



Aston St. Mary's Newsletter

Our value this half term is Kindness

www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk

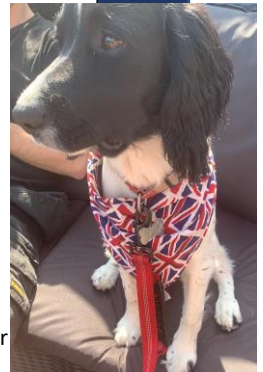
15th May 2020

Dear parents and carers,

As promised, the class pages in this newsletter are a celebration of the 75th anniversary of VE day which took place last Friday. We were delighted to receive so many posts sharing how the children of Aston St. Mary's marked this important historic event. As a school, we place great importance upon developing the children's understanding of British values as well as our place in history; we were disappointed not to be able to enjoy a special event in school to mark this date. However, we needn't have worried! What a fantastic range of activities and celebrations happened at home – we hope you enjoy the selection of photos from each class and we are sorry that we couldn't include all of the many that we were sent.



Perhaps the timing of the VE day celebrations was meant to be; at a time when we are all living through a period of great challenge, hardship, for some personal loss and for all national loss, we remembered those who sacrificed so much and lived through, not weeks, not months but years of challenge, hardship and great loss. Whilst celebrating VE day, it would have been hard not to draw parallels between what people went through during the Second World War and the current pandemic. Lives were lost, times were so very hard but better times lay ahead and our country came out stronger. We need to remember this as we face our challenges today and over the coming weeks. Better times do lie ahead, and we will get there.



On Sunday, we all learnt that, provided certain requirements are met, primary schools will reopen for some year groups after the half term break. Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 are to return to school first and the government's plan is that all other year groups will return at some point before the summer holiday. We would like to reassure you that we will be taking all measures possible to keep the children safe by following government guidelines which recognise that it will not always be possible to maintain social distancing in primary schools. As always, we will work closely with families to ensure that we are all aware of what provision in school will look like whilst also maintaining 'home learning' support for those year groups not yet in school. **Please look out for further information next week regarding reopening for some year groups.**

Without a doubt, for most parents teaching their children at home is a challenge; we would just like to say that we think Aston parents are doing a fantastic job. We appreciate that how this looks varies significantly from one household to another – but, everyone is doing something and trying their very best. As a result, we feel confident that the children have continued to learn, and will continue to learn, throughout their time at home. Likewise, for teachers adapting to home learning has been a huge challenge. We too have been on a steep learning curve and greatly appreciate your patience and support. Any ideas that teachers have had 'time off' is certainly not the case at Aston; planning and responding to home learning as well as running key worker provision in school is meaning that many staff are working very long hours every day. We know that these are hours well spent when we see the quality and range of home learning that is going on. This is certainly not the same picture in all schools and serves as a reminder as to why Aston St. Mary's is such a special place to work – we feel blessed to be working with our Aston families and want to remind you that you are all very much in our prayers and our thoughts.

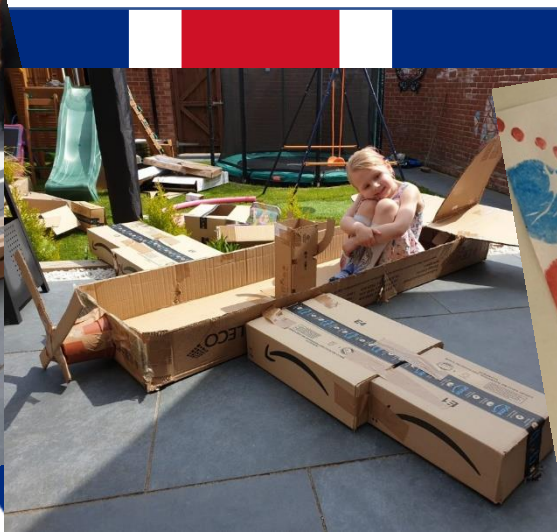
We look forward to welcoming you child back to school – when it is safe to do so.

Please take care, follow the government guidance and remember:

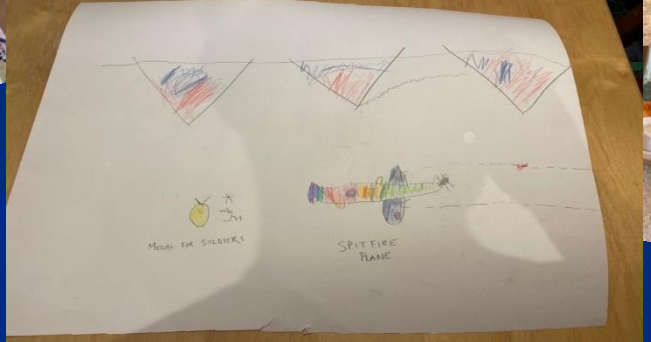
STAY ALERT. CONTROL THE VIRUS. SAFE LIVES.

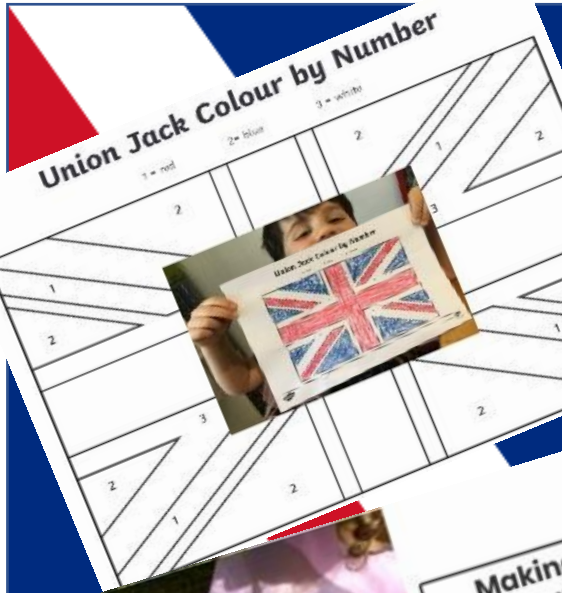
Should you need to contact us, for whatever reason, please use the temporary email address:

closed@astonmarys.herts.sch.uk



Shackadell Class Celebrate VE Day





Willow coloured this in for ve day



Peartree Class Celebrate VE Day



Making dandelion honey.



VE celebrations in Aston!



BACON & POTATO CAKES

INGREDIENTS

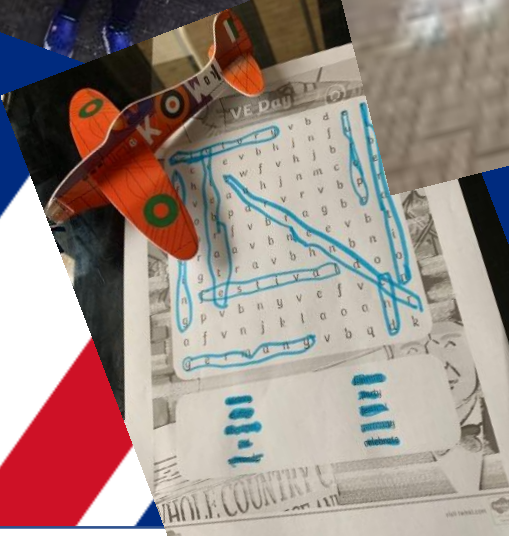
- 8 ozs cooked mashed potato
- 2 ozs chopped or fried bacon
- Seasoning

METHOD

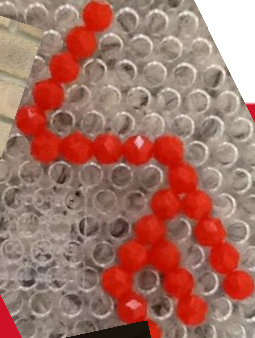
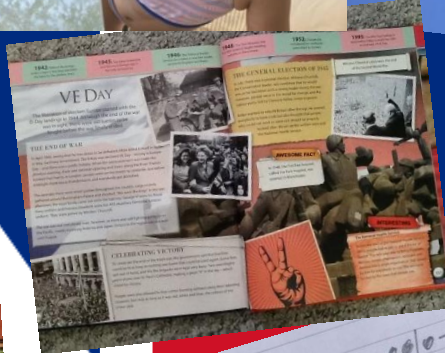
Mix together and form into cakes, roll in crumbs and either fry or bake in a hot oven.

we made these, but for extra flavour we added onion cheese and paprika

they dont look very nice but tasted lovely!



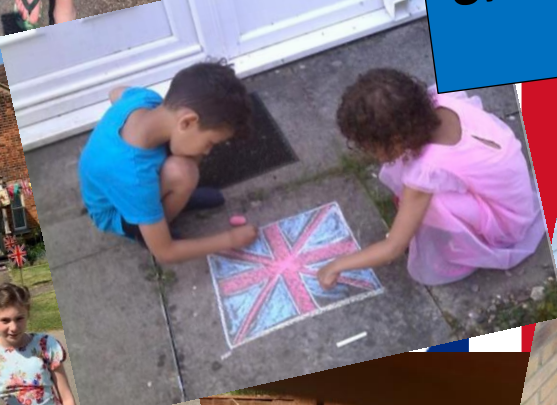
VE Day Celebrations

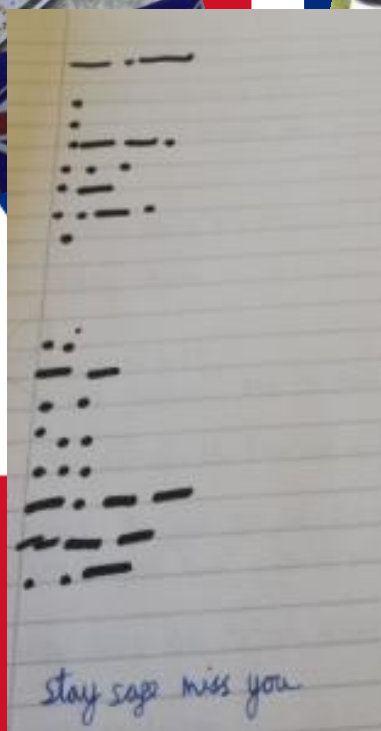


Orchard Class Celebrate VE day



8th May
1945-2020
75th Anniversary





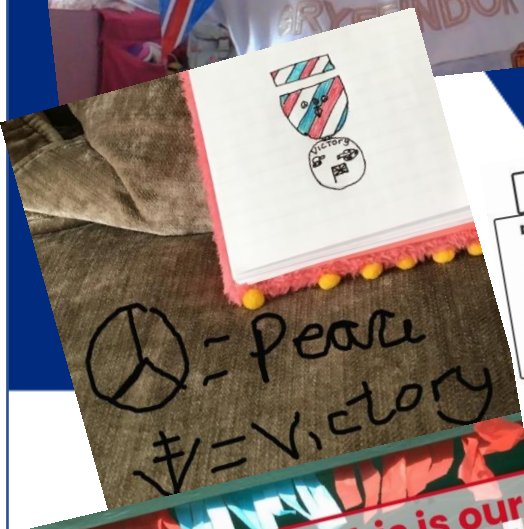
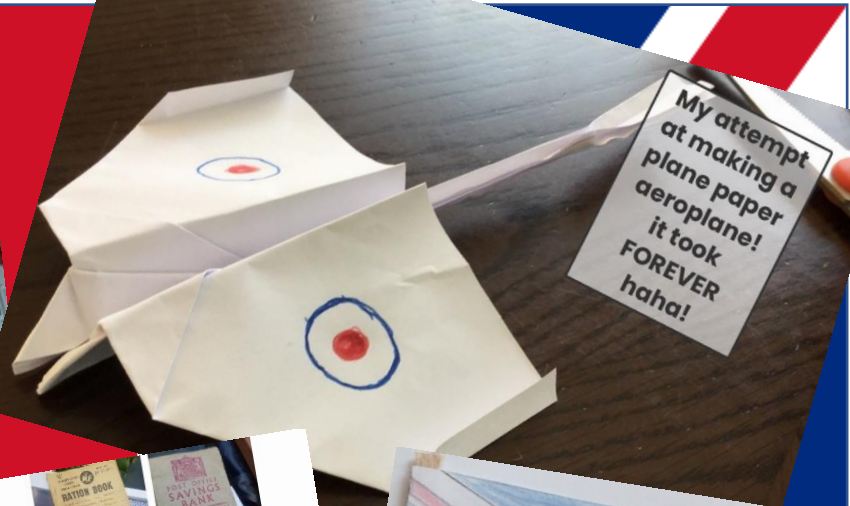
Haffydown Class Celebrate VE Day



Isabelle wrote a VE day song! Here is a snippet from the chorus:

The war against the Germans was one to remember forever,
Who thought they would ever surrender,
VE day, victory in Europe,
Taking place on May the 8th 1945





WOW
my neighbours mum and dad were in World War II and she had kept some of the things that used and my neighbour kindly lent them to us to take some photos

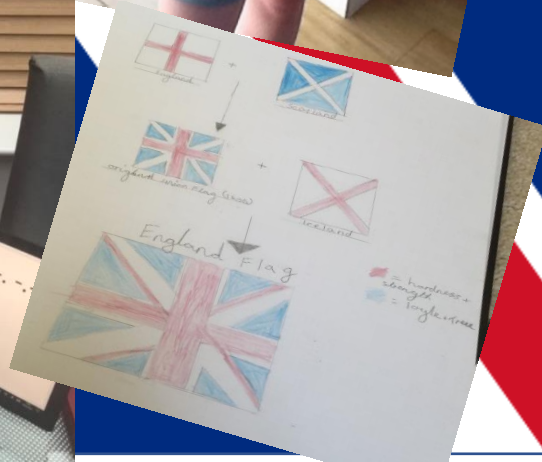


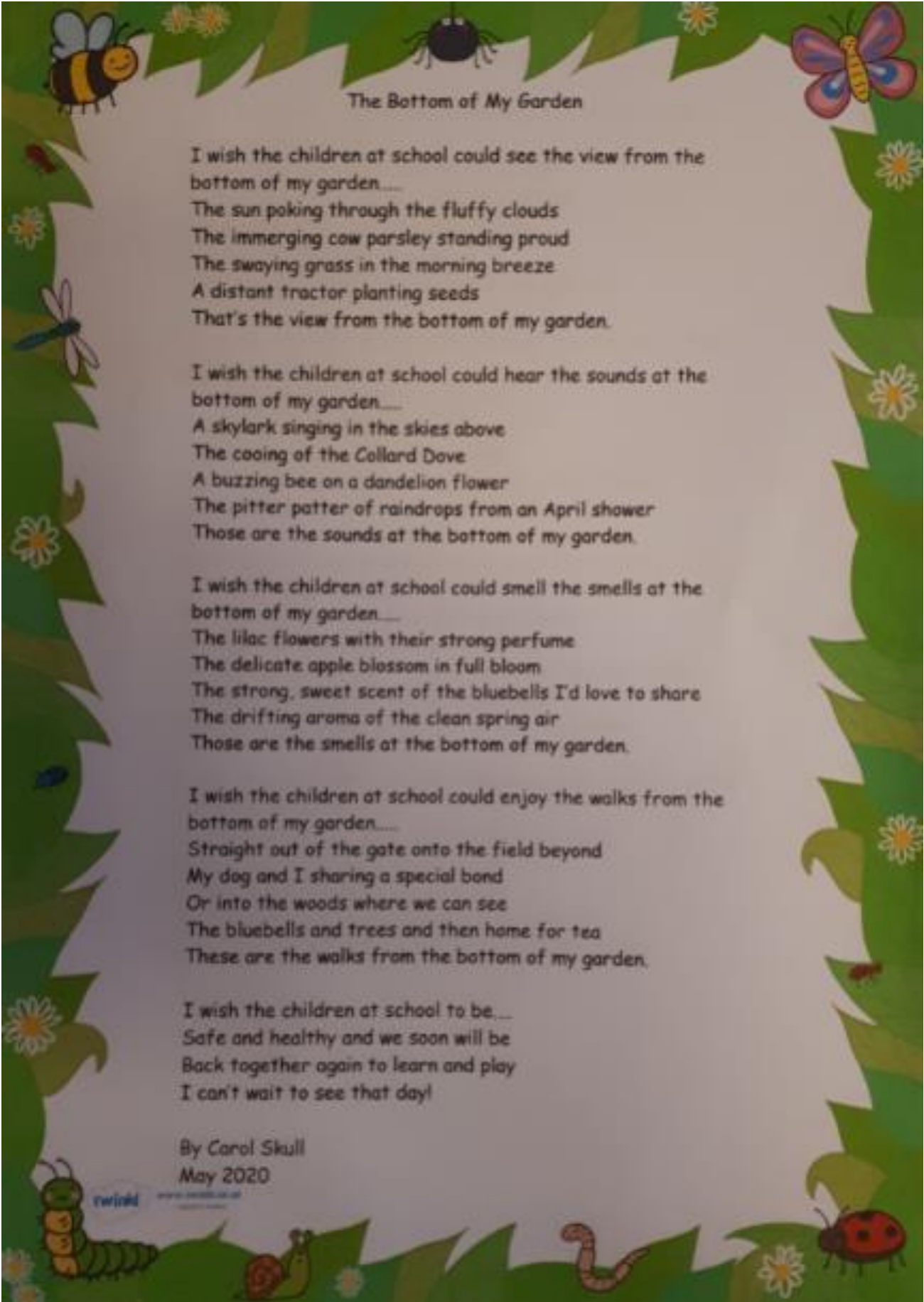
Danes Class Celebrate VE day

this is our lovely ve day party.



Having a picnic and listening to ve day music.





The Bottom of My Garden

I wish the children at school could see the view from the bottom of my garden....

The sun poking through the fluffy clouds
Theimmerging cow parsley standing proud
The swaying grass in the morning breeze
A distant tractor planting seeds
That's the view from the bottom of my garden.

I wish the children at school could hear the sounds at the bottom of my garden....

A skylark singing in the skies above
The cooing of the Collard Dove
A buzzing bee on a dandelion flower
The pitter patter of raindrops from an April shower
Those are the sounds at the bottom of my garden.

I wish the children at school could smell the smells at the bottom of my garden....

The lilac flowers with their strong perfume
The delicate apple blossom in full bloom
The strong, sweet scent of the bluebells I'd love to share
The drifting aroma of the clean spring air
Those are the smells at the bottom of my garden.

I wish the children at school could enjoy the walks from the bottom of my garden....

Straight out of the gate onto the field beyond
My dog and I sharing a special bond
Or into the woods where we can see
The bluebells and trees and then home for tea
These are the walks from the bottom of my garden.

I wish the children at school to be...
Safe and healthy and we soon will be
Back together again to learn and play
I can't wait to see that day!

By Carol Skull
May 2020

rwinkl

www.rwinkl.co.uk

Whatever changes this week



Not everything is cancelled

Sunshine is not cancelled

Spring is not cancelled

Love is not cancelled

Relationships are not cancelled

Reading is not cancelled

Naps are not cancelled

Devotion is not cancelled

Music is not cancelled

Dancing is not cancelled

Imagination is not cancelled

Kindness is not cancelled

Conversation is not cancelled

HOPE is not cancelled.

(Keep Looking Up)

What we do today is what matters most.

Embrace what each new day offers

with love and prayers

Reverend Jenny

