



# Aston St. Mary's Newsletter

Our value this half term is **Courage**

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

9<sup>th</sup> October 2020

## Diary Dates

16<sup>th</sup> October: **Harvest festival**

14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> October: **Parents Evening**  
– **phone consultations**

19<sup>th</sup> October: **'Sweet or Treat' Day** –  
**please bring in a sweet jar and £1 by**  
**this date.**

20<sup>th</sup> October – **Nasal Flu Immunisations**

23<sup>rd</sup> October: **Non-uniform Day (£1).**  
**Children will pick up their 'Sweet or**  
**Treat' jars on this day.**

13<sup>th</sup> November: **Children in Need**

11<sup>th</sup> November: **Remembrance Day**  
**Service**

19<sup>th</sup> November: **Happy Bag Collection**

24<sup>th</sup> November: **Nasal Flu Immunisation**  
**(catch-up) session.**

30<sup>th</sup> November: **Occasional day (school**  
**closed)**

1<sup>st</sup> December: **Christmas Decoration Day**  
**(children can wear Christmas jumpers)**

4<sup>th</sup> December: **Non-uniform Day. Bring**  
**in a bottle or chocolate.**

14<sup>th</sup> December: **Reward Day and last day**  
**to bring in 'Jolly Jars'**

15<sup>th</sup> December: **Christmas Service**

16<sup>th</sup> December: **Christmas Dinner**

17<sup>th</sup> December: **Christmas Parties**

18<sup>th</sup> December: **Christmas Raffle**

After a beautiful start to the term, we now certainly know that autumn has arrived! Last weekend, as we were stuck indoors while the rain lashed down, it would have been easy to perhaps end up feeling a little gloomy. However, it also served as a reminder of how lucky we have been (especially early on in lockdown) to have enjoyed much dry weather in this challenging year. We have all been able to spend more time in the great outdoors and hopefully appreciate the wonders of our natural world.

Our children will be continuing to spend as much time outdoors as possible over the coming weeks so please make sure that they come to school with plenty of layers! Even the classrooms may not be as warm as usual as it is important that we keep windows open to maintain ventilation – so school jumpers are essential.

It has been an absolute pleasure to see so much learning going on across the school over recent weeks. All of the teachers have commented on how focussed and eager to learn the children are. Our very youngest children in Shackadell class have been simply amazing. They have now completed their first month in full time education and are coping brilliantly. We are so very proud of each and every one of them and are excited to see them grow and develop during their time at Aston St. Mary's.

There is lots of important information on this newsletter (including dates) so please read it carefully. You may notice that we have rearranged the date for our harvest celebration (now Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October). Further information was sent out earlier this week.

As the number of infections continues to rise, we are very grateful that it has not yet had a significant impact on our lovely school. We really do appreciate your support in keeping our whole school community as safe as possible. Whilst we all have to stick to the new 'rule of six', we need to focus on looking forward to a time in the future when rules can be relaxed because the virus is under control. By sticking to the rules, we will know that we played an important part in making this possible.

We wish all of our families a lovely weekend.

## ACADEMIC YEAR 2020/2021

### AUTUMN TERM

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020 to Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

HALF TERM Break - Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2020 to Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Occasional Day (SCHOOL CLOSED) - Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020

### SPRING TERM

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021 to Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

HALF TERM Break - Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021 to 19<sup>th</sup> February 2021

### SUMMER TERM

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2021 to Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

HALF TERM Break - Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021 to Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Bank Holiday (School Closed) - Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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**



### Nasal Flu Immunisations

Nasal flu immunisations will take place in school on:

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October**

Should any children be absent from school on the above date, they will receive their immunisation on:

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November**



**Merits** were awarded to:

Paris, Harry C, Saffiya, Daniel, Brody, Ethan H, Jayden, Mia A, Aidan S, Rosie, Cameron, Lilly-Anne, Isla L, Muctarr, Isadora, Archie, Jessica D, Leyla, Nathan, Jake, Amelia, Juan, Summer, Demi



**Shining Stars** were awarded to:

Ethan H, Nyah, Jayden O, Teddy, Jack B

### **A Thought to Share from Reverend Jenny:**

With the number of positive tests for the virus growing and dark, rainy, autumn days it's easy to feel bleak and powerless. So we pray:

Father, I place into Your hands,  
*The things I cannot do.*  
Father, I place into Your hands  
*The things that I've been through.*  
Father, I place into Your hands  
*The way that I should go,*  
*For I know I always can trust You.*

Father, I place into Your hands  
*My friends and family.*  
Father, I place into Your hands  
*The things that trouble me.*  
Father, I place into Your hands  
*The person I would be,*  
*For I know I always can trust You.*

# Notices



It is great to see lots of children continuing to use Times Table Rock Stars again this year to learn their multiplication facts. Year Two have been especially excited to receive their log ins, create their avatar and begin their journey to becoming a legendary times table rock star! It is an expectation within our homework policy that all children from Year Two and above, should be using Times Table Rock Stars as their maths homework. They should aim to practice around 4 times a week for about 10-15 minutes at a time. This little and often approach is proven to work best. Teachers will be monitoring their class usage and progress. If you have difficulty accessing Rock Stars from home for any reason, then please do let us know so we can put support in place. If you are new to Rock Stars or would like a reminder then please watch Miss Keen's video at <https://www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk/mathematics/>

## PTFA Fundraising

Please mark these dates on your calendars.

- **19<sup>th</sup> October** - 'Sweet or Treat' Day. Please bring in a sweet jar and £1 by this date.
- **23<sup>rd</sup> October** – non-uniform day for £1 donation. The children will also pick up their 'sweet or treat' jars on this day.
- **4<sup>th</sup> December** - non-uniform day. Bring in a bottle or chocolate.
- **14<sup>th</sup> December** – Please bring in a 'jolly jar' on this date.
- **18<sup>th</sup> December** – Christmas Raffle.

All proceeds go towards our Christmas fete Raffle prices.

Thanks  
Ade Fab

## Happy Bags Collection



Just a reminder that the next Happy Bag collection on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November.

Please leave your bags of clothing under the bike shelter by 9am the morning of Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November. Please keep your bags until closer to the date and then make sure the clothing is secure in plastic bags as Happy bags will not take any wet clothes.

# Notices

## Outdoor Clothing

The children will be continuing to spend their breaktimes and lunchtimes on the field in order to ensure that there is plenty of space for everyone and enable children to remain in their bubbles.

Please make sure that your child has suitable outdoor clothing – in particular footwear – as the field can get quite muddy. You might also wish to send in an extra pair of socks for your child to change into if necessary.

It is lovely to see the children enjoying playing on the field; we are so lucky to have such wonderful and extensive school grounds.



## PSHE

Personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education has always been an important part of our curriculum at Aston St. Mary's. This year the DfE has produced updated statutory guidance relating to the subject which includes:

- relationships education
- relationships and sex education
- health education

Please look out for further information in the coming week as we have prepared a presentation for parents – this will be available online and it is important that all parents access it. There will also be a short online survey for parents to complete having watched the presentation.

Thank you for your support with this.

## E-Safety



We would like to remind parents about the importance of keeping children safe online. During the pandemic, we have probably all been relying even more on online technology. For our children, spending more time at home can mean more time online and this could result in them being put at risk.

Please ensure that you know what your child is doing online and that this is age appropriate. It is becoming more and more common for children of all ages to use apps such as TikTok – this has an age restriction of 13+ years so should not be used by any of our children.

Please see the Herts for Learning 'Online Safety News' update which will be sent to all parents. Some useful weblinks for parents include:

<https://www.fosi.org/good-digital-parenting/what-families-need-know-about-tiktok/#:~:text=Age%20restriction%20on%20TikTok%20app%3A&text=Anyone%20under%20the%20age%20of,mature%20content%20and%20information%20settings>.

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/news/2020/may/online-safety-during-coronavirus>



# Class News

## Shackadell Class

In Shackadell, we have been exploring all things autumn!

We have been learning to mix some beautiful autumn colours, we have been finding out about different seasons and using descriptive language to describe autumn.

On Monday, we went for our Autumn walk and collected lots of lovely things including leaves, conkers, sweet chestnuts, acorns and pinecones. We've been enjoying using these in our play in the mud kitchen, the sensory tub and creating some fantastic transient art.

In maths, we have been learning to subitise (knowing an amount without counting) and have played lots of fun games to help us!

In phonics we have been focusing on rhyming, alliteration and oral segmenting and blending. We are getting very good at it now. We look forward to learning some sounds this week!



# Class News



## Peartree Class



Here is some of the learning that we have been doing in Peartree class over the last two weeks.

We are really enjoying our topic on The Great Fire of London. We have been learning why it spread so quickly and how they managed to finally stop the spread. We loved playing the interactive game where we were transported back to 1666 and had to help put out the fires using leather buckets and water squirts and, when that did not work, long hooks and gunpowder was used to bring down houses to make gaps in the tightly packed streets.



We have also been learning ball control skills in PE with Mr Nash.

In RE, we have been learning about what Christians believe about The Creation Story and how to appreciate all the things that are good. We got to use all our senses to appreciate some lovely fruits.





# Class News

## Orchard Class

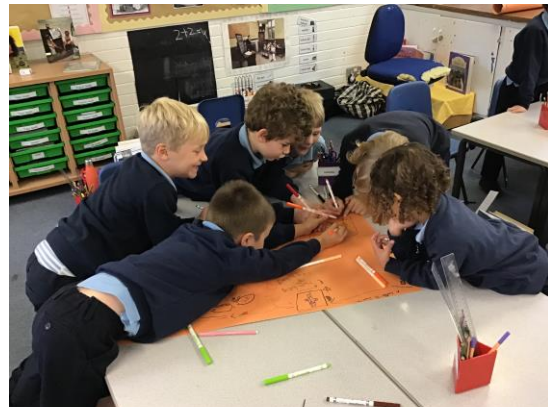
Over the last two weeks in Orchard Class we have been having a lot of fun learning so much!

In Maths, Year 3 have been ordering and comparing numbers, and counting on and back in ones, tens and hundreds. We have enjoyed completing our learning in this area. In Year 2, we have been learning about Place Value in 2-digit numbers. We have been representing numbers in different ways such as with money, using the base-10 equipment in the classroom and writing it as a calculation. We then used the money to play a game with our partners to see who could keep rolling the dice to add the 10p coins and 1p coins to get to the value of £1. It was great fun!

In English, we have just started a new unit of work all around the story Traction Man by Mini Grey. We have really enjoyed how the author has been clever and invented characters and superhero adventures around the house with everyday objects, it really made us laugh when we first read it! We worked as groups to create story maps of the story with labels and captions to help us remember the events of the story in chronological order. We will be using our story maps later this week to support us in writing descriptions and letters about Traction Man.

We have been enjoying our PE sessions with both Mr Nash and Mrs Merry, improving our Lacrosse skills! We are excited to begin Hockey sessions this week.

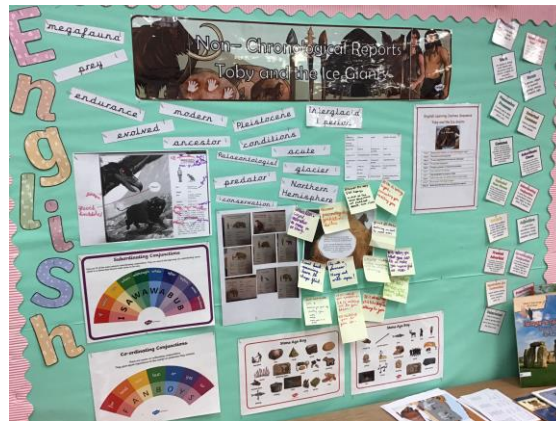
Our PSHE topic this half term has been all about keeping safe. We have been thinking about how we keep safe, and what objects in our house may be a hazard to children and what we can do to be safe around them. Last week, we worked in groups to create a role-play showing every day dangers around the house and how to prevent them, we then performed these to the rest of the class, and they had to guess which danger we had chosen to act out.



# Class News

## Haffydown Class

We have been working hard on our writing targets in Haffydown these last two weeks. We all wrote impressive stories based upon The Stone Age Boy. Many of us were able to build up suspense and use description to make our stories enjoyable. We have now started our new nonchronological report unit based on Toby and the Ice Giants. Would you have been brave enough to size up to a Smilodon? Could you have made friends with a mammoth? Our reports will include the answer to these questions and many more. We will be using conjunctions and comparative language to help us.



In science, Year Four enjoyed a rather unusual lesson investigating different types of animal poo! It wasn't real poo of course! Using the key, children identified which animal droppings belonged to which animal. We discovered that they were all vastly different due to their different diets and digestive systems!





# Class News

## Danes Class

Danes class have continued to work very hard over the past two weeks. In English, our focus has been Gothic literature. We have studied an extract from Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte. This is a challenging text and we have been focussing on how the author has built an atmosphere of fear using a range of techniques. The children enjoyed developing their 'performance reading' voices by reading the text aloud and filming each other. They uploaded these onto Seesaw enabling them to share their performances at home as well as in school. We have compared the text to film adaptations; many of the children decided that they preferred the text and offered the advice that people should always read a book before watching the film. This week, the children have been busy writing their own Gothic stories.

In maths last week, our focus was addition and subtraction. This included both mental and written strategies including some tricky reasoning problems. This week, we have moved onto exploring properties of number including: factors, multiples, square numbers and prime numbers. An interactive game on the nrich website proved to be a firm favourite: <https://nrich.maths.org/factorsandmultiples>



The children have been developing their investigative skills in science. They enjoyed planning and carrying out their own parachute investigations to explore air resistance.



In history, Danes class have enjoyed using our wonderful new timeline to understand the significance of the Ancient Egyptian civilization in the history of the world. They have also been developing their enquiry skills by interpreting Egyptian tomb paintings as a means of finding out about life in Ancient Egyptian times.

