



## Aston St. Mary's Newsletter

Our value this half term is Kindness

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

1<sup>st</sup> May 2020

Dear parents and carers,

It is hard to believe that it is now May. What a strange month April was – the whole month spent in lock down. Thankfully, until this week, we have been blessed with lovely weather which has enabled us to appreciate the coming of spring by getting out in the fresh air. I am sure that during this time we have all learnt lots about ourselves as well as appreciating the many small acts of kindness from others.

Last week, we had the pleasure of speaking to every single Aston family – the vast majority by phone. We wondered whether this could actually be achieved in a single week and, being honest, the task felt like quite a challenge. But it was, without a doubt, so lovely to be able to chat and so reassuring to know that our children and their families are healthy, happy and making the very best of a difficult situation. There are certainly many challenges and these challenges vary from one family to the next depending on so many different factors. It was good to be able to talk about these – whilst we can't change the situation, we genuinely do want to support our families in whatever way we can. We hope this message came across to everyone when we spoke to you and we urge you to contact us if there is ever anything at all that we might be able to help you with.

It was truly inspiring to hear of the many and varied ways in which our families are spending their time and organising their days. The children are learning so many important life skills as well as staying on top of their 'school' learning. How wonderful that some can now ride a bike with just two wheels; others are learning to cook; children are out in their gardens planting seeds and watching them grow; some are learning to handle tools by assisting with an array of practical tasks around the house and garden; many are supporting members of their community, for example by making up food parcels or simply taking the time to talk; children are learning to play musical instruments and, most importantly, spending quality time with their immediate family. Whatever works best for your family is what is right. Childhood is so short; we urge you to continue to make the very best of the extra time that you have with your children.

As you will almost certainly be aware, next Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May is VE Day, the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formal end of World War II. The early May Bank Holiday has been moved to coincide with this. Please look out for a parent mail next week about how we hope to ensure that our children celebrate and mark this historic event despite not being in school.

Our next newsletter will be in a fortnight, on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May, due to the bank holiday.

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

Hello Shackadell,

We hope you have had a fun week and enjoyed the learning tasks we have been setting. We have loved seeing all the work you have been sending in this week especially the videos where you were re-telling the 'Jack and the Beanstalk story'. You are all very creative and natural storytellers!



We have also been sent lots of very artistic plant pictures with some brilliant explanations about the different parts of the plant! I know lots of you have also been planting your very own seeds at home too – so do let us know when you start to see changes!



In maths this week we were learning days of the week, months of the year and how to tell the time at o'clock. Some of you even make your very own clocks and watches!



As well as the tasks we set, you have also shared lots of other wonderful learning and experiences that you and your parents have been enjoying at home. Some of these include: the arrival of Keely's new baby brother Harrison; James and George learning to ride their bike; the different ways you've been celebrating birthdays; the things you've done to help at home and how you've been caring in your community. Seeing all these lovely things makes us both so proud and grateful to be your teachers.

With each newsletter that we write, it brings us hope, knowing that we are all another week closer to being back in school together again.

Keep safe, keep smiling and keep being the most wonderful bunch of funny, caring and kind children you are!

Lots of Love

Mrs Lale & Mrs Holmes x x x



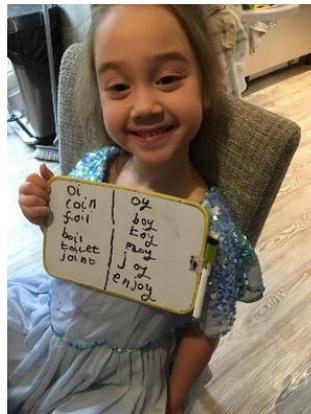
# Peartree Class

Hello Peartree.

Again, thank you for all the work you and your family are doing to help your learning. I am loving the messages, voice mails and video clips you have been sending me. They make me smile and have even inspired me to send some to you via story time. Here is a look at some of the amazing learning you have been doing this week.

## HOME LEARNING

Thank you



Well, let us have a look this week.

At all the wonderful things you've done.

I have seen you work and heard you speak

And watched you having fun.

You all are working hard it's true

And I am very proud.

I love to see all you've done,

You are the rainbow in my cloud.

Stay safe

Mrs Baker 





# Haffydown Class

## HOME LEARNING

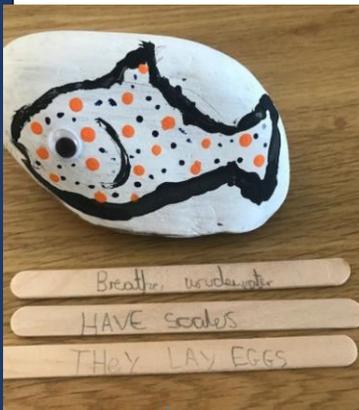
Hi Haffydown,

It has been another incredible week on Seesaw. I am running out of ways to express just how proud I am of you all; the determination and resilience you are all showing is truly outstanding and your parents are all working so hard too. You continue to amaze me every single day!

If you are ever finding something tricky, please remember to watch the video guidance I have created to help you. Watch it several times if you need to and pause the videos to take it all in, write helpful information down, discuss with an adult etc. Please ask if you are still unsure by adding a comment but please never worry or spend too long on an activity.

### Haffy's Hall of Fame

Wow! I had lots to choose from this week. You have all been so busy. Keep the photos coming.



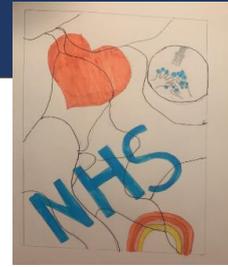
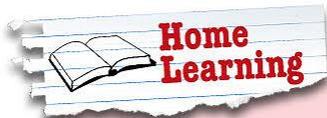
These are our tadpoles.



See you soon,  
Miss Keen 😊

*Happiness can be found even in the darkest of times if one only remembers to turn on the light.*  
- Albus Dumbledore

# Danes Class



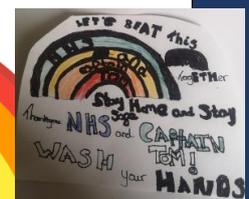
Hi Danes,

You are amazing! In just a week, I have received 438 Seesaw posts sharing not only your responses to our daily learning activities but also so many touching and inspiring messages as well as photos of the many varied ways in which you are filling your days. I am so very proud of you Danes – and I just LOVE it that you keep in touch.

This week, our home learning task for RE was to reflect upon the impact Coronavirus has had on our lives. In particular, you needed to focus on the positive outcomes that we see around us every day; people have pulled together and are helping each other in so many different ways. Your task was to design a stained-glass window to represent these positives. Our pictures today are of some of your fabulous designs.



The tin on the right is that we are grateful for the food and the pizza slice on the bottom left also. The rainbow is a sign of hope as there is a rainbow after a rain fall, showing things will get better. 999 and 111 are numbers to call if you are sick. milk at the bottom is for the people that deliver things like the milkman and for the people that work in shops the footprint in the middle is that we are grateful we can still go on walks the fork in the mud at the bottom right is for the farmers that bring us food and the dice is the time we spend with are families. The paint pallet is for being creative and the book is for the teachers that teach the children of any key workers like people that work hard to brig food to are tables and the NHS and of course the NHS who are putting there lives at risk to help us



Missing you so very much,  
 Stay safe,  
 Stay happy,  
 Stay in touch,  
 Love  
 Mrs Branagan x



# "Schools will shut on Friday"

"Schools will shut on Friday,"  
That is what they said,  
But it took a few days or weeks,  
For it to sink into my head

Our classroom once full of noise,  
Stood so sad, so still,  
Your laughter and your chatter gone,  
To see it sent a chill

The new task felt impossible,  
How on earth could I possibly teach?  
The world had been tipped upside down,  
Our class felt so out of reach

Online we carried on our learning,  
Kept going even when things were tough,  
We did English, maths and topics  
I can't praise your efforts enough

You sent photos of crafts and baking,  
Art work, games and sports,  
Nature walks, reading and puzzles,  
The incredible list of all sorts

Through it all you keep me smiling,  
Your positivity and hope shines through,  
Although apart, we are still together,  
Through the clouds our rainbow grew

Things will go back to normal,  
As the world outside slowly heals,  
Staying at home does save lives,  
No matter how hard it feels

You are the rainbow children,  
future generations will learn about,  
Who clapped for carers and stayed at home,  
Of that, there is no doubt

"Schools will shut on Friday,"  
One day that will seem a dream,  
We will see you all so very soon,  
I love and miss our Aston team!



L Keen



## Rainbow Children

You are the Rainbow Children  
Who were told to stay indoors.  
Don't waste this opportunity  
Discover the world that is yours!



You are the Rainbow Children  
With so much time and so much to do.  
Don't say you are bored and there's nothing  
There's plenty to entertain you!

You are the Rainbow Children  
So pick up a brush or a pen  
An instrument or a camera  
And practice again and again!

You are the Rainbow Children  
Outside of classroom walls.  
Take time to look around you  
And listen to nature's call!

You are the Rainbow Children  
Who'll learn patience and kindness and care.  
Who have learned to appreciate friendship  
And family because they're not there!

You are the Rainbow Children  
Who clap for the NHS.  
Will you follow their example  
And learn to be just as selfless?

You are the Rainbow Children  
Who, when this is over and past,  
Should have skills that stay with you forever  
And memories that will always last!



You are the Rainbow Children  
The ones who are truly free.  
To learn, explore and discover  
Don't waste it all watching TV!

M Davies



## A thought from Reverend Jenny

### WE ARE NOT IN THE SAME BOAT ...

I keep hearing that everyone is in the same boat. But it's really not like that. We are in the same storm yes, but we are not in the same boat.

Your ship can be shipwrecked and mine not. Or vice versa.

For some, quarantine is ... full of moments of reflection, of re-connection and peace. Life is easy...

For others, this is a desperate crisis... it is facing real loneliness.

For others, this is torture as they wonder how they are going to pay their bills.

Some want to go back to work because they are running out of money but in the same breath they are worried about a virus and they have questions about it...

Truth is life, as we knew it before, is gone.

So, friends, we are not in the same boat...

And each one will emerge, in his/her own way, from that storm.

Some with a tan from their pool. Others with scars on their soul.

So see beyond the political party, beyond the nose on your face.

Do not underestimate the pain of others if you do not feel it...

We are on different ships and all looking to survive. Let everyone navigate their route with respect, empathy and responsibility.

Stop the judgment and please just be kind.

(Abridged from Nicki Peverett)

