



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SCHOOL WEBSITE

Please remember to check the school website regularly. This is frequently updated and contains lots of useful information including diary dates, information about lunch payments (for next term as well as this), uniform ordering etc.

Also, take a look at the class pages. On these you will find information about what the children are learning as well as lots of photos to enjoy.

Notices



Reverse Advent Calendar

Thank you to those who have already sent in donations to support the 'Foodshed' Reverse Advent Calendar. We are sure you will agree that it is important at this time of year to remember those not so fortunate as ourselves. The collection point in school for non-perishable items will be available until **Friday 13th December**.

If you would like to donate a Christmas meal bags you can download a template <http://stevenage-vineyard.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Christmas-Meal-Bag-2019.pdf> then fill a gift bag with the shopping list, and attach the label. Please return these to school, also by **Friday 13th November**.

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 2nd HALF TERM: 03.09.19 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: 17.04.18 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

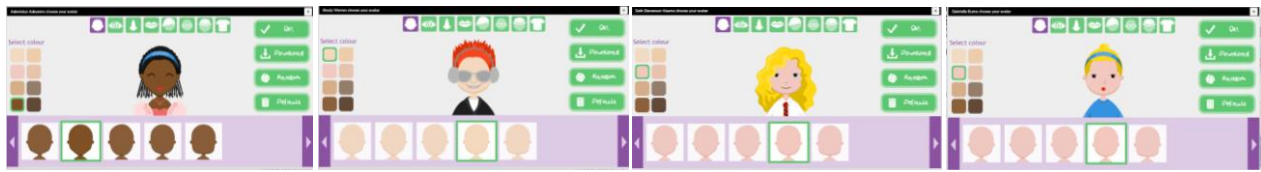
Shackadell Class



In Shackadell, we have been reading 'Whatever Next!' by Jill Murphy. We have been thinking about what it would be like in space and have been doing lots of space activities. We have been finding and matching astronauts in 'space junk' and have been hunting for numbers in 'space jelly'. We love getting messy!



Peartree Class



We have started using our new computing scheme of work and were all very excited to set up our own logins and avatars. We know that we must keep our login passwords safe so that the only people that can open our folders is ourselves. We learned about staying safe on the internet.

Orchard Class

In Orchard, we have been very excited to start coding in our computing lessons. We feel so lucky to have our own laptop each. We particularly enjoyed the bubbles app, we had to input code to make the bubbles move. Some of us were even able to move onto debugging an error. We have also been practicing logging into our accounts by ourselves and learning how to shut down correctly.



Class News

Haffydown Class



On Wednesday 6th November, Haffydown went to the Anglo Saxon Village at West Stow. We saw many fascinating objects which were found at the site and considered what they can teach us about Anglo Saxon life. We met an archaeologist called Stephanie. She told us all about the site at West Stow and how they have explored different building methods and structures of houses in order to try and discover what houses would have been like.

Danes Class

This half term, as part of our 'Brave and Beautiful Britain' topic, we are focussing on a geographical study of the British Isles. This includes developing our mapping skills. Last week, we learnt some of the symbols used on OS maps and also how to use four-figure and six-figure grid references.

