



Aston St. Mary's Newsletter

Our value this half term is Forgiveness

www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk

6th March 2020

Diary Dates

Thursday 12th March

PTFA meeting 7.00pm

Monday 16th March

Parents Evening

Wednesday 18th March

Orchard Trip to Rye Meads
Nature Reserve

Thursday 19th March

Parents Evening

Friday 20th March

Mother's Day Service at Church
9.30am

PTFA Mother's Day gifts £3.00
(money in by 16th March)

Wednesday 25th March

Haffydown trip to Royal
Gunpowder Mills

Friday 27th March

Reward Day

Aston's Got Talent 6.00pm

(at Heath Mount School
Performance Arts Centre)

*Further dates and details can
be found on our school*

It has been another busy week in school. The children (and adults) loved our World Book Day celebrations. Every year, we are amazed by the quality of the costumes the children wear - so well done to all you parents and carers for producing such amazing costumes. Lots of details are included in the newsletter.

We continue to receive daily updates on the Coronavirus situation. As a school, we will always follow the advice of the Department for Education and Public Health England. Details of their helpline can be found on this newsletter and on the homepage of our website. Their new helpline number is for schools and parents. If you have any concerns, please contact the helpline for advice.

Finally, our new school pet, little Miss Nellie came into school Thursday morning briefing and met some of the children and parents. She will be meeting the children in their classes this afternoon, when she pops into school for a little while.



Nellie at the vets, having her final injections

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 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:

Joel and Amelie



Merits were awarded to:

Muctarr, Nathan, Isabelle, Finlay W,
Mia A, Nathaniel, Joshua, Tate,
Nyah, Sophie, Eva K, Demi, Evie,
Phoebie and Archie F

A Thought to Share:

“We should forgive, because Jesus forgave the people who put him on the cross...” Annabella and Poppy (Haffydown Class)

Notices

40 Days of Lent (26th February – 9th April)

Look out words nailed to the large wooden crosses outside our village churches which help us think about Lent. The theme this year is CARE – caring for our Climate, Community, Neighbours, Strangers and Ourselves.

The first word is Climate...the challenge is to think what we really need. You could sign up for a kids 40 Day challenge to Care for God's Creation free email or app with ideas to reduce, re-cycle and care for nature - feed the birds, plants seeds, save electricity, plastic and water.



Goodbye, Thank you and Welcome!

We would like to say goodbye and thank you to Mr Wood who has been working in Haffydown class this term. We know that the children have enjoyed him working with them and we wish him every success in his teaching career.

We would like to welcome Mr Marsden (Peartree class) and Mr Centala (Danes class). They have settled in quickly and the children have already made them feel very welcome.

Happy Bags

Thank you for your continued support with the ultimate recycling of the Happy Bags system that we use. By recycling our old unwanted clothing, the school receives over £1000 per year. This money really helps buy our children the little extras, that the school budget cannot afford. We will be advertising the next date soon, but until advised, please do not leave any bags out by the bike shed.

Message from the Department of Education:

Department for Education Coronavirus helpline

On Monday we launched a new helpline to answer questions about COVID-19 related to education. Staff, parents and young people can contact the helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

World Book Day 2020

What a fantastic day we had in school yesterday! It was wonderful to see the amazing array of costumes that the children wore to school – thank you!



We began the day with an assembly; it was an absolute delight to see the excitement on the children's faces as they shared their costumes with the school. During this assembly, we also shared with the children our fantastic new collection of non-fiction books which we have recently purchased to update our school library. These books are so much more engaging and inspiring than the sorts of non-fiction texts that were available for children a decade or so ago. We really are very excited about getting these new books into use in the classrooms and for the children to enjoy at home too. We have over 400 new titles, many of which support our curriculum in school.



As you are probably aware, World Book Day is an opportunity to celebrate reading and promote reading for pleasure. A love of reading really does improve a child's life chances and we are immensely proud of how the children of Aston become enthusiastic and confident readers during their time at the school; we do not underestimate the valuable support that you, as parents, give to your children at home. Thank you. The vast majority of our pupils read regularly both in and out of school – we really do hope that they will now also enjoy our new non-fiction collection. By reading widely children increase their vocabulary and this relates directly to academic success. The correlations between vocabulary size and life chances are as firm as any correlations in educational research.

Put simply: knowing more words makes you smarter!

World Book Day 2020



Miss Nellie visited the children for the first time this morning.



We hope that the children are enjoying completing their 'Share a Million Stories' sheets every time they share a book – we will be entering our weekly totals onto the World Book Day website each week – so please keep sharing!

***'Reading is the one ability that, once set in motion, has the ability to feed itself, grow exponentially and provide a basis from which possibilities are limitless.'* (Michael Morpurgo)**

