



Aston St. Mary's Newsletter

Our value this half term is Caring

www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk

14th February 2020

Diary Dates

Half Term Holiday

Monday 17th – 21st February

Monday 2nd March

Allocation Day for Secondary
Schools

Thursday 5th March

World Book Day
(see details below)

Wednesday 18th March

Orchard trip to Rye Meads
Nature Reserve.

Monday 16th and

Thursday 19th March

Parents Evenings
(details to follow)

Friday 20th March

PTFA Mother's day Gifts
(details to follow)

This morning the children took part in Hertfordshire's Daily Mile challenge on our school field. Hertfordshire aimed to set a new Hertfordshire record for the most children and primary schools participating in the Daily Mile on the same day. As our children have regularly been completing the Daily Mile, their improvements and stamina has improved significantly.

Thank you for your donations for non-uniform day today. This money will go towards our new drive to improve the non-fiction books available to our pupils. After arranging to update our fiction books, Mrs Branagan has now taken on the challenge to ensure our non-fiction books support our pupils learning across the curriculum and beyond. Many new books will be available for the children enjoy and bring home from the library soon.

Christingle Charity Collection

Thank you for retuning the candles full of coins for the Children's Society. We raised £254.47. A big thank you to the parents who gave up their time to count the coins for us and to Mr Luck for providing us with a coin counting machine. This will definitely save us lots of time in the future!

SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS

Recently, we have had a couple of concerns raised regarding some of the Internet sites children are using at home. Please ensure your children are only accessing age-appropriate websites and games. The strict regulations are put in place to keep children safe. Click on the link below for information about online safety. If you have any concerns regarding online safety whilst in school or at home, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher.

http://www.thegrid.org.uk/eservices/safety/weblinks_parents.shtml

We hope you all enjoy the half-term break and look forward to seeing you all again on Monday 24th February.

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

Tabitha, Harry H, Hettie, Seth, Oscar W, George Su, Archie, Leon, Kacie, Poppy C, Isla C, Reggie, Albert and Harry.



Merits were awarded to:

Favian, Danny, Cameron, Amelia, Harlee, Tallulah, Sebastian, Isla L, Harry C, Max, Ruby, Seth, Phoebe, Daniel, Mia C, Juan, Poppy-Bel.

A Thought to Share:

'Jesus looks after us and he cares for us. He loves us so much...' Hettie (Peartree Class)

Notices

It was a pleasure to receive the letter below. We are ambitious for all our pupils and aim for them all to leave our school ready for their next stage in education to improve their life chances. This only happens, because we have a hard-working and dedicated team, who provide our pupils with a rich and broad curriculum, whilst working alongside our parents and carers to make sure every child is happy and achieves as well as they can. So, thank you to everyone: parents and carers, grandparents, staff, governors, volunteers, but mostly to our delightful pupils for making our school the caring community it is!



Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP
Minister of State for School Standards

Sanctuary Buildings, 20 Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, SW1P 3BT
tel: 0370 000 2288 www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus

Mrs Julie Winwood
Aston St Mary's CofE Primary School
School Lane
Stevenage
SG2 7HA

27 January 2020

Dear Mrs Winwood,

I would like to congratulate you, your staff and your pupils on the outstanding achievement demonstrated in the reading, writing and mathematics Key Stage 2 assessments last year.

Your school's results, as published on 13 December, show that 100 per cent of your pupils reached or exceeded the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics at the end of Key Stage 2. This means that Aston St Mary's CofE Primary School is in the top 1 per cent of primary schools in the country.

The Government wants to ensure that every child has the fluency in reading, writing and mathematics necessary to prepare them for a successful secondary education and beyond, which is why I was delighted to see your results.

Thank you for your work in continuing the drive towards higher academic standards, and congratulations again to you and your staff for your commitment and success.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP
Minister of State for School Standards

Notices

Welcome Miss Nellie



Nellie is an eight-week-old Springer Spaniel.

Following the work from our current and the last two School Councils and in line with our 'Caring' value for this half-term, the children were very excited on Wednesday when it was announced we will be having a new school pet after half-term. The School Council have been asking for a new school pet since we lost the guinea pigs. Their argument was taken to the governors, who agreed we can have Mrs Winwood's new puppy as our new school pet.

As new pet owners, our children had the very important job of naming our new puppy. This was held by a ballot, similar to how we hold elections in this country, with every child having a vote. The School Council counted the votes at the end of the day and announced the result to the children. Nellie or Miss Nellie won by a large majority.

A letter will be sent home soon for consent for your child to be included in Nellie's Caring Club. We are arranging for The Dogs Trust to come into school to teach the children how to care for Nellie and other animals. Nellie will be coming to meet the children once her injections are all completed.



This year, we will once again be celebrating World Book Day in school. This takes place on **Thursday 5th March**. Children are invited to come into school **dressed as a favourite book character**. We will start the day with a special assembly to share our costumes and will then enjoy book-based activities in classes. Teachers are also going to be sharing stories with classes across the school as part of the **'Share a Million Stories'** campaign (more details to follow). This will support our school focus on **'reading for pleasure'**. Reading for pleasure is crucial for children's future academic and economic success; it also benefits their mental health. Children who read regularly and widely develop a rich and varied vocabulary as well as a wide general knowledge which supports their learning across the curriculum.

Aston's Got Talent Friday 27th March

Thank you to everyone who has completed and returned their Entry Forms - we are going to see some varied and talented acts on the night!

There will still be plenty of time to make adjustments to the acts (e.g. change of name or type of performance) before the big event.

We will now make the appropriate arrangements with our friends at Heath Mount School to ensure the event goes smoothly on the night!

Further details, including rules of entry, ticket details etc will be sent out in due course. In the meantime, if you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact Mr Preston through the office.

Class News

Shackadell Class



This week we have been learning all about “real life superheroes”. Our week began with a crime scene in the classroom... somebody had stolen the sweets! We had to use our detective and problem solving skills to solve the mystery. We were then lucky enough to have two special visitors in class - a policeman and a fireman! We have been working on questioning skills, so this was a great opportunity to try them out. A huge thank you to our visitors for coming in, we had so much fun!



Peartree Class



In computing, we have been learning about algorithms. We had to give each other instructions without looking to build a Lego model that was the same as each other's. It isn't as easy as it sounds!

Class News

Orchard Class

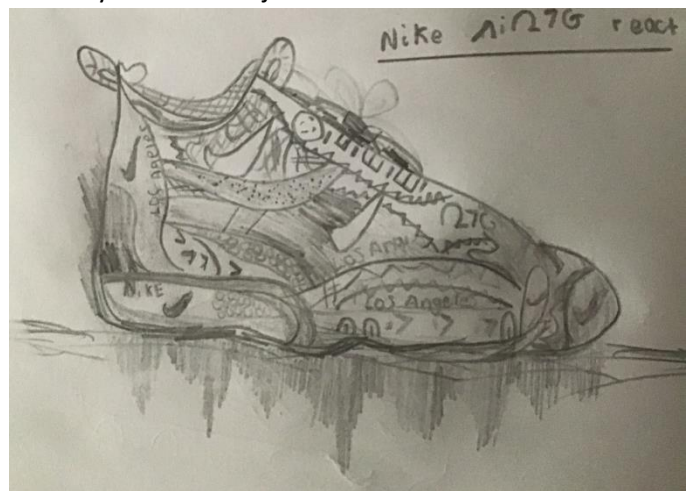
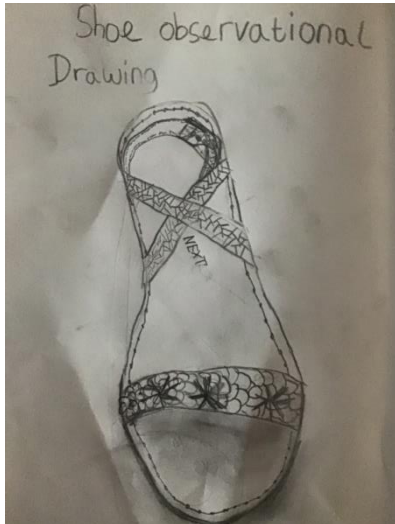
Last week, Orchard class had a visit from Florence Nightingale. It was a truly fantastic day and the children got to further explore the learning we have covered in History. In the morning, children visited various stations of their choice in order to help Florence get ready for her trip. After break, the children became investigators and were given a suitcase with clues inside. Florence needed our help to work out who the suitcases belonged too. In the afternoon, we got to experience what the Scutari Hospital was like. It was very hard work! The children took turns to play different roles in the hospital. The children behaved impeccably and completed every task giving their best efforts. Our visitor commented how exceptionally wonderful it is to visit a school with such enthusiastic children. Rightly so, the children all received a merit and a house point. It was also a pleasure to read in the children's recounts how many of them enjoyed everything about the day. More pictures will be added to our class page on the school website after half term.



Class News

Haffydown Class

This week in Haffydown, we have had two wonderful mornings where we have studied art. Firstly, we focused on the use of line and shape before looking at how artists create different visual textures. Next, we experimented with different grades of pencil to create different tones. Using all of these skills, we then created our own observational drawings of shoes that we brought in from home. Look at these fantastic examples drawn by Ella and Benji.



Danes Class

On Thursday 13th February, Danes class visited the Natural History Museum in London. This supported our learning in geography and science. In geography, we have been learning about extreme natural events such as volcanoes and earthquakes. At the museum, we were able to explore the exciting world of volcanoes and earthquakes and their effects on society in an action-packed show which highlighted the awesome power of our planet's natural forces and demonstrated the importance and challenge of natural disaster prediction. We also visited the volcanoes and earthquakes gallery. In science, we are learning about evolution and inheritance. At the museum we were able to: see for ourselves some of the amazing fossils discovered by Mary Anning; learn more about the story of the Earth by visiting the gallery 'From the Beginning' and also explore human evolution. It really was a fantastic day – as usual Danes class made us very proud!

