



Aston St. Mary's Newsletter

Our value this half term is Forgiveness

www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk

27th March 2020

Dear parents and carers,

What a week it has been! It really is hard to believe the magnitude of the changes that we have seen in recent days; only 9 days ago we were teaching our usual lessons and didn't know for sure that schools were to be closed. We are immensely proud of how well our whole school community have coped and pulled together for the health of the nation. The children were simply amazing on their last day of normal school last Friday; it was lovely to see them enjoying time with their friends in the knowledge that their lives were about to change so significantly. Thank you for all your kind words and support for the school – it means a lot to each and every one of us to know that we are working together with you to make the very best of the most challenging situation that most of us will ever experience.

Whilst school is closed, we thought that we would keep in touch more frequently by making our newsletter weekly during term time. Obviously, it will look somewhat different to our usual letters – sadly the lovely photos that we like to include on the class pages won't be possible, neither will the dates (who knows what is happening when!), we'll have no merits or shining stars and it's probably best that we don't share our attendance data of 0%! Instead, the teachers will do a class page each. This will include a personal message as well as further suggestions for home learning and activities to enjoy together with your child.

It is wonderful to see what a fantastic start so many children (and parents) have made with their home learning – Seesaw is enabling children to share what they are doing with their teachers. Their posts mean a lot so please keep them coming! It is also a great way for the teachers to give praise and encouragement, offer support where needed and suggest further learning opportunities to individuals or the whole class.

We would like to take this opportunity to reassure you that home learning will probably look very different between one family and another. Some are trying to replicate the school day by spending their time in a very structured way; others might be more informal. The main thing is that the children are safe, healthy and happy. Remember that activities like cooking, having conversations, music, crafts, playing board games etc, are all part of learning too. As you know, when in school we value the importance of daily exercise by completing the Daily Mile – now that children will be spending much more time indoors it is even more important that they should remain active. Whether indoors or outside, please make sure that your child finds time for some regular physical activity. Another non-negotiable is regular reading as this really is the key to success in all areas of learning. This should take place every day for an amount of time appropriate to the age of the child. Also, remember that reading to children is as important as hearing children read; this is why the teachers aim to read to their classes every day in school.

Aston families will remain in our thoughts and our prayers throughout this difficult time. Please take care, follow the government guidance and remember: **STAYING AT HOME WILL SAVE LIVES.**

Should you need to contact us, for whatever reason, please use the temporary email address:
closed@astonmarys.herts.sch.uk

Shackadell Class

Hi Shackadell!

Hope you are all doing well and enjoying doing lots of learning and activities at home. Hopefully you have made a little start on some of the activities we sent you in your packs and are continuing to read and enjoy books each day.

If you haven't already seen, we have both been putting up some daily challenges onto Tapestry for you to complete as and when you get the time. These are all fun, playful and active challenges which use everyday household items so are nice and easy for parents to set up. We have already been sent lots of photos and videos from some of you completing these, as well as other activities you have been doing at home, which we have both loved looking at as we are really missing you all. Seeing all of your lovely faces having fun really does brighten up our day!



Have you heard about the rainbow trail?

Why not join in with the 'Rainbow Trail'. Draw, paint or craft a beautiful rainbow to stick in your window for others to spot when they are out and about walking. Then when you go on your daily walk, you can also see how many you can spot in other people's windows too!



For a bit of daily exercise and to see another friendly face, Mr Nash and the Rising Stars team are also posting daily games and activities which I know you will love, so check out their Face Book page 'Rising Stars Multi-Sports Ltd' for videos of activities you can play at home or in your garden.

Finally, a resource we regularly use in school www.phonicsplay.co.uk is now giving parents free access to all their games online, so take a little look.

BE BRAVE
BE CREATIVE
BE KIND
BE THANKFUL
BE HAPPY
BE YOU

Looking forward to seeing what you've been up to via tapestry this week. Please check daily for updates.

Big hugs to you all,

Mrs Lale and Mrs Holmes

Peartree Class

HOME LEARNING

Hello Peartree.

Just to let you know that we are thinking of you all.

I hope you are enjoying the lovely weather safely and are listening to your mums and dads. I want to say a very big thank you to all of you that are working hard on your home learning packs. Remember not to rush through them all at once, a little bit each day (Monday to Friday) is all that is needed. I have seen some lovely examples of your work and pictures on Seesaw and thank you for your lovely messages. I will continue to reach out to you on Seesaw and answer any questions you may have.

I will also include some new ideas and activities for you to have a go at via the weekly newsletter.

Science – Here are some ideas for EYFS, Year 1 and year 2 on the Stem learning website: <https://northmcrstem.co.uk/latest-stem-activities>

Lots of you may be doing the Joe Wicks work out at 9 am each day, which is great. Mr Nash and the Rising Stars team are also trying to keep us fit and healthy. Check out their Face Book page @RisingStarsMultiSportsLtd. for videos of activities you can play at home or in your garden.

It is very important to me that you know the following message:



**I MAY NOT BE THERE TO REASSURE YOU WITH ANY CHALLENGES YOU FACE,
OR TO HIGH FIVE YOU WHEN YOU DO SOMETHING AMAZING,
BUT AS WE WAIT FOR CHANGE TO COME, AND WE KNOW THAT IT WILL, IT IS IMPORTANT
THAT YOU KNOW,
I AM STILL PROUD OF YOU,
I AM STILL HERE FOR YOU,
I AM STILL YOUR TEACHER**

See you soon,



Mrs Baker

Orchard Class



Hello Orchard!

It has been so lovely to see so many of your wonderful posts on seesaw. I am so proud of the work you have completed. I hope you are enjoying your tasks so far. You should have plenty to keep you busy: spelling, reading, times tables as well as the CGP books. I have uploaded two extra pieces of work to seesaw, one English and one maths. To access these, use the Seesaw code in your home learning packs. If you are not able to access this, please e-mail the school and we will help. Although we all want to ensure you are still learning whilst not in school, please do not think you have to do everything that is sent or keep to a full 9-3 timetable. It can be tricky to focus at home so if you are trying your best and completing some learning each day, you are doing great!

Every Friday you will receive this newsletter with more ideas for you too.

- It is important for us to learn about this virus and how to keep ourselves safe. Check out this website: <https://campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/schools> there are two activities for KS1 and two for KS2, but please choose whichever one is more suitable.
- We often play games in our maths lessons at school. Herts for Learning are making videos of these games so that you can play them at home with your family. You will recognise some of them! They are working on uploading new games so check back regularly.
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsMwexWt3xUZYIOGjj6jgqQ/featured>
- As well as the books we have sent home, there are many books available online. Try this website, its an online library - <https://www.getepic.com/>. You can join my class by clicking student at the top of the page and then entering the code: KIG-7490.
- If you are a David Walliams fan – he is releasing an audiobook each day for 30 days at 11am. You can listen here: <https://www.worldofdavidwalliams.com/>
- I have uploaded to seesaw some English learning ideas to further our unit on fables that we have been looking at within school. There is a link to follow to listen to a new fable, you can role-play this with a family member or summarise the plot to begin with. Feel free to research your own fables, I know some of you told me you had some at home.
- On seesaw, I have uploaded some multiplication word problems for Mrs Davies and Miss O'Brien's maths group. This continues what we have been learning in maths by applying our multiplication knowledge. I would love to see your number sentences and arrays.
- I have seen lots of you have joined in with Joe Wicks the body coach at 9am for his PE lessons. Remember to check the Rising Stars facebook page for Mr Nash and his team's videos. Also, I know some of you are keen dancers, Oti Mabuse is sharing dance class videos from 11.30am each day too. http://www.youtube.com/channel/UC58aowNEXHHnflR_5YTtP4g.

Lastly, Orchard I want you each to know how proud I am to be your teacher! Even though I am not with you in the classroom, I am amazed at the learning you are achieving. You're all on fire, keep it up! Keep safe, keep smiling, keep learning and make sure you HAVE FUN!

Miss O'Brien

Haffydown Class



Hi Haffydown,

I hope that you are all well and are enjoying your learning at home. You should have plenty of ideas in the packs I gave out to keep you busy, as well as the CGP books. Remember to keep reading and practising your spellings and times tables too. The science and topic grids also have lots of ideas of projects you can do. It has been so lovely to see some of you sending in pictures of your learning on Seesaw. I love seeing what you are getting up too and replying to your posts.

This week, I have uploaded two new activities on Seesaw for you to try. One has a maths focus and the other is English with a history theme. To access these, use the Seesaw code in your home learning packs.

Each week, I will also send some new ideas through this newsletter.

New ideas:

- We often play games in our maths lessons at school. Herts for Learning are making videos of these games so that you can play them at home with your family. You will recognise some of them! They are working on uploading new games so check back regularly. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsMwexWt3xUZYIOGjj6jgqQ/featured>
- I know lots of you love the David Walliams books. ELEVENSES WITH THE WORLD OF DAVID WALLIAMS - Every day at 11am, you can listen one of David Walliams' World's Worst Children stories, so sit down, take a break, and enjoy 20ish minutes of pure fun! <https://www.worldofdavidwalliams.com/>
- If you have been unable to log into Seesaw, the English activity is to watch the following video of a Viking village and to write a description of your journey walking through it. You may want to do some further historical research to help you. Remember to open your sentences differently and to use conjunctions to extend you sentences. You could send me a video of you reading your description or a photo of it on Seesaw if you would like to. You could also draw a map of your village. <https://www.literacyshed.com/vikingvillage.html>
- Lots of you may be doing the Joe Wicks work out at 9 am each day, which is great. Mr Nash and the Rising Stars team are also trying to keep us fit and healthy. Check out their Face Book page for videos of activities you can play at home or in your garden.
- The official artist of world book day Rob Biddulph is uploading drawing and art videos on Tuesdays and Thursdays. There are already two videos on the website for you to try. <http://www.robbiddulph.com/draw-with-rob> You could send me a photo of your pictures on Seesaw.

It is very important to me that you know the following message:



**I MAY NOT BE THERE TO REASSURE YOU WITH ANY CHALLENGES YOU FACE,
OR TO HIGH FIVE YOU WHEN YOU DO SOMETHING AMAZING,
BUT AS WE WAIT FOR CHANGE TO COME, AND WE KNOW THAT IT WILL, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU KNOW,
I AM STILL PROUD OF YOU,
I AM STILL HERE FOR YOU,
I AM STILL YOUR TEACHER**

See you soon,
Miss Keen 😊

Danes Class



Hi Danes,

It is now a week since our last day in school; I hope that you have all enjoyed your week and that you are settling into your new routine of being at home. None of us, adults or children, have ever experienced anything like this before and I am just so impressed by your resilience and positivity. I am really enjoying all your Seesaw posts, it is just so lovely to know how you are getting on with your home learning as well as to hear your updates and, most importantly, to know that you are safe and happy. As well as the Seesaw posts, I have also noticed how hard many of you are working on Times Tables Rock Stars. Amazing work; keep it up – it really will be worth it to support your learning in Years 5, 6, 7 and beyond. I am also glad that you are enjoying reading the pages of The London Eye Mystery that I am posting on Seesaw. It was such a shame that we couldn't finish this book in school – but together we will read it on screen!

Lots of online resources are available to support your learning, for example:

- Carol Vorderman has now provided free access to 'The Maths Factor' for 4-11 year olds. You could ask your parents to register for you. <https://www.themathsfactor.com/>
- Lots of you are already doing the Joe Wicks work out at 9am each day. Mr Nash and the Rising Stars team are also trying to keep us fit and healthy. Check out their Face Book page for videos of activities you can play at home or in your garden.
- As an introduction to our learning about the Mayan civilization, you could watch these short films:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iaKofHyZ00c>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NTCSTUfRTMA>
- You could have a go at this interactive angles game by nrich:
<https://nrich.maths.org/1235>
Nrich also has many other great maths resources which we often use in school.

Make sure that you keep reading and also writing. Sometimes when you are reading, read aloud to practise using your 'performance reading' voice (send me a video on Seesaw if you wish). You can use your reading to give you ideas for writing. For example, you could: write a diary in role as a character from the book; write the next chapter; describe a character or setting; write a blurb or a book review or write a letter from one character to another. Remember to read your writing aloud too – this helps you to edit and improve what you write. I would love to see (or even hear) some of your writing on Seesaw.

Danes, you are a very special group of young people. Please stay safe; enjoy the extra time that you have with your wonderful families; keep smiling and remember that:



You are amazing!
I miss every single one of you.
I am still here for you.
Stay safe. Stay happy. Stay inside.
And stay you!
Bless you all,
Mrs Branagan

