



# Aston St. Mary's Newsletter

Our value this half term is Caring

[www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk](http://www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk)

31<sup>st</sup> January 2020

## Diary Dates

### **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February**

Florence Nightingale Day for  
Orchard Class

### **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February**

PTFA Valentine Disco  
KS1 5.30-6.30pm  
KS2 6.45-7.45 pm

### **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February**

Danes trip to the London  
National History Museum  
(leaving school at 9.00am)

### **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February**

Non-Uniform Day for £1.00  
donation for the school.

## **Half Term**

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> February

### **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February**

KNEX Challenge 2020  
(Danes Class)

It is hard to believe we are already at the end of January. School continues to be buzzing with the fantastic learning experiences the children are enjoying. Some of the details can be found on this newsletter. If you would like to know more about your child's learning, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher.

The children would have brought home the Christingles they made last week for our Christingle service. Reverend Jenny led the service in school, when we celebrated, Jesus Christ, as the, 'Light of the World'. Like many other schools, we supported the Children's Society to raise vital funds to make sure no child feels alone. Thank you for supporting us with this.

Thank you all for your donations to the Happy Bags collection that happened on Thursday. Amazingly, we raised £558.35, from our unwanted items. This money helps the school enormously! We will begin collecting again in May. Please do not leave any more bags until we provide the next starting date.

Finally, to support our children's development and understanding of democracy, Stephen McPartland MP, came into school to award the new school councillors their badges and answer some of the children's questions. It is important that our children understand they have a voice and can have a say in making our school the best place it could possibly be for all our children. The School Council certainly helps this message get across to our children.

## 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 1<sup>ST</sup> 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 2<sup>ND</sup> 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:

Sophie and Mia A.



**Merit** Charlie, Jack C, Oscar W, Ella H, Alfie,  
Jessica J, Benji, Joel, Poppy C, Vrushti,  
Summer, Jessica D, Aidan, Nathaniel, Leon B,  
Lily-Anne, Harry M, Finlay W, Valentina, Ethan  
R, Jack B, Cassie, LJ, Ethan H, Saffiya, Reggie,  
Isabelle, Jack M-B, Paris, Ali, Ruby, Willow,  
Anouska, Isadora, Leyla and Max H.

### A Thought to Share:

'Caring is looking after your friends and people that are poorly...' Azariah and Darcie  
(Shackadell Class)

# Notices

## Attendance

Well done to **Peartree** class for having the best attendance in December. The results were as follows:

<b>Peartree:</b>	96.9%
<b>Shackadell:</b>	96.1%
<b>Haffydown:</b>	95.8%
<b>Orchard:</b>	93.9%
<b>Danes:</b>	93.8%



## Hertfordshire Schools Athletics Association Cross Country Championships – Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2020



We are very proud to be entering two teams of Year 5 pupils into the above event for the first time. The championships take place in St. Albans and the children will be competing over 1600m against schools from across the county. They have worked hard to build up their stamina during the Daily Mile – even tackling the field despite the muddy conditions. We would like to wish the following children every success on the day:

**Year 5 Girls: Isla, Kacie and Poppy**

**Year 5 Boys: Albert, Reggie and George**

## Website

Please remember to refer to our school website on a regular basis. It contains lots of important information including: newsletters, dates, important information about our curriculum and much more. The class pages include long term plans for the academic year as well as other class information and lots of photos to enjoy. We are working on our website all the time to ensure that it is kept up to date and properly reflects everything that we are proud of about our school.



<https://www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk/>



# Notices

## New School Council

Classes have now elected their new school council representatives. They have already met with Mr Preston and have straight away suggested changes to improve our school. These include the addition of a long distance event in our summer sports day - it's good to know that the daily mile is having an impact!

We were delighted to welcome Stephen McPartland MP to an assembly to present the new representatives with their badges. The children elected are:



**Peartree:** Hettie and Brodie

**Orchard:** Mia and Leon

**Haffydown:** Benji and Isabelle

**Danes:** Harry and Olivia

## Curriculum Enrichment

We are very proud of the rich and varied curriculum on offer to our pupils. Learning is carefully sequenced from one year group to the next in order that the children build upon the knowledge and skills that they have learnt in previous years. We pride ourselves in the memorable enrichment opportunities that we provide to further enhance learning and ensure that children leave Aston St. Mary's with many exciting memories of their learning both inside the classroom and out. Some of these opportunities this half term alone include:



- **Science workshops run by Hertford Museum:** Year 3 completed a '**Fossils Rock!**' workshop and Danes Class a '**Who was Wallace?**' workshop about **evolution**.
- **A Trip to Sainsbury's:** Shackadell class went to buy fruit and vegetables (see class news)
- **Florence Nightingale Day :** a whole day of activities and learning for Orchard class
- **Natural History Museum Trip:** Danes class is visiting the museum to support learning in geography (**Earthquakes and Volcanoes**) and science (**Evolution and Inheritance**).



Lots more exciting opportunities are planned for all the classes over the remainder of the academic year.

## Forest School Update

Whilst our children in Shackadell enjoy Forest School weekly as part of their curriculum, other classes enjoy a half term block each academic year. Before Christmas, Haffydown enjoyed all sorts of exciting activities, including lighting fires. This half term Danes are focussing on the RSPB Birdwatch. They have built bird boxes which will be located around the school grounds to encourage nesting in the spring. They have also constructed a bird hide in the Forest School area and made fat balls to feed the birds during the colder months. They are learning to identify different birds by their key features; this also supports their learning in science – in-particular how Darwin observed the differences between finches on the Galapagos Islands.





# Class News

## Shackadell Class

In Shackadell, we are really enjoying our new topic “superheroes”. We have been doing lots of activities around the book “Supertato” and learning all about speech bubbles and comic strips. We have also been telling and writing our own superhero stories which we have enjoyed sharing with each other at story time. This week, we have been learning about super foods, so today we walked down to Sainsbury’s to choose and buy a range of different fruit and vegetables with our very own £1! We loved using the self-service checkout too!



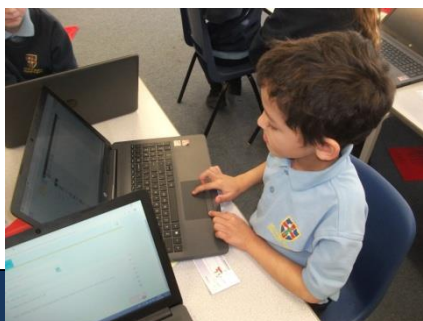
## Peartree Class

We have been using our new class set of atlases to help us learn about our geography topic ‘The United Kingdom’. We love them and get them out whenever we have a spare moment. This all helps to improve our ‘Locational Knowledge’.



## Orchard Class

During Computing, Orchard class have been learning about online safety. We are also getting quicker at logging on by ourselves and understand the importance of logging off to ensure nobody else can access our accounts. We have been using an app within Purple Mash which allowed us to learn about how e-mails work. We received and sent e-mails to Barnaby Bear telling him about something we celebrated recently. We know that once we have sent an e-mail, we cannot get it back.



# Class News

## Haffydown Class

Our topic in Science is states of matter. We have been investigating solids, liquids and gases, and how we can change a material's state. When investigating gases, we made raisins 'dance' by dropping them in lemonade. We observed bubbles of carbon dioxide from the lemonade form in the wrinkles of the raisins, lowering the density of the raisins, causing them to float to the top. The bubbles then burst when they reached the top, escaping out the top of the bottle, and the raisins sank to the bottom as they have a lower density than the liquid.



## Danes Class

In geography, our topic is called 'Extreme Earth'; we are learning all about volcanoes, earthquakes and other natural disasters. In order to fully understand how such events are caused we first needed to find out about the structure of the Earth itself. We learned that the Earth has five layers and what each layer is made up of. There was lots of new vocabulary to understand and remember such as core, mantle, crust and tectonic plates. To secure our knowledge and understanding we made models of the earth using plasticine; we had to start with the core and be careful not to allow the colours to mix. Once we had added the thinnest layer (the crust) we then added the continents and the oceans. The final step was to cut the model in half so that we could see all the layers. Next, we will learn about the 'Ring of Fire' and locate it on a world map.

