



Aston St. Mary's Newsletter

Our value this half term is Caring

www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk

17th January 2020

Diary Dates

Tuesday 21st January

No celebration assembly due
to school Christingle
assembly

Thursday 30th January

Collection day for Happy
Bags - 9.30 am.

*Please **do not** leave any bags
under the bike canopy after
this time until the new date
is confirmed.*

Wednesday 5th February

Florence Nightingale Day for
Orchard Class

Happy New Year to all our families.

It is hard to believe, we are already in our second week of the new term. The children have been very busy and are already deep in their learning this term. Some of it can be seen on this newsletter.

This term, we welcome Mr Wood, who will be working in Haffydown alongside Miss Keen and Mrs Evans. I am sure everyone will make him feel welcomed and hope he enjoys his time at Aston St Mary's.

Next week, the children will be making their Christingles and learning the importance of each part of the orange. Reverend Jenny will be leading a service in school for the children. This is always a special time in school.

How you can support your child at home

One of the best things you can do to help your child, is to promote the enjoyment of reading. Reading allows the readers to lose themselves. For example, in characters with magical powers or in another country or time. It helps discover interests and talents. Reading increases vocabulary, which supports learning across the whole curriculum. It opens doors for children and improves their life chances.

It is important that children read regularly and widely at home to support their learning and to develop the love of reading. Everyday your child will bring home their reading books - one for independent reading, that they should be able to read to you, plus a book from the library or book corner that they chose. They may need help to read this book. Please take time to share and enjoy these books with your child.

ACADEMIC YEAR 2019/2020

ACADEMIC YEAR 2019/2020

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 - Friday, 8 May 2020 - **SCHOOL CLOSED**

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

ACADEMIC YEAR 2020/2021

Autumn Term

Thursday, 3 September 2020 to Friday, 18 December 2020

Half Term Break - Monday, 26 October 2020 to Friday, 30 October 2020

Occasional Day - Monday, 30 November 2020 - **SCHOOL CLOSED**

Spring Term

Tuesday, 5 January 2021 to Friday, 26 March 2021

Half Term - Monday, 15 February 2021 to Friday, 19 February 2021

Summer Term

Tuesday, 13 April 2021 to Tuesday, 20 July 2021

Bank Holiday - Monday, 3 May 2021 - **SCHOOL CLOSED**

Half Term Break - Monday, 31 May 2021 to Friday, 4 June 2021

To order school meals please log onto your School Gateway account via the website or the app.

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



Shining Stars were awarded to: Summer and Nyah.



Merits were awarded to: Mia A, Sophie, Isla L, Harry H, Ray, Cameron, Ava K, Sebastian, Rosie, Nikita, Phoebe, Muctarr, Nathaniel, Nyah and Demi.

A Thought to Share:

When asked how Jesus cared for people, Isabel replied, 'He gave joy and made them happy...'
(Shackadell Class)

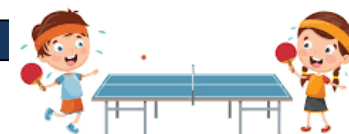
Notices

Reminder – Use of the Playground Before and After School

Please can we remind all parents and carers that children should not be playing with balls or climbing on the playground apparatus before or after school. This to ensure that everyone can arrive and leave the school grounds safely. We have already reminded the children about this in assembly last week and have been pleased to see an improvement already. Well done!



Lunchtime Activities



Last week, Mrs Branagan spoke in assembly about introducing more activities for the children to enjoy during their lunchbreaks. Our playground area is quite small and we are aware that, with an increasing number of children, it has sometimes been difficult for everyone to occupy themselves happily during lunchtime.

Children in Danes class are now able to play football and/or netball on the grass near Peartree class. If they wish to participate, they are wearing tracksuit trousers and changing their shoes. This means that the ball wall is now available for all children to enjoy and we have a bucketful of tennis balls for them to play with. During the assembly, the children were taught how to play

Connect 4 properly – it has been wonderful to see children playing our large outdoor version correctly since and making sure the pieces are returned neatly when they finish. In addition, we now have long and short skipping ropes on the playground which are proving very popular. It is great to see the children using these only for their intended purpose! We will also be teaching the children French skipping and have some elastics ready. Chalk is also going to be available should the children wish to develop their artistic talents on the playground!

As well as providing activities for the children to enjoy outside, we have also begun to offer indoor options (e.g. colouring, lego and table tennis). These will not be available everyday as it requires teachers to give up some of their lunch break to supervise. A message will be sent to particular year groups during the morning should an indoor option be on offer that day.

Our school library is run by volunteers from Danes class on Mondays and Wednesdays – children are able to collect a band from the adults on the playground should they wish to visit the library.

Children can continue to bring in pocket toys should they wish to do so; please avoid bringing in personal balls, ropes etc as we have plenty in school.



Class News

Shackadell Class

Shackadell Superheroes!!

We have come back to school with a boom and a pow! We are learning about superheroes. We have made our own superheroes as well as enjoying reading Supertato! We have been thinking about emotions and feelings and describing characters.



Peartree Class

In our Art lesson this week, we looked at some 'Cityscapes' painted by Claude Monet and re-created some of his 'Houses of Parliament' paintings using oil pastels.



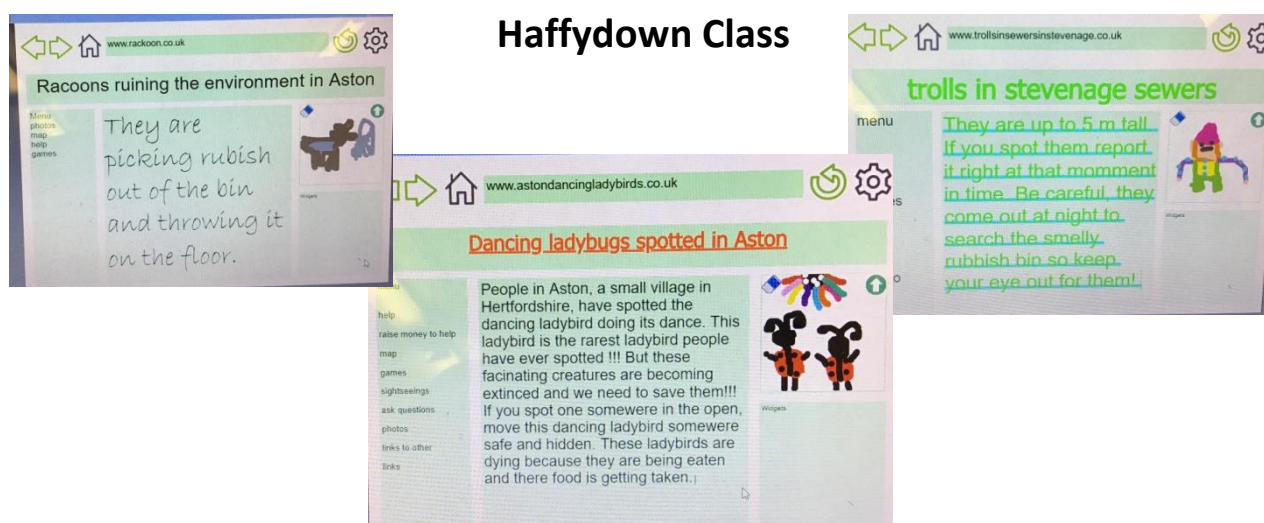
Orchard Class



In Orchard, we have been looking at the key features of instructions and comparing how easy to follow they are. Linked with our nurse topic, we compared two sets of instructions stating how to put a patient into the recovery position. One set of instructions weren't clear and we got a bit muddled. The others were much easier and all of us could successfully put our partner into the recovery position. Next, we listed the key features included in the instructions that made them helpful. We also discussed how we could improve the instructions that were muddled.

Class News

Haffydown Class



This half term in our computing lessons, we are thinking about how we can keep safe online. Whilst the internet is fantastic for researching information, we have explored how not everything we read online is true and have discussed the difference between fact and fiction. We looked at a spoof website about the fictional North American tree octopus. Despite being fake, we were shocked at how realistic and trustworthy it seemed. Lastly, we created our own “fake webpages” using Purple Mash. There were some imaginative ideas as you can see.

Danes Class



We are very excited about our learning in Danes class this term. Our geographical theme is Extreme Earth – we will be learning all about volcanoes and earthquakes as well as other natural disasters. We started our learning by considering what we know already; some of us were able to talk about events happening in the world today. Others had visited parts of the world where events had happened in the past. We took this opportunity to extend our knowledge of where places are in the world by locating countries on our world map. We even enjoyed using a new app on the iPads where we had to locate different countries. Later this half term, we will be visiting the Natural History Museum to support our learning in geography and also science. Some children have already begun to bring in homework linked to our learning. Kacie made an amazing volcano chocolate cake which tasted delicious. Albert and Poppy made model volcanoes which actually erupted!