



Aston St. Mary's Newsletter

Our value this half term is Helpfulness

www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk

26th June 2020

How wonderful it was to be able to welcome so many of Year Two children back into school on Wednesday and Thursday this week; three months is a long time and we have missed the children so much. It was just wonderful to see their smiling faces again and for them to be able to spend some time with their friends. Next week, we look forward to welcoming Year Three and then the first 'bubble' of Year Four later in the week. After that, it will be the turn of the second Year Four group, followed by Year Five. These two-day face-to-face schooling sessions have taken much planning, but we are delighted to have been able to find a way to give all pupils the opportunity to return to school before the summer break. The spring term was stopped abruptly on 20th March; returning to school, albeit only for two days, allows for closure on the school year.

Following the government announcement last week that all pupils should be returning to school in September, we are hopefully now able to look forward to getting back to some sort of new normality and teaching all of our children face-to-face. Without a doubt, home learning has provided many challenges – for parents, children and teachers alike. It has been tough, and a steep learning curve for us all, but we are very, very proud that at Aston our families have continued to engage and interact with learning throughout. With just over two weeks left until the end of term (three weeks for key worker children), we are now working hard to get plans in place for the new school year. You will shortly receive information about classes and staffing for September.

Usually, these last few weeks of term include the final preparations and rehearsals for our annual whole school production – surely it can't be a year since 'Aladdin Trouble'? The production this year will look rather different. The cast is just six instead of 130 and the audience will be missing, but it is still going ahead. Year Six are currently working hard, learning their lines, practising songs and preparing solos. We will record their performance and share with our school community. Well done Year Six for not allowing a global pandemic to stop you!

A couple of important reminders:

- School reports were completed earlier than usual this year – please make sure that you return the child/parent comment slip as soon as possible (if you have not done so already).
- All children took a collection of reading books home back in March when school closed. Please ensure these are returned to school as soon as possible. This could be when your child attends the two-day face-to-face schooling or, alternatively, they could be dropped off at the school office anytime before the end of term. Thanks to the many of you who have already been able to return them.

Over the last three months, we have faced many new challenges and we appreciate sometimes we have had to make tough decisions to ensure we follow the government's guidance to keep everybody safe. We've said it before but would like to express once again how grateful we are for all your support and positive feedback.

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

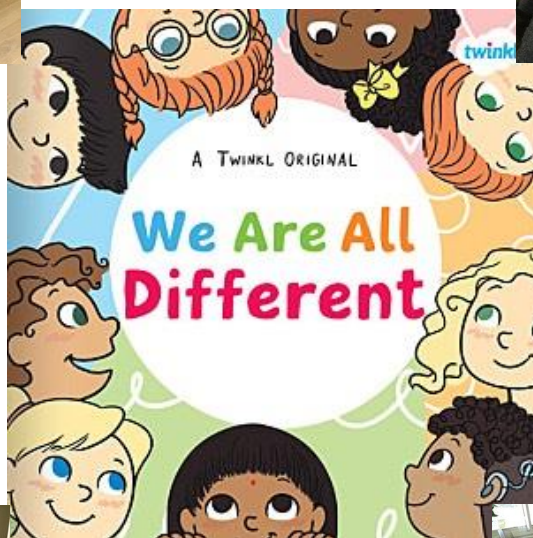
Shackadell Class

This week in Shackadell we really enjoyed learning about the message “Love is love”.

We discussed how we all look and sound different to one another; how we all like different food, drinks, colours and activities and how we are all good at different things, but these are the things that make us so unique and special.

We talked about how even though, in Shackadell, we are all different to one another, we are all such good friends who care and love each other.

We really enjoyed listening to the story “We are all different” and learnt a beautiful song called “different things” which we hope to upload onto Tapestry soon!



Peartree Class

HOME LEARNING

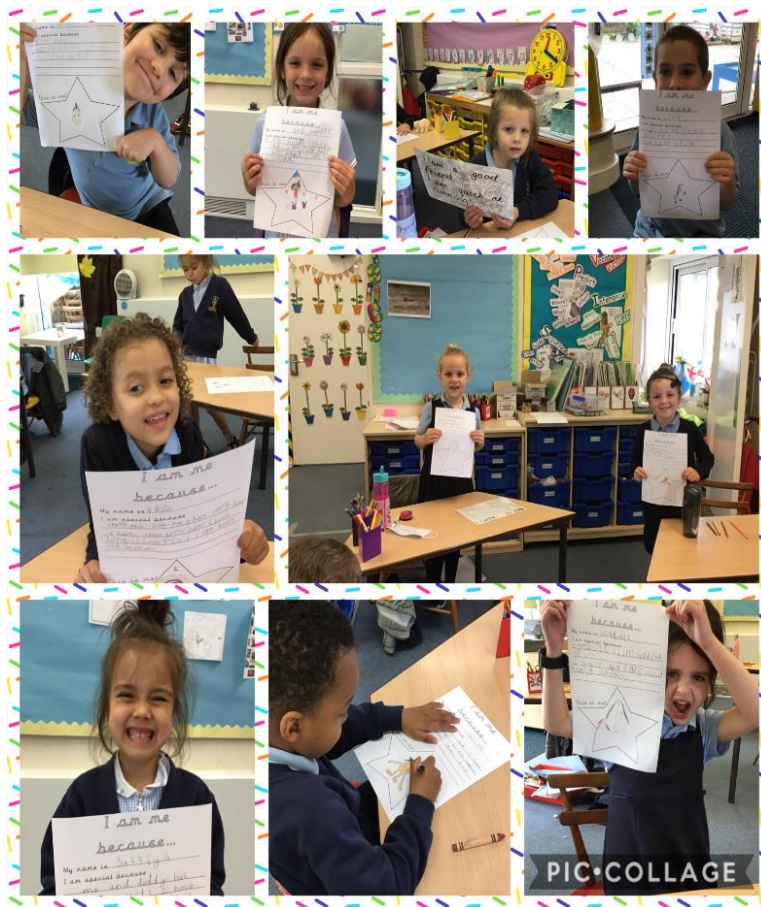
Hello Peartree,

Our PSHE this week was all about diversity and inclusion and how love has no labels.

We watched a video and read a lovely story about our differences and how they make us unique.

We discussed all the things that are different about ourselves and how they are all part of who we are as individuals.

The messages and values are
important to our lives
because it allows us to live
in peace and harmony.



See you all soon



Mrs Baker

INSIDE EVERY CHILD IS
A RAINBOW WAITING
TO SHINE

Orchard Class

Orchard, I am so proud to be the teacher of such kind and caring children.

Each of you understands the importance of treating everyone equally, respecting differences and sharing love to all.

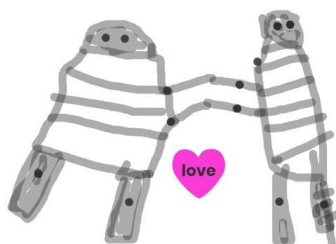
It has been amazing to welcome some of the year 2 children back to school this week. We have missed you all so, so much!

We cannot wait to see some of year 3 next week too 😊

Miss O'Brien



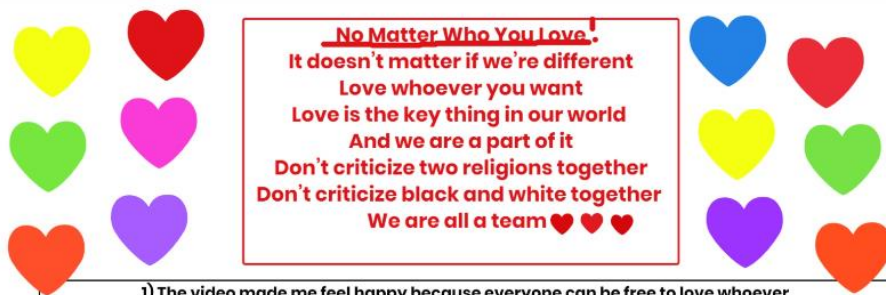
from this video we can see that all people are equal and love is love no matter who you are!



Haffydown Class

Hello Haffydown,

As always, I have been so impressed all the wonderful home learning you have been doing these past two weeks. In particular, your responses to the "Love Has No Labels" activity, were really quite special. You demonstrated your understanding and the importance of equality, diversity and how we should treat others equally with the respect they deserve. I am incredibly proud of the variety of different ways you communicated your understanding of these powerful messages. Here are a few examples below.



- 1) The video made me feel happy because everyone can be free to love whoever.
- 2) Messages: It doesn't matter who you love. It doesn't matter what people think. Not all people are the same. Inside, we are all the same.
Values: Kindness, Respect, Caring, Open-mindedness
- 3) These messages and values are important to our lives because they show us that you have the choice to love and be with anyone. They teach us to be happy with who we are, that we shouldn't be afraid, and we shouldn't criticize anyone who is different to you.
- 4) "Love has no labels" means you can love anyone – you can't say who has to love who.

**Love has no label ❤️
means to treat
everyone the same**

messages and values
❤️ be kind to each other
❤️ respect everyone's differences
❤️ treat everyone the same

It made me
feel happy
because it
showed
people to be
equal

It is
important
so you don't
hurt
people's
feelings

no love, no life [poem]

there is something I need to say
and this is just so true
is what I am trying to tell her
i really, really love you

I don't care about your age
I don't care about your power
I don't care about your religion
Just please take my flower

treasure it
keep it
love it forever
it is our sign
it will keep us together

Well done to everyone for all your hard work,

Miss Keen 😊x

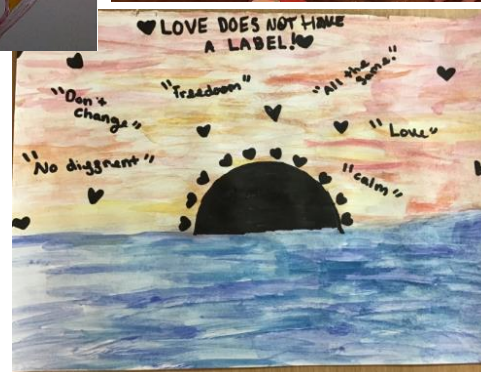


Danes Class

Hi Danes,

What a fantastic response to our PSHE lesson last week! It was wonderful to be able to listen to so many video and audio clips in which you shared your thoughts about the 'Love has no Labels' film. Your comments demonstrated an understanding of the importance of diversity, inclusion and respect for all.

Whilst Year Six are enjoying being back learning together in school, we all miss having Year Five in Danes class; it will be wonderful to welcome many of you back to school on 9th and 10th July. In the meantime, I continue to be absolutely amazed by the effort and enthusiasm that you put into all your home learning; the range and quality of work that you produce makes me so very proud of you all. The efforts that you are putting in will certainly make a real difference to what you are able to achieve in Year Six and beyond. I am so proud of you all: those learning at home; those in our key workers group and, of course, Year Six.



Home learners, I miss you,
Key workers group, I love to wave at
you on the field!
Year Six, it's so good to have you back,
Danes class, every one of you is a star!

Mrs Branagan x



Thoughts from Reverend Jenny

Good friends help you find important things when you have lost them...

things like your smile, your hope and your courage...

'What a friend we have in Jesus
All our sins and griefs to bear...
Oh, what peace we often forfeit

Oh, what needless pain we bear
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged
Take it to the Lord in prayer

Can we find a friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness,
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy-laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge—
Take it to the Lord in prayer;

Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer;
In His arms He'll take and shield thee,
Thou wilt find a solace there.'



Marking Windrush Day and Black Lives Matter

Monday, 22 June, was the third National Windrush Day celebrating the contribution made by the Windrush Generation and their descendants. Britain has been wonderfully enriched by the arrival of people from the Caribbean, many of whom came to live here in the diocese. Yet this was also a generation who faced terrible prejudice and racism, not just in the early years but also recently when many were threatened with deportation. May I encourage you to join in repentance for past mistakes and for grace to take practical steps to build a church which is truly welcoming to all in this prayer written by our Dean, the Very Revd Dr Jeffrey John

Forgive us the wealth or status we enjoy because others have been systematically excluded or downgraded.

Lord teach us to give to each other the value You give to us all.

Help us mean it when we pray 'Your kingdom come' by building a world of genuinely equal opportunity, equal acceptance, and equal justice.

We ask it for Your love's sake,

Amen.



Arc of Hope

On one of our first newsletters after lockdown back on 3rd April, we invited families to get involved in a community project called 'Arc of Hope'. We are delighted to have been part of this project and are now the proud owners of a copy of the finished piece. It is to be displayed in our entrance lobby – please do come and take a look, especially if you submitted a photo. We have been trying to spot members of our Aston community so please let us know if you can identify your photo!

Arc of Hope

"Be a rainbow in someone's cloud."

Maya Angelou

In response to the huge community spirit which emerged during the lockdown, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the message of hope that *Rainbows for the NHS* brought to the whole country, *Arc of Hope* is a symbol of hope, of standing together as a community, circumventing isolation.

The digital rainbow is compiled of selfies of families from the community, dressed, draped or painted in one of the colours of the rainbow. This is surrounded by images of rainbows, created in support of all keyworkers.

This collaborative project involved 39 schools, as well as community groups and friends of the schools, all credited in the border.

An idea from the students, *Arc of Hope* was submitted to the Royal Academy for the Young Artists' Summer Show 2020.

