



Aston St. Mary's Newsletter

Our value this half term is Kindness

www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk

24th April 2020

Dear parents and carers,

We hope that you all had a relaxing Easter break despite the unusual and unfortunate circumstances. Most of all, we hope that you and your families remain healthy. We are now a week into the summer term – how we wish the children were back in school. We miss them so very much.

It is hard to imagine how much tougher lockdown would have been had it happened in the days before our lives moved online. Whilst we can't see our families and friends, it is just amazing how social media and conferencing apps allow us to have the reassurance of seeing their faces, chatting together, perhaps playing games and so much more. Seesaw and Tapestry (Shackadell) are enabling us to maintain contact with the children whilst school is closed; we absolutely love receiving their many and varied posts. Obviously, this is primarily an online learning platform, but it is proving to be so much more than that. We just love to hear about and see pictures of all the wonderful activities the children are enjoying. It really is a testament to the wonderful, supportive families we have in our school community that our children are gaining so much from such a challenging situation. Not all children in all schools will be so lucky. In this newsletter, we thought that we would share some of the lovely photos that we have received.

Whilst we are currently enjoying the benefits of the internet, it is important that we remember the risks associated with internet use. We would ask that you keep a close eye on the sites that your child is accessing online and that you make sure your parental control settings are keeping your child safe at all times. Support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online includes:

- Internet matters - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- London Grid for Learning - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- Net-aware - for support for parents and careers from the NSPCC
- Parent info - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- Thinkuknow - for advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online
- UK Safer Internet Centre - advice for parents and carers

As you know, each half term we have a new school value. This value forms the theme for our school and class worship each day. Clearly, school-based worship cannot happen at the moment, but our values are a fundamental part of what makes our school so special. The children are the evidence of this – we see this all day, everyday in the way that they conduct themselves, care for each other and care for their school. We feel it is important that this focus on values is maintained during the period of school closure; our new value is **Kindness**. After the class pages, there is a message for you to share with your child to introduce the value. Thank you for your support.

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

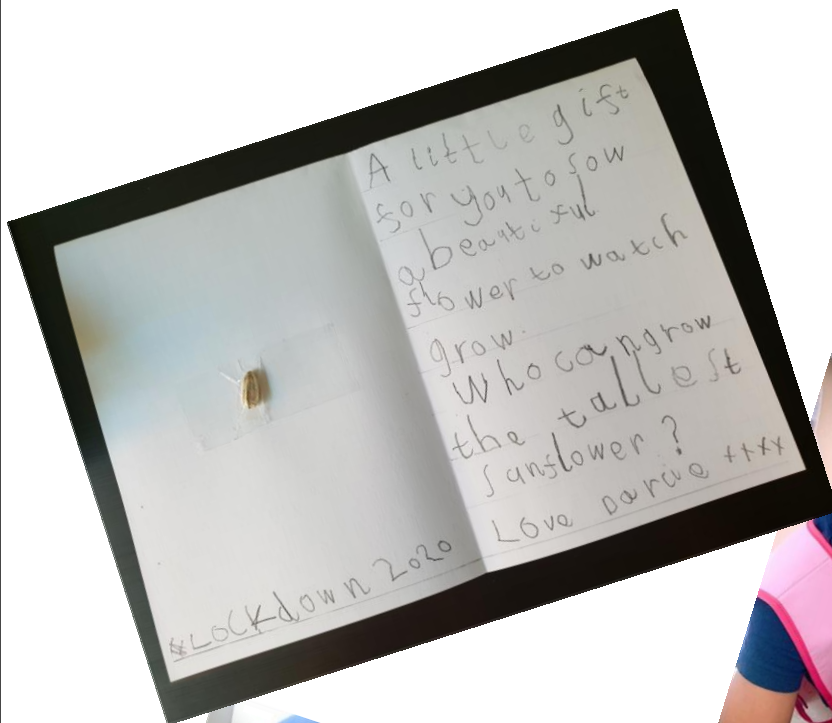
Shackadell class have been having a lot of fun over the Easter holidays! We have loved seeing how creative you have all been. There has been beautiful egg decorating, egg rolling and some creative uses for Easter egg boxes!

Darcie has been posting sunflower seeds to her friends as a challenge them to see who will grow the tallest sunflower! We look forward to seeing some pictures of these, especially as this week we have started to learn all about growing.

Thank you for uploading so many pictures and videos to Tapestry. Although we are missing you very much, it makes us really happy to see your lovely, smiley faces so regularly!

Stay safe and keep smiling everyone,

From Mrs Holmes and Mrs Lale



Peartree Class

HOME LEARNING

Hello Peartree,

I hope everyone had a lovely Easter with lots of lovely treats.

Well Easter is over, and we are now ready for a new summer term with a difference.

Please keep checking Seesaw every day as I will be uploading activities for you to complete.

I have already seen so much amazing learning that you have been posting and it makes me very proud to be your teacher. Below are some of the amazing things some of you have been up to. Well done Peartree.



Proud mummy moment

Easter has finished, it has been a test
But I hope you all had a nice rest.
It is time to start the new summer term,
Where there are lots of new things to learn.
Not just English, Maths and PE
But planting and playing and making Brownies.
Please remember that I still care,
Although it seems that I am not there.

See you all soon



Mrs Baker



Orchard Class

Hello Orchard,

I am blown away with all the amazing work you have been doing. As you will have seen, we are setting Maths and English tasks for you to do each day. You only need to spend a short time on each of these and make sure you take a break too. You can also adapt the activity and do something different, they don't need to be completed exactly as shown.

Our new Geography topic will be 'Hot and Cold places' - I wonder if you can research a place with a hot or cold climate.

For parents: We are all in different situations in our families, many of us juggling working from home with trying to help our children with school work. You can only do what you can, and that is more than enough. A little bit of learning each day is great. Keeping your families happy is far more important than struggling to complete every task.

I have included some photos of our lovely class to put a smile on our faces.

Stay safe and stay happy,
Miss O'Brien 😊



Haffydown Class

Hello Haffydown 😊,

Wow! What a fabulous week it has been on Seesaw and for your home learning! You have been amazing. A huge well done to you and your parents for continuing to keep up your learning during these very tricky times. Mrs Evans also sends her love and we are both so very proud of you.

If you have not yet been onto Seesaw, please give it a go as soon as you can. Please contact the school if you have misplaced your password code. When you do log on, please scroll down to the very bottom on the homepage where you will see a video of me explaining how we are using Seesaw. Hopefully you find it very reassuring. Everyone's situation during this lockdown will be totally different and I really do appreciate this. So, just do what you can, when you can. If you are experiencing problems or have any questions, please drop me a message and I will be more than happy to help.

You may have seen my parent mail about the Pen Pal Scheme for the Welbeloved Club. A friend of mine runs a local charity to support elderly people who experience loneliness and is asking for children to write letter and/or draw pictures. Please see my parent mail for further information. I hope many of you choose to get involved with this wonderful opportunity to help those in need and spread some kindness.

Haffy's Hall of Fame

To give you some ideas of things to do, here are some fabulous activities I have seen on Seesaw. Keep sending me your wonderful ideas of all the lovely activities you do!



Wonderful Water

As you may know from Seesaw, we have a new geography topic this term. Here are some new ideas for you. Please send me photos etc and they may well appear in next week's "Haffy's Hall of Fame!".

Explore it!

If you are fortunate enough to live near a river, how about exploring it on your daily walk? How does the river change along its course? What wildlife can you see? What human features are there? You could take some photos and draw a sketch when you get home.

Build it!

Build your own river and dam!
<http://kitchenfloorcrafts.blogspot.com/2015/05/invitation-to-build-create-dam.html>

Write it!

Think about the course of a river and the journey it takes. Can you write a story about the journey of a river?

You are all amazing and inspire me every single day.

Keep on smiling and I hope to see you soon.

Miss Keen 😊

YOU
ARE
the
BEST

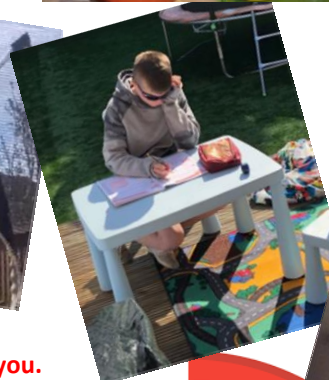
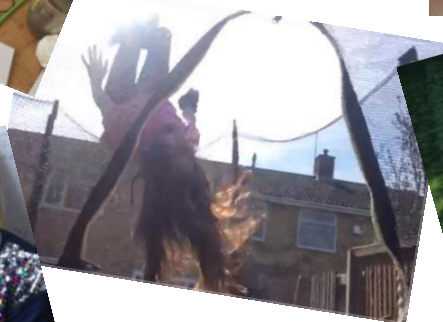
THINK
Positive

Danes Class

Hi Danes,

I hope that you have all enjoyed some special time with your families over the Easter break. It is hard to believe that it is now the final term of the school year – and, for Year Six, the final term at Aston St. Mary's. Let's hope that we can get back to school before the summer break so that we can enjoy the final few weeks together.

I am really enjoying keeping in touch with you on Seesaw – thank you for sharing so much of what you are doing. Of course, it is a great way for me to support you with the learning that I set for you, but I also enjoy all your many posts showing me what else you are up to. We thought you might like to see a few of the pictures.



We miss you.
You are special.
Keep smiling.
Stay safe and stay positive.
We look forward to seeing you soon.

Love
Mrs Branagan

x

Our school Value this half term is:

Kindness

We know that all of you are very kind, it is something that we regularly witness at our school. But now it is time to show us your acts of kindness outside of school. The world's current situation can be difficult, but we know that Kindness can really make a difference in someone's day...so what could you do to show kindness to someone.

You could:

- Make and send a card to someone who you know may be feeling lonely.
- Leave some sweets or chocolate on the doorstep of someone you know whilst on your daily walk.
- Do a job at home for your family without being asked.
- Call a friend and tell them some jokes to make them laugh.

We really look forward to hearing about some of these random acts of kindness. Please upload your acts to either Seesaw or Tapestry and be creative!

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." **Ephesians 4:32**



Beatitudes for a global epidemic

Blessed are the hospital workers, ambulance crews, doctors, nurses, care assistants and cleaners, for they stand between us and the grave. The kingdom of heaven is surely theirs.

Blessed are the teachers and police for they remain a constant in disturbing times.

Blessed are parents, for they are coping alone with their responsibilities and there is no respite.

Blessed are those who stay at home, for they are protecting others.

Blessed are the delivery drivers, postal workers and kind neighbours, for bringing us essential things and the refuse collectors for taking our rubbish away.

Blessed are the checkout workers, corner shop keepers and pharmacists as they supply us with scarce things and deal with frustrations and fears.

Blessed are church workers, priests and bishops, for they are a comforting presence in a hurting world and continue to be a signpost towards God.

Blessed are the bereaved, to whom the worst has already happened, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the funeral directors who care for them.

Blessed are those who during this time, still hunger and thirst for justice, work for peace and model mercy. They shall be called God's children.

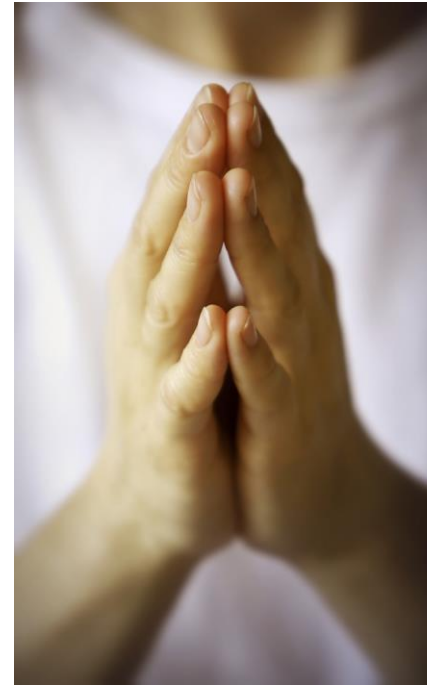
May you know God's comfort and peace this day and always (*adapted*)



Let us Pray...

A prayer for the world

God of love and hope,
you made the world and care for all creation,
but the world feels strange right now.
The news is full of stories about Coronavirus.
Some people are worried that they might get ill.
Others are anxious for their family and friends.
Be with them and help them to find peace.
We pray for the doctors and nurses and scientists,
and all who are working to discover the right medicines
to help those who are ill.
Thank you that even in these anxious times,
you are with us.
Help us to put our trust in you and keep us safe.
Amen.



A prayer remembering God is with us

Lord God, you are always with me.
You are with me in the day and in the night.
You are with me when I'm happy and when I'm sad.
You are with me when I'm healthy and when I am ill.
You are with me when I am peaceful and when I am worried.
Today I am feeling *(name how you are feeling)* because *(reasons you are feeling this way)*.
Help me to remember that you love me and are with me in everything today.
Amen.

Source:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-liturgy-and-prayer-resources>