



Aston St. Mary's Newsletter



Our value this half term is **Thankfulness**

www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk

11th December 2020

Diary Dates

14th December: **Reward Day**

16th December: **Christmas Dinner**

17th December: **Christmas Parties**

18th December: **Christmas Raffle**
Last Day of Term – 1pm finish

5th January 2021: **Children return to school**

12th January: **Christingle Service**

1st-5th February: **'Express Yourself'**
Mental Health/Wellbeing Week

15th – 19th February: **HALF TERM**

26th March: **Last Day of Term – 1pm finish**

12th April: **INSET Day**

13th April: **Children return to school**

w/b 10th May: **Year 6 SATs assessments**

24th- 28th May: **Danes Class PGL Residential**

31st May – 4th June: **HALF TERM**

20th July: **Last Day of Term – 1pm finish**

It is hard to believe that next week is the final week of term. Despite being a very long term, and September feeling like a long time ago, the weeks just seem to have flown by! It has certainly been a term unlike any other – and, indeed, a year unlike any other too. With the vaccination programme now underway, we hope and pray that life can get back to some sort of normality in 2021. At school, the pandemic has certainly provided us with many challenges but we are proud of how our whole community has pulled together and adapted in order to allow us to focus on our number one priority: the children! They have been simply amazing; it is just wonderful to see them so happy in school learning alongside their friends. Attendance has remained consistently high throughout the term which we know is the key factor in ensuring that good progress is made. We would like to thank all of our families who have given up so much to follow the government rules in order to keep us all safe.

Thank you for your support earlier this week when we were without heating; we were anxious not to close the school after such a challenging year. The children came in wrapped up warm and the heaters loaned by so many families were greatly appreciated.

Next week is an exciting week of Christmas celebrations at school. On Monday, the children will enjoy their end of term Reward Day (see further information below). Shackadell class have been working hard on their Christmas nativity play which we would usually have enjoyed in church – this year this will be shared electronically next week. Wednesday is Christmas lunch day followed by class Christmas parties on Thursday. Please remember that term finishes at 1:00pm on Friday.

As this is our final newsletter of the term, we would like to wish all our families and very happy and safe Christmas. We look forward to welcoming the children back into school in the new year.

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:

Willow, Ademidun, Nathaniel K, Ella, Isabelle, Finlay, Juan, Charlie, Benji, Ellie, Kacie, Tabi, Favian, Isla, Demi, Anouska, Lily-Anne, Cameron, Poppy-Belle, Toby



Shining Stars were awarded to:

Daniel, Brody, Teddy

A Prayer from Reverend Jenny:

O Lord our God,

Make us watchful and keep us faithful
as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;
that, when he shall appear,
he may not find us sleeping in sin
but active in his service
and joyful in his praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen



Notices

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY

Miss Nellie is 1 today!



Gosh, look how she has grown!



Notices

Reward Day – Monday 14th December

At Aston St. Mary's we like to recognise and reward our many children who display our Christian values by being well-behaved and kind each and every day. In some schools, these children go unnoticed while others, whose behaviour is not so good, get rewarded when they do make the right choices.

In addition to our house points, merits and shining stars, all children at Aston St. Mary's have the opportunity to enjoy a whole day of fun-filled activities (often including sessions with Rising Stars) towards the end of each term. Should any children make poor choices during the term, then they are given the opportunity to reflect upon their behaviour during reward day whilst their peers enjoy a range of different activities. The duration of this reflection time varies depending upon the particular circumstances. The behaviour of our children is a real strength of our school and we are delighted that this term we have fewer children than ever needing to 'reflect' during reward day.

Well done everyone!



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 18th December.

1st Prize: £250 Cash

2nd Prize: Amazon Fire Tablet

3rd Prize: Luxury Hamper

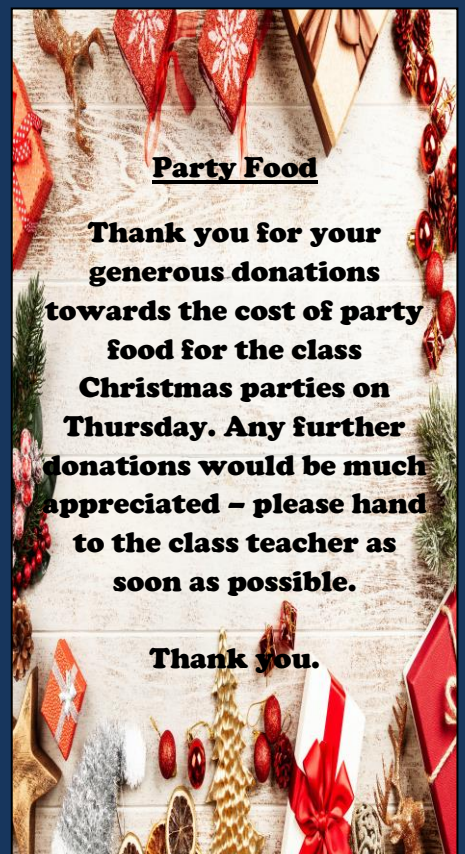
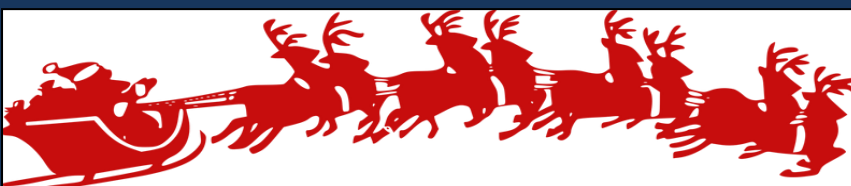
Plus many other amazing prizes

£1 per ticket

Party Food

Thank you for your generous donations towards the cost of party food for the class Christmas parties on Thursday. Any further donations would be much appreciated – please hand to the class teacher as soon as possible.

Thank you.



Class News

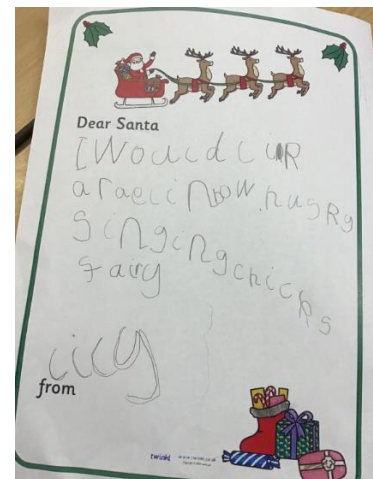
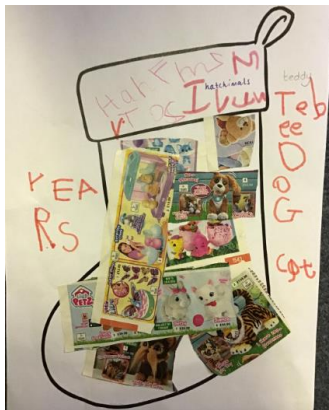
Shackadell Class

December is always such a magical time in Shackadell. The classroom is filled with excitement, Christmas spirit and a lot of glitter!

These last couple of weeks, we have been busy working hard preparing for our Nativity show and we can't wait for you all to watch it online soon. The children have loved learning about the true meaning of Christmas through the Nativity story.



Naturally, there has also been lots of talk about gifts and a very special visitor on Christmas Eve, so the children have all written their letter to Father Christmas this week. (I have heard from the 'Head Elf' that the children in Shackadell are all on the good list!)



It has been an absolute pleasure teaching the children this term, they have settled so well into school life and are already making so much progress - we are all so very proud of them!

We would all like to wish all our families a very Merry Christmas and a happy new year!



Class News

Peartree Class

Well, we have finally made it through this term and are looking forward to our Christmas festivities next week.



We have been learning about primary and secondary colours in art and we created some Mondrian style artwork thinking about shapes and lines.



In Science, we have been learning about how the weather changes throughout the year. We liked the 'Predicting Stone' but realised we would need to measure the weather in more accurate ways. We made rain gauges, anemometers, weathervanes and even a thermometer.



We were extremely busy during Decoration Day; we made paper chains, decorated the Christmas tree, made party hats and place mats for Christmas dinner. We also made Christmas baubles, snowflakes and cards.



Class News

Orchard Class

I cannot believe we are already approaching the end of this term! It has been a wonderful few months getting to know all of the children in Orchard. Miss Branagan, Mrs Davies and I are so proud of Orchard Class and all the fantastic learning they have been doing throughout the Autumn term, they have worked so incredibly hard in all of their lessons.

We began the school year with our History topic about Joseph Lancaster which the children loved, and we are now coming to the end of our Antarctica topic and it has been wonderful to see the children so engaged in their learning. They have loved learning about it - from finding out about icebergs to writing their own explanation texts all about the life cycle of an Emperor Penguin.

They have produced some fantastic work. Thank you so much to you all for the support you have given the children in their home learning too.

Last Tuesday, we returned to school after a long weekend to a fun-filled decoration day. All of the children were so excited to create lots of wonderful things to hang in the classroom to get us into the festive spirit.

We also had a Design and Technology day on Monday, designing and making our own fabric Christmas tree decorations. Everyone worked really hard in creating their designs and were so excited to hang them on their Christmas trees at home! We are particularly proud of how hard each of the children worked on the sewing of their trees.



In the new year, we have lots of new exciting learning to look forward to. In our Geography topic we are going to be learning all about rainforests. We are excited to start learning about the climates, plants and animals in these environments.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in the new year!

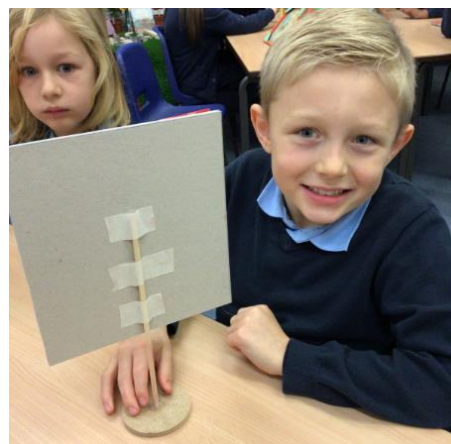


Class News

Haffydown Class

It has been a very busy half term in Haffydown, and it is amazing how much learning we have managed to fit into a few short weeks! The children wrote some magical portal stories based around the book 'Leon and the Place Between'. They used descriptive devices to build up suspense and atmosphere. In Maths, we have been learning about multiplication and how this relates to division. We enjoyed playing lots of games such as "mystery array" and "factor mining" in order to secure our understanding. Please ensure children continue to play on Times Table Rock Stars over the holidays, as multiplication facts are crucial to so many other areas of Maths. In Science, Year 3 have been investigating forces and especially enjoyed testing out friction. Year 4 have been learning about sound and were fascinated to discover how a string telephone works with vibrations.

Last week, we were being creative with our two Design and Technology mornings. Using the design brief, we designed and made our own photo frames. We had to think about how to make our final products strong and stable. Making our prototypes enabled us to investigate how to make the structures free standing using different methods. We used lots of skills to make our final products including sawing, drilling, gluing and painting. We think you will agree that our finished products look very professional and we were so proud to take them home.





Class News



Danes Class

Despite being a long term, the weeks have simply flown by! We are immensely proud of how hard Danes class have worked this term and of the progress they have made. It has been wonderful to welcome the Year Five children into the class and to see them rise to the challenges of being in Upper Key Stage Two. Year Six have been amazing too, they have been preparing and presenting weekly assemblies for the whole school to enjoy remotely as well as working really hard to help ensure they make as much progress in their learning as possible in order to prepare them for secondary school. Weekly Maths and English homework has been set via Seesaw for both year groups and we have delighted by how promptly and reliably this is completed. Well done Danes!

We have enjoyed a whole term learning about the Ancient Egyptian Civilization; whilst the main focus has been historical, this has also incorporated many other curriculum areas including Art, DT and Geography. We would love to have been able to include a trip to The British Museum in order to visit the Egyptian galleries and see the Rosetta Stone – this would make a great family day out once it is safe to do so.



In science, we began the term learning about Forces. This included lots of practical investigations into different forces including friction, gravity, air resistance and water resistance. We also learnt how pulleys and levers can be used to reduce the effect of forces. In recent weeks, we have been learning about how humans change and develop from birth to old age with a particular focus on changes during puberty. Year Six have also learnt about human reproduction.

Next term, we will be enjoying a geographical focus – our topic will be called ‘Everyone’s Earth’ and will include learning about the Earth’s resources, trade and economics. In Science, we will be learning about the Earth in Space. We also have an exciting DT project planned – the children will be making moon buggies.



Danes class had lots of fun on Decoration Day making the classroom look festive for the final three weeks of term.

We would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a relaxing break.

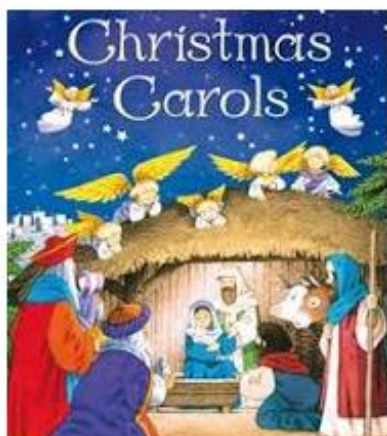


We enjoyed preparing our performance of ‘Down Along the Nile’. Please scan the QR code to listen.



Please enjoy listening to Jessica’s beautiful performance on the piano →





From Rev Jenny

From Monday 14th December 2020

until Epiphany 6th January 2021

ASTON CHRISTMAS CAROL TRAIL ...

Find **8 posters** on posts in St Mary's Churchyard that tell the Christmas story. Use the **QR code** to listen to a Christmas Carol.

'CHRISTMAS ROCKS' PAINT a flat stone with a star, baby in a manger, sheep, king etc to



leave outside. **LOOK OUT** for 'Christmas Rocks' and **MOVE** them around your village. Remember to **SANITISE** your hands each time you move a 'Christmas Rock'. **BRING** all the Christmas Rocks to the **CHURCH** porch by **Christmas Eve 24th December**. Stones will be displayed until 6th January 12th Night (Epiphany). Each Church will pack their 'Christmas Rocks' away ready to **DISPLAY** again **NEXT** Christmas. **SEND** photos of your Christmas Rocks to Rev Jenny jennygrayrectory@gmail.com

20th December 2-4pm

Christmas Gifts with music

Please bring items for

Feed up Warm up

or

Donate to our

Christmas Charities

Please wear a mask

Each week there is an online service from our benefice. There will also be online Christmas services. Please check 'achurchnearyou/aston' or email wardenstmarys@gmail.com for information.

Hot noodles
Semi skimmed UHT milk
Baked beans / with ring p
Small bottles of water
Tea bags
Small jars coffee
Tinned meat (with ring p
Tinned fruit (with ring p
Toilet rolls
Shower gel
For a full list look at the
Feed up Warm up web