



Aston St. Mary's Newsletter

Our value this half term is **Courage**

www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk

25th September 2020

Diary Dates

25th September: **Non-uniform Day**
£1 for Christmas raffle prizes

9th October: **Harvest festival (online service to be confirmed)**

14th and 15th October: **Parents Evening**

6th November: **Non-uniform Day**

11th November: **Remembrance Day Service (online service – to be confirmed)**

30th November: **Occasional day (school closed)**

1st December: **Christmas Decoration Day (children can wear Christmas jumpers)**

14th December: **Reward Day**

15th December: **Christmas Service (possibly online or in church – to be confirmed)**

16th December: **Christmas Dinner**

17th December: **Christmas Parties**

After just over three weeks back in school, it is great to see the progress that the children are making already. There is a real 'buzz' of learning around the school and it is great to see how quickly the children (and staff) have adapted to all the new routines. The whole staff team have been working incredibly hard to ensure we remain Covid-safe through regular cleaning of surfaces and equipment, supervision of children whilst they eat lunches in classrooms (KS2), enjoy distanced playtimes etc. Access from the school site via the one-way system has been improved by the installation of an additional gate into the car park. Thank you for your patience and support as we adapt and adjust to the 'new normal'.

Whilst we work hard in school to keep our community as safe as possible, it would be unrealistic to think that our school will be unaffected by the recent increase in cases; already several Hertfordshire schools have had to close to certain 'bubbles' for fourteen days. Should we find ourselves in this position in the future, then online home learning would resume using Seesaw and Tapestry - as it did in the summer term. Please make sure you keep your child's login details safe.

We hope that all our families will continue to follow current government rules in order to keep everyone as safe as possible. It is also important for the children to understand that everyone needs to work together and follow the rules if we are to avoid further restrictions and loss of life.

Wash Hands. Cover Face. Make Space and Stay Safe.

ACADEMIC YEAR 2020/2021

AUTUMN TERM

Thursday 3rd September 2020 to Friday 18th December 2020

HALF TERM Break - Monday 26th October 2020 to Friday 30th October 2020

Occasional Day (SCHOOL CLOSED) - Monday 30th November 2020

SPRING TERM

Tuesday 5th January 2021 to Friday 26th March 2021

HALF TERM Break - Monday 15th February 2021 to 19th February 2021

SUMMER TERM

Tuesday 13th April 2021 to Tuesday 20th July 2021

HALF TERM Break - Monday 31st May 2021 to Friday 4th June 2021

Bank Holiday (School Closed) - Monday 3rd May 2021

School Meals

To order school meals, please log onto your School Gateway account via the website or the app.

DINNER MONEY FEES

£2.70 per meal



Merits were awarded to:

Georgia, Phoebe, Jessica J, Ray, Mika,
Ava K, Joel, Leon, Nyah, Betsy,
Aiden O, Sophie, Vinnie, Poppy-Belle, Sebastian, Mia C, Poppy C,
Favian, Isabelle, Jessica D, Isla C,
Albert, Oscar, Ademidun,
Ethan H, Nathaniel, Mia A and Joshua



Shining Stars were awarded to:

Ali, Hettie, Georgia, Demi, Jessica D, Ellie, Amelia and Isabelle

A Thought to Share:

From Reverend Jenny

Sometimes the cares of the day seem to multiply while the blessings fade so quickly.

Our bodies grow tired and our minds even more tired.



*Heavenly Father,
Give us strength to take the next step.
Give us your grace in our weakness
to focus on what's good
and be good for others
Amen.*

God Our Shepherd

*God's wish,
He of all power,
Caring, loving, calming,
He forgives us, he watches over us,
Our Father.*

*Our purpose,
To serve our Lord,
Caring, loving, calming,
He fills our heart with joy and peace,
His children.*

By Harlee and Nathan (Danes)

This lovely poem was written during an RE lesson with Mrs Evans earlier this week. Well done boys – we are very proud of you both.

Notices

Free School Meals

Is your family struggling financially, perhaps due to the pandemic?

If you receive benefits, then your child may be entitled to free school meals. Even if your child currently receives universal free school meals (Reception – Year 2), it is still important to apply because as a school we will then receive funding which we can use to support your child in school. Please speak to Mrs Winwood if you have any queries about this.



Happy Bags Collection



Just a reminder that the next Happy Bag collection on Thursday 19th November.

Please leave your bags of clothing under the bike shelter by 9am the morning of Thursday 19th November. Please make sure the clothing is secure in plastic bags as Happy bags will not take any wet clothes.

A very big Thank You!



What a wonderful surprise it was to receive this generous donation of a bespoke outdoor kitchen made especially for us by The Project Squad, a local construction company based in Aston and owned by Pixie's dad. Pixie and her parents delivered it after school one day last week and Shackadell class have been enjoying it ever since. Earlier this week, it even became a potion table! This is a very generous gift for which we would like to express our sincere thanks to Pixie's parents – it will be enjoyed by the children of Aston St. Mary's for many years to come.

Thank you so much.

Notices



Our school pet, Miss Nellie, has been enjoying spending time in school this term. The children are amazing with her and she is getting used to lots of attention!

She has been out on the playground with Mrs Winwood before school on Wednesdays and Fridays and it is lovely that so many families enjoy meeting her at the beginning of the day. She is also taken on to the field during break and lunchtimes; she is allowed off her lead with Danes class, it is hard to know who ends up more worn out – the children or Miss Nellie!



Class News

Shackadell Class

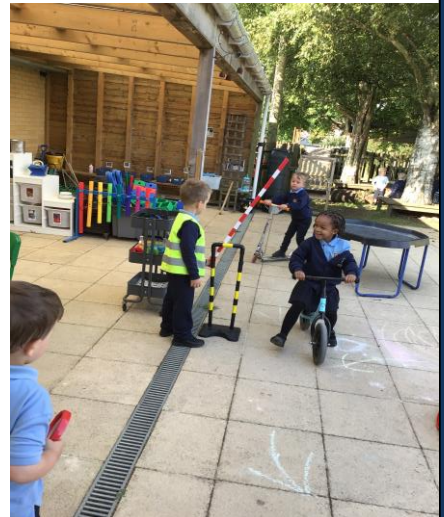
We have loved getting to know all the children in Shackadell this week and they have adapted so well to full time school!

The children have been exploring all areas of the indoor and outdoor classroom and have loved riding the bikes and scooters. We have even had some road traffic police officers monitoring their speed!

They have loved making birthday cards and sand cakes for Praise and Lilly this week who both turned five - we hope you both had a wonderful birthday girls!

Some of the children have been making Lego marble runs and some fantastic models.

Finally, a huge thank you to Pixie's very clever Daddy, who made us a beautiful kitchen for outside. As you can see, the children have already been thoroughly enjoying it!

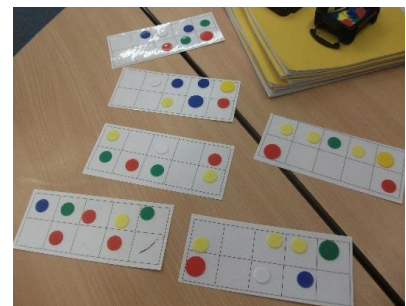


Class News

Peartree Class



We have been having a lot of fun in our learning. We have been making models of houses and recreated a street scene from The Great Fire of 1666. In maths we have been investigating numbers and have used mathematical models and everyday objects to show representations of them. In RE we are looking at creation and how Christians believed God made the world. As we enter into the season of Autumn we are learning about the changes that happen in nature and the changes we make to adjust to the different weather. We are also enjoying playing in our outside area.



Class News

Orchard Class



We have really enjoyed our learning in Orchard Class this week.

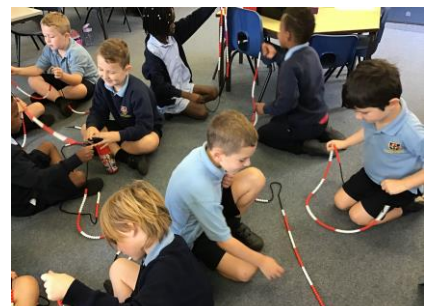
In English, we have been learning about traditional tales. All of our learning has been around the story of Little Red Riding Hood, and other versions of this traditional tale. We have been writing the story, as well as writing character and setting descriptions and comparing different versions of the story.

We have also been very interested in our new History topic about Joseph Lancaster. We have been learning about how the children in Hitchin used to live and we were surprised to find out how different it is to how children live now!

In RE, we have been learning about Diwali, the Hindu festival of light. We have been creating Rangoli patterns and diva lamps to experience how Hindus celebrate this festival. We loved making our diva lamps.

We have been enjoying our Maths, too. We have been learning about place value and using the tens and ones equipment and bead strings to help us with our learning.

We are looking forward to lots more exciting learning in our different lessons!



Class News

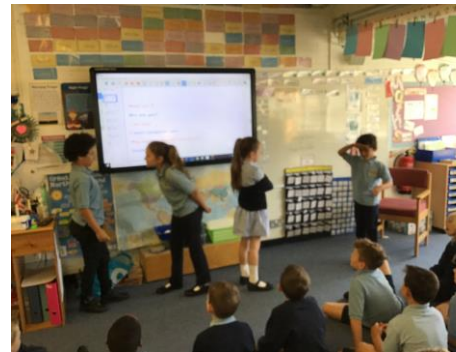
Haffydown Class



It has been a very busy first two weeks back in Haffydown and we have learnt so much already!

During our Maths lessons, we have been busy “reactivating” our prior knowledge and exploring place value of 2, 3 and 4 digit numbers. We have been representing numbers in different ways such as using dienes, digits, words and pictorially. We loved playing “Bankers Game” to help with our regrouping.

Our English text “Stone Age Boy”, has inspired us to start planning and writing own time travel stories. We spent a lesson using role play to explore what it feels like when two characters cannot understand each other. We had to rely on hand gestures, noises and facial expressions. We have also been learning about the different techniques the author uses to create suspense and will try to use them in our own stories.



In Science, Year 4 have been exploring the digestive system and the job of the different organs. We now know how all the organs work together like a machine to help us break down and digest our food.

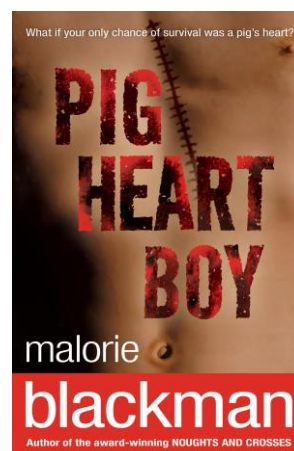
We have loved getting stuck into our Stone Age to Iron Age topic in history. Many children have been bringing in some fabulous home learning already such as these amazing models of Stone Henge. Later in the term, we will be investigating the mystery of Stone Henge and why it is there.



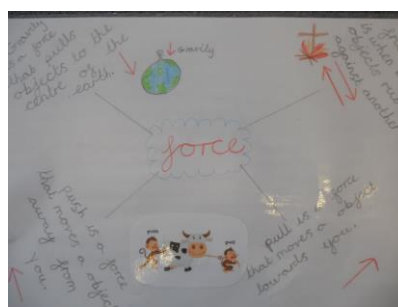
Class News

Danes Class

Danes class really have been very busy over the past couple of weeks and are already making great progress in their learning. In English, we are studying the novel 'Pig Heart Boy'; this has prompted much debate about the pros and cons of organ transplants – in particular xenotransplantation (not only do the children understand what this means, but many of them can also spell it!). Last Friday, they wrote some amazing persuasive arguments and this week they have taken part in a formal debate before writing a discussion text. This also allowed us to learn about how democracy works as we learnt about how issues are debated in Parliament.



In maths, we have been extending our understanding of place value to include very large numbers and decimals. We have enjoyed playing lots of games with dice and playing cards to help us to secure our understanding and develop our fluency. Regular work on Times Tables Rock Stars is helping the children to improve their speed and training level.



Learning is science this half term is all about forces. We have been using Newton meters and learnt all about the difference between weight, mass and gravity. We have been very impressed that some children have already bought in home learning projects to support their learning.



Our historical focus this term is Ancient Egypt; it's amazing how much the children know already. Last week, we located Egypt on world maps and then developed our atlas skills in order to make deductions about what the country is like. Once again, we are enjoying sharing the fantastic home learning projects.



Danes
enjoying lunch
together in
the classroom.

