



Aston St. Mary's Newsletter

Our value this half term is Generosity

www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk

6th December 2019

Diary Dates

9th December

New dinner system goes live.

RE Art Day

16th December

Rewards day

17th December

Christmas Service – 9.45am

Christmas Service – 1.45pm

(tickets only- please contact school office)

18th December

Christmas Dinner

19th December

Class Christmas Parties with a special visitor attending!

20th December

School finishes at 1.00pm

7th January 2020

Back to School

The end of term is fast approaching, and school is a very busy place. The staff have arranged lots of exciting things for the last couple of weeks. The children will be enjoying a RE and Art day on Monday, where they will be exploring the Nativity through Art.

On Tuesday afternoon next week, our choir will be going along to the local care home to sing Christmas songs to the residents. This is always a special time, which is enjoyed immensely by the residents, with many joining in the singing.

On Monday 16th December, we will be holding our Rewards Day. This is always a fun day at the end of term, when we get the opportunity to reward our pupils for their excellent behaviour and attitudes to learning that we see every day in school.

Later that week, we will be holding our Christmas church services (17/12) to celebrate the birth of Jesus. The children will also enjoy their Christmas dinner (18/12) and their parties (19/12), before breaking up on the Friday at 1pm. On the last day, we will continue our Aston tradition of a Christmas sing-a-long led by Mrs Crowley.

So as you can see, your children will be kept very busy doing exciting things right up until the end of term!

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

Attendance

Well done to **Danes** class for having the best attendance in November – a pretty impressive 98.5%.
The results were as follows:

Danes:	98.5%
Orchard:	98%
Haffydown:	97.8%
Peartree:	96.9%
Shackadell:	94.3%



Shining Stars were
awarded to:



Merits were awarded to:

Alfie, Kacie, Tabitha, Elizabeth,
Juan, Mia, Cameron and Harrison.

A Thought to Share:

'God was generous when he gave Mary, his only son, Jesus...' Jessica
(Danes Class)

Notices

Christmas Fayre

Thank you to everyone who helped and attended the Christmas Fayre. It has raised over £2,500. A special thank you to Rebecca, Jacob's mum, for taking the lead and coordinating such a very successful event. Her team were amazing. Many took charge of an area to ensure it was a success. Thank you to everyone who helped. We really appreciate all of your hard work and efforts. Our pupils are very lucky to have such dedicated people working so hard to raise much needed funds for our school!

Christmas Parties

This year our Christmas parties will be taking place on Thursday the 19th of December. Teachers will be sorting out lists and asking for donations towards the food and drinks. Please look out for the lists next week to sign up for something to bring in!

We are hoping for a special visitor to attend the parties, but as he is very busy this time of year, we will have to wait and see if he can attend!



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**.

Notices

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.

DINNER MONEY FEES £2.60 per meal

SPRING 1ST HALF TERM

07.01.20 to 14.02.20 inclusive

All week (29 meals) £75.40

Wednesday (6 meals) £15.60

Friday only (6 meals) £15.60

Wed & Fri (12 meals) £31.20

SPRING 2nd HALF TERM £2.60 per meal

24.02.20 to 03.04.20 inclusive

All week (30 meals) £78.00

Wednesday (6 meals) £15.60

Friday only (6 meals) £15.60

Wed & Fri (14 meals) £31.20

SPRING TERM £2.60 per meal

07.01.20 to 03.04.20 inclusive

All week (59 meals) £153.40

Wednesday (12 meals) £31.20

Friday only (12 meals) £31.20

Wed & Fri (24 meals) £62.40



Class News



Shackadell Class



This week in Shackadell, we have been learning all about 2d shapes in maths. We are still really enjoying our space topic and this week have been learning all about space and the planets. We listened to "The Planets" by Holst and thought about how the music made us feel and how we could move our bodies in different ways. We have also really been enjoying making space rockets and aliens from our book this week "Aliens Love Underpants".

In forest school, it was a beautiful frosty morning, Miss Skull made a lovely natural Christmas tree for us to weave our natural objects into. We also looked at the frozen leaves and saw what happened to them once we brought them inside.

Class News

Peartree Class

In art, we are looking at nature and sculpture. We made mini-sculptures of natural objects out of clay. These included some hedgehogs, feathers, leaves and pine cones. The children learned different ways of manipulating the clay and used a variety of tools to add detail.



Orchard Class

Last week in Orchard, we had a whole day of Art. How exciting! First we learned about observational drawing and spent a long time making sure we had paid attention to detail. We also learned how to use the pencils to create different effects. Next, we learned about different tones in colour and printing, we wanted to ensure the details showed up in our prints. We also learned how to use a drawing app on the iPads and submitted these for the whole class to see. The class evaluated a piece of art work of their choice and we discussed what they had learned about themselves as artists.



Class News

Haffydown Class

Haffydown have been enjoying Forest School this half term with Mrs Skull. We have taken part in many fun activities which have taught us a great deal about our environment. For the past two weeks, we have worked in small groups to light fires. All the adults were so impressed with the children's attention to safety instructions and also their excellent perseverance. Whilst this took place, other groups made Christmas crafts using natural materials and tools. We learnt new skills such as using a hammer, nails and tying knots. Thank you Miss Skull for our amazing Forest School experience!



Danes Class

In art, we have been painting watercolour landscapes. We have learnt how to blend colours, create texture and to always work from the background first. Our learning links with of geographical work where we have been developing our mapping skills. We have learnt how to use OS maps to describe contrasting localities in the United Kingdom. We have compared Stevenage to the Lake District. Our watercolour paintings depict the beautiful landscapes found in the Lake District.

