



Danes Class Information 2020 – 2021



We hope that you and your family have had an enjoyable summer break and that your child is looking forward to returning to school for the new school year after the Covid-19 closure. We understand that the children may well have very mixed feelings about their return, many will be excited but may also feel nervous. Settling back into the routine of attending school each day will almost certainly be tiring for many children (and adults!). We are certainly excited to be able to have all children back in school learning together. Wellbeing will be a key priority during the early part of the term in order to help ensure the children settle quickly and happily. We are delighted to welcome the Year 5 children into Danes class and also to welcome back the Year 6 children. Being the oldest children in the school, Danes class usually take on many responsibilities around the school; obviously, whilst 'bubbles' are in place, these roles could look rather different. One very important role is that of supporting our youngest pupils by becoming 'Buddies' to the children in Shackadell class. It is sad that, for the time being, we are unable to mix with the Shackadell children; we will however be building our buddy relationships in other ways when we can.

Obviously, a key focus this year will be to ensure that all pupils get 'back-on-track' with their learning; the impressive amount of hard work that the children put into their home learning via Seesaw should make this process much easier. However, we do recognise that experiences varied significantly for different children. We will work hard to ensure that all children maximise their academic progress. As always, we will prepare them as fully as possible for secondary transfer and our overall aim is that they leave Aston St. Mary's as confident and ambitious 'young adults' - children do a lot of growing up in their final years at primary school! This letter provides information about the term/year ahead and, unfortunately, replaces the usual 'Meet the Teacher' meetings which are usually held at the beginning of the school year. We would however love to meet you (either to introduce yourselves or just to catch-up), so please do come to speak to us outside the classroom door sometime at the end of a school day.

Mrs Branagan & Miss Pear

Staffing

Mrs Branagan – class teacher (Mon, Wed, Thurs & Fri)
Miss Pear – class teacher
Mrs Dean – Tuesday morning & Friday afternoon
Mrs Carter – supports in class every morning
Mrs Evans – teaches RE and French on Monday & Tuesday afternoons
Mrs Crowley – teaches music on Tuesday afternoon
Mr Nash – teaches PE on Monday and Friday afternoons

Arrival and Pick-up

Danes class will enter the building as usual through the hall door but exit via our classroom external door. Please collect your child (after collecting any younger siblings) from the school car park. If you wish for your child to leave the school site independently, then we need this confirmed in writing.



Recorders



All children will now need to have their own recorder in school every Tuesday. These are available to purchase from the school office. Lessons will now be in smaller groups.



Water Bottles

It is essential that all children bring a named water bottle into school each day and take it home to be washed daily. They will keep these next to their table for use throughout the day.

PE Kit

PE lessons will take place on Mondays and Fridays.

Please ensure appropriate kits are in school and items clearly labelled (this should include both shorts and long trousers). Trainers will be needed EVERY DAY for the 'Daily Mile'.



Homework

Maths and English homework will be set on **Seesaw*** every Monday and should be submitted by Friday morning each week (commencing w/b 21st September).

Spellings should be practised daily and the spelling journal signed by an adult each time. Regular lessons will take place in school; children should practise words from these sessions and/or any personal spellings.

Times tables should now be secure allowing for rapid recall, application to division and decimals. If your child is not yet confident with facts up to 12 x 12 then please aim to get these learnt by October half term. Regular practise on **Times Tables Rock Stars** really does make a difference.

Reading should also take place every evening, with regular recording of this in reading records (to be signed by an adult).

Children are also required to complete one **homework project** each half term (see separate sheet for details). These will link to our topic and/or science.

Homework is designed to be part of our home/school agreement, where children and parents work together to reinforce concepts learnt in class. In Years 5 and 6, homework is also important preparation for the expectations of secondary school. Following the Covid-19 closure, children should now be more used to working with some independence at home; giving the children plenty of time to do their homework allows them to prioritise and plan when they are going to do it. Should your child experience any difficulties with their homework, please remind them that we are always happy to help them in school before the submission deadline.

Seesaw Login Home Learning Codes

Your child's new login details for Seesaw are attached to this letter. Please **keep this safe** as your child will need to access Seesaw for their weekly English and maths homework. Seesaw will also be used to enable continuity of education in the event of a local outbreak or the need to isolate.

Read, Read, Read!

It is very important for all children to maintain regular reading throughout the year. In school regular guided reading sessions will take place and the children will also have opportunities to read independently. It is important that your child has his/her **reading book in school each day** as well as taking it home to **read every evening**. Please support your child by encouraging them to read independently as well as reading with them regularly and discussing their reading. Reading record books should be signed every day if possible. Children should be reading as widely as possible choosing books from a range of different genres and authors.

As you are probably aware, we have recently purchased lots of new books for class book corners and also the library. Below are some suggested titles for Years 5 and 6 which are all available in school. All children should aim to **read at least one book from the booklist below**, in addition to any other books they choose to read, this term.

Having regular access to a newspaper provides children with valuable reading practice as well as widening their knowledge of current affairs. **First News** is a newspaper written especially for children which they may enjoy reading.

Year 5 & 6 Reading List

The Wolves of Willoughby Chase	By Joan Aitken
Skellig	By David Almond
Carrie's War	By Nina Bawden
Coming to England	By Floella Benjamin
Cloud Busting	By Malorie Blackman
Artemis Fowl	By Eoin Colfer
Millions	By Frank Cottrell Boyce
How to Train Your Dragon	By Cressida Cowell
Moondial	By Helen Cresswell
Children of Winter	By Berlie Doherty
Coraline	By Neil Gaiman
Boy Overboard	By Morris Gleitzman
Once	By Morris Gleitzman
Mold and the Poison Plot	By Lorraine Gregory
To Be A Cat	By Matt Haig
Hoot	By Carl Hiaasen
I Am David	By Ann Holm
Journey to the River Sea	By Eva Ibbotson
The Nowhere Emporium	By Ross MacKenzie
A Monster Calls	By Patrick Ness
Truckers	By Terry Pratchett
The Invention of Hugo Cabret	By Brian Selznick
Marianne Dreams	By Catherine Storr
The Boy, The Bird and The Coffin Maker	By Matila Woods
The Road to Ever After	By Moira Young

Curriculum

Our theme this term is an **historical and geographical** based theme: **‘The Awesome Egyptians’**. We will be learning all about life in Ancient Egypt as well as developing our geographical skills and finding out about the Egypt today. Our work will also include other curriculum areas.

English: Texts linked to our Egyptian theme, Classic Fiction (including works by Charlotte Bronte and William Shakespeare), Discussion and Persuasion, Journalistic Reports and Poetry. We will be reading ‘Pig Heart Boy’ by Malorie Blackman as our class text. *Our focus throughout the term will be to ensure pupils get ‘back-on-track’ following Covid-19 closure.*

Maths: we will be following the National Curriculum, *prioritising key areas of learning to ensure that pupils are ‘back-on-track’ following Covid-19 closure.*

Science: Forces. The children will use their learning about forces when they design and make their Egyptian shaduf.

Design Technology: Egyptian shadufs.

Art: Pencil sketching (Egyptian artefacts)

French: Regular and irregular verbs and core vocabulary.

RE: What does it mean if God is holy and loving? (Christianity)

Computing: Coding

PSHE: Health and Well-being – *this will be particularly important to help ensure a happy and safe return to school for all children.*

PE: outdoor games e.g. football

Please see the school website to see our long-term plan showing planned curriculum coverage for the whole academic year.



Unfortunately, current government guidance advises against overnight trips. Our planned week in October is therefore not able to take place.

However, we have managed to secure an alternative booking with PGL so please put the dates 8th - 12th March in your diary. Please look out for further information shortly.

SATs

You are probably already aware that all Year 6 pupils are assessed via SATs during the summer term. Tests include Reading, Grammar, Spelling & Punctuation and Maths. Writing, Speaking & Listening and Science are assessed via teacher assessment. We will, of course, make sure that the children are fully prepared and given every opportunity to achieve their full potential. SATs will take place between:

Monday 10th May 2021– Thursday 14th May 2021

Further information about the tests and expectations will be shared with Year Six parents closer to the time.