



## Aston St. Mary's Newsletter

Our value this half term is Thankfulness

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

27<sup>th</sup> November 2020

### Diary Dates

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**

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**  
**Last Day of Term – 1pm finish**

5<sup>th</sup> January 2021: **Children return to school**

It is hard to believe that we are now approaching the end of November and that next week will see the beginning of our Christmas celebrations in school. On Tuesday, the children can come to school in their **Christmas jumpers** and will enjoy a day of making Christmas decorations to decorate their classrooms. Danes class will decorate the Christmas tree with our usual ceremony; this will be recorded and shared with all the classes. **Please read carefully the important information later in this letter relating to Christmas cards and Christmas parties**; we are doing all we can to ensure the children don't miss out on the fun and excitement of the Christmas season but we do need your support.

Thank you to all the many parents who returned our recent questionnaire. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive with 100% of parents stating that they would recommend the school. It is great to know that families felt so well supported during the period of closure. Teachers did work incredibly hard to set and respond to the home learning and it is good to know that this support was well-received. We certainly find ourselves in a much stronger position than many other schools in terms of getting the children back-on-track with their learning this term. We have said it before but thank you again for working so effectively with us to enable your children to make the best possible progress.

As we come out of lockdown next week, please remember the importance of continuing to follow government guidance in order to keep the whole community as safe as possible and, hopefully, to enable families to spend some time together over Christmas.



## 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**



### A Prayer from Reverend Jenny:

Heavenly Lord,  
You long for the world's salvation:  
stir us from apathy,  
restrain us from excess  
and revive in us new hope  
that all creation will one day be  
healed  
in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.



**Merits** were awarded to:

Aiden O, Ava K, Vinnie, Jack C, Isla L. ,  
Isadora, Jessica D, Leyla, Albert,  
Amelia, Primrose, Willow, Saffiya,  
Paris, Liam, Brody, Daniel, Ethan H,  
Finn, Mia A, Joshua, Darcie



**Shining Stars** were awarded to:

Lily S, Sebastian, Joleon,  
Mia A, Niamh, Aiden O

A huge well done to all the children who took part in Times Table Rock Stars – The Battle of the Bands last week. It was wonderful to see so many children from Year 2 to Year 6 taking part and contributing to their team's battle points total.



The results were as follows:

4th place = Rowling 10 house points

3rd place = Churchill 20 house points

2nd place = Hawking 30 house points

**1st place= Seacole 50 house points**

Certificates have been awarded to individuals from each year group and each house who contributed the most towards their team's overall total.

# Notices

**Please note this important message which schools have been asked to share with all parents.**

***Police have received reports of lack of social distancing and complacency around face coverings at school drop off and pick up times.***

*We all have a responsibility to take steps in helping reduce the spread of coronavirus. With this in mind, all families are required (unless exempt) to adhere to the following points to ensure a safe arrival and departure at school for all involved:*

- *Only one parent or guardian should drop off and pick up their child/children to reduce numbers outside school*
- *Stay 2 metres apart from anyone not in your household*
- *Refrain from lengthy face-to-face conversation with staff or other families; use digital communication methods during lockdown*
- *Go straight home after dropping and/or collecting your child/children*
- *Consider wearing a face covering during pick up and drop off*

***Thank you for your support and understanding – together we will slow the spread of COVID-19 and save more lives.***



## Christmas Cards

We need to ensure that the exchange of Christmas cards between children is Covid-safe.

As usual, post boxes for each class will be available in the school hall. Children will be able to post their cards with permission from an adult at a suitable time. No Christmas cards should be exchanged by handing them directly to the recipient (please make sure your children are aware of this).

The class post boxes will open on **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December** and close on **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December**. Cards should not be bought into school after this date. All cards will then be delivered on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December, after quarantine.

***Christmas Party***

Class Christmas Parties  
- Party Food

Usually, parents kindly provide donations of party food for our Christmas parties. This year party food will be provided by school in individual bags.

*Donations towards the cost would be greatly appreciated. Please hand these to the class teacher by Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December.*

*Thank you.*

# Notices



Thank you for your generous donations to Children in Need. We raised £200 towards the national appeal – a fantastic amount from our small school!



## Poppy Appeal

Thank you for giving so generously to the Poppy appeal; we raised £245.25. Another amazing total.

## Photographers in School

Unfortunately, we will not be able to have photographers in school until further notice.



## ASTON GRAND CHRISTMAS DRAW

Please sell as many tickets as you can for our Christmas Raffle as this is the only fundraiser we are able to do at the moment.

Each child was given three books of tickets to take home; if you need more, please ask at the office. The raffle will be drawn on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December.

**1<sup>st</sup> Prize: £250 Cash**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Amazon Fire Tablet**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: Luxury Hamper**

**Plus many other amazing prizes**

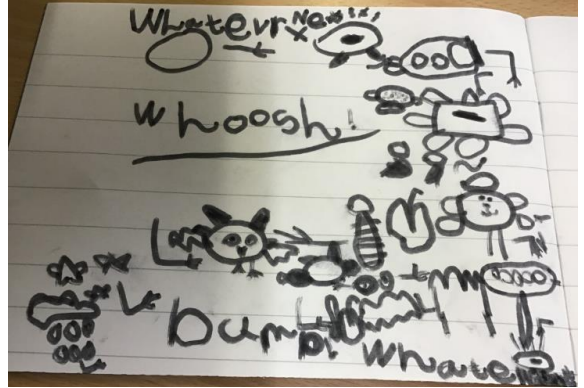
**£1 per ticket**



# Class News

## Shackadell Class

We were very excited to be learning all about the Hindu festival 'Diwali' this week. As well as learning about the story of 'Rama and Sita', we also made our own diva lamps, Diwali cards and Rangoli patterns.



We also began learning about space. We started off learning the story 'Whatever Next'. We created story maps, sequenced pictures and acted it out. The children also enjoyed creating star constellations using stones on the playground and making rockets during their child-initiated learning.



In Maths, we have been looking at repeating patterns and using lots of different resources to create our own patterns.



# Class News

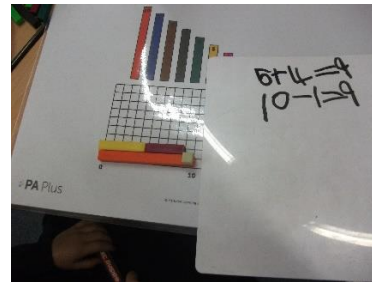
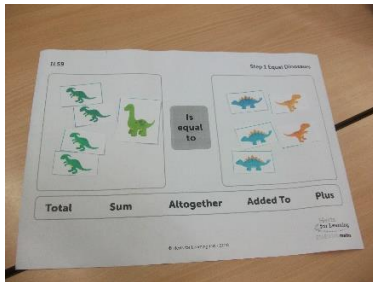
## Peartree Class

What a busy time we have been having these last two weeks!

For Remembrance week, we had a video message from Major Goodfellow who is serving in the Army and is currently on military operations in Afghanistan. We all wrote letters to him.



In maths, we have been looking at different ways of representing the same number. We used lots of different maths equipment to investigate this.



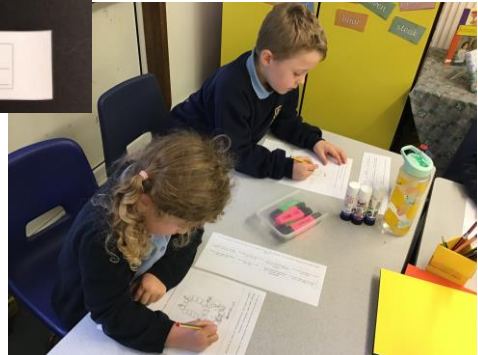
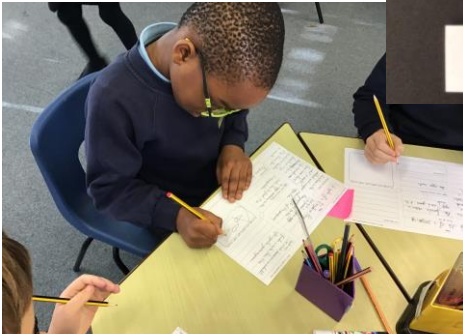
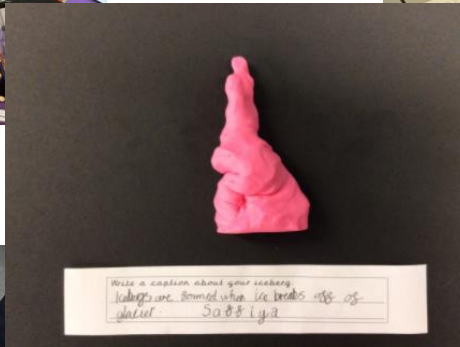
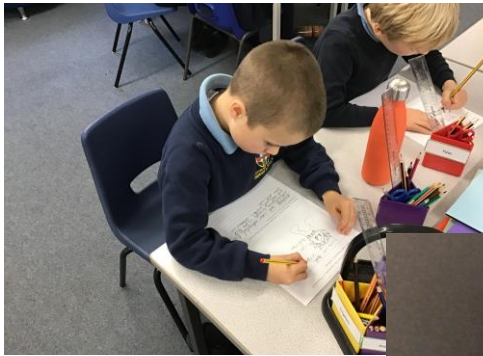
We also have been learning about how germs are spread and the importance of washing our hands regularly. We used baby oil and glitter (to represent germs) and discovered the only way to clean all of the 'germs' off was to use soap and warm water.





# Class News

## Orchard Class



What a fantastic few weeks of learning we have had in Orchard class.

We are absolutely loving our current Geography topic 'Antarctica'. It is lovely to see the children so fascinated about their learning.

We have been learning about icebergs and how they are formed, last week we used play dough to create our own icebergs and write captions to show our understanding of how icebergs are formed. If you haven't had a chance to see our work on this which was posted on Seesaw – do be sure to check it out! This week we have been learning all about the animals that live in the Antarctic and how they have had to adapt to their environment. We also designed our own Antarctic animals and wrote about how they have adapted.

In English, we have been learning about explanation texts, looking at the life cycle of a penguin. We have loved learning about the journey of a penguin from egg to adult, from looking at different texts and watching videos about this; this has really inspired us in our writing. This week, we will be writing our own texts explaining the penguin life cycle.

What fun we have had in our PE sessions with Mr Nash and Mrs Merry too! Our lessons have been all about orienteering and map skills, and we have been learning how to read a map to find different clues around the school. This has helped develop our problem-solving skills and we have also worked incredibly well in teams, too.

Year 3 have been enjoying their Science lessons with Mrs Evans all about Forces. Year 2 have been learning all about Materials and last week investigated which materials would be most suitable to make Paddington Bear's coat and hat waterproof!

# Class News

## Haffydown Class

Haffydown were very excited this week to start their first lesson of forest school with Mrs Skull. They began by identifying any potential hazards and talking about how they can keep themselves and others safe during forest school lessons.

The main focus of the lesson was Shinrin-Yoku, which translates into English as 'forest bathing', meaning taking in the forest atmosphere. Children were encouraged to look more closely at leaves or notice the sensation of the path beneath their feet or the bark on a tree. They found a comfy spot to take a seat and listen to the sounds around them. They considered how the behaviour of the birds and other animals changed when they become used to their presence. They focused on all the different sounds they could hear by "hearing like a deer" and cupping their ears. They took in all the different smells by "smelling like a rabbit". It was a very relaxing experience which is great for children's emotional well-being.

Lastly, everyone chose their favourite five leaves and stacked them in size order. They held them together using a split pin. Mrs Skull has created a display of these as when they dry and shrivel up, they will look like leaf flowers.

We can't wait to see what Mrs Skull has planned for next time!

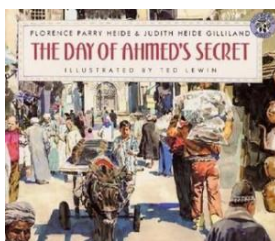




# Class News

## Danes Class

In Danes, we enjoyed a whole day of Design and Technology last week. We spent the day designing, creating and testing shadufs inspired by our 'Awesome Egyptians' topic. Our project also allowed us to apply our knowledge of levers from our previous Science topic. We enjoyed working in groups to create our shadufs and were very proud that they were able to successfully scoop up water.



We have continued to enjoy looking at texts linked to our Egyptian's topic in our English lessons. We were fascinated by 'The Day of Ahmed's Secret', a beautifully illustrated book that taught us about the life of a young boy living in modern-day Cairo. We were amazed to find out how his life differed from our own. This week we are learning to be journalists – we are enjoying reports in 'The Egyptian Echo'.



In Maths, we are working hard to become experts with fractions. We are now able to find equivalent fractions, simplify fractions and convert between improper fractions and mixed numbers. We have also learnt to add and subtract fractions with different denominators.

# PLAY YOUR PART

## What is self-isolation?

Self-isolation means that you must not leave your home except in an emergency

### Do not:

- X** visit family or friends
- X** go to any shops or supermarkets
- X** go outside to exercise or walk your dog
- X** go to work, university, college or school
- X** use public transport, taxis or share a car
- X** attend parties or other events, even if these are outside

If you are worried about your finances or emotional wellbeing, struggling with shopping or feeling isolated then help is available to you through HertsHelp, our countywide information advice and support line:

Email:  
[info@hertshelp.net](mailto:info@hertshelp.net)

Telephone:  
**0300 123 4044**

Or visit:  
[www.hertshelp.net](http://www.hertshelp.net)



### When should I self-isolate and how long for?

	Days
If you develop symptoms (a fever, new cough or loss of taste or sense of smell)	10
If you test positive for COVID-19	10
If you've been told you're in close contact with someone who has tested positive	14
If you have been contacted by the Test and Trace service	14
If you live in a household where others (including children) develop symptoms or they have tested positive	14
If you have been sent home and told to self-isolate as part of a bubble. Other household members do not need to self-isolate unless someone in the household develops symptoms or tests positive	14

If you develop symptoms, book a test at [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk) or call 119

