



## Aston St. Mary's Newsletter

Our value this half term is Happiness

[www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk](http://www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk) 29th January 2021

**STAY HOME. PROTECT THE NHS. SAVE LIVES.**

What a month January has been! As we move into February, we have to hope that the lockdown restrictions combined with the immunisation programme will help us to begin to get the virus under control. Hopefully, the snow last weekend provided a welcome distraction and enabled lots of our families to get outside and have some fun. We certainly enjoyed all the photos posted on Tapestry and Seesaw – all showing happy smiling faces whilst building snowmen and sledging. We would like to pass on to all our families how amazed and incredibly impressed we are by the children's level of engagement with their remote learning; we know that supporting your children in this way at home can prove extremely challenging. You will be able to read on the class pages about the range of teaching and learning that has been going on across the school. There are also some wonderful photos of some of the outcomes produced by the children. Last week, you will have received details of our remote learning provision – this document is now published on our school website. Whilst we would obviously prefer the children to be receiving their education in school, we are proud that all classes are continuing to receive our full curriculum offer. With such high levels of engagement, we are confident that the vast majority of children are continuing to progress in their learning. We can not thank you enough for continuing to work with us during these challenging times in order to ensure the best possible outcomes for your children.

Please remember that we are here to offer help and support in whatever way we can. It is lovely that so many children are borrowing reading books from school (please email Mrs Branagan: [mrsbranagan@astonmarys.herts.sch.uk](mailto:mrsbranagan@astonmarys.herts.sch.uk) should you wish to collect some books for your child). We are also very happy to provide exercise books or any other resources that might help to support your child's learning at home.

Also in this newsletter, you will find a Forest School update from Mrs Skull. We are very lucky to have our very own forest school at Aston as well as such an enthusiastic and dedicated forest school leader – thank you Mrs Skull. Being in the great outdoors is essential for wellbeing as well as developing the children's knowledge and understanding of the natural world. We hope the weblinks provided may offer some additional ideas for outdoor activities that you may enjoy with your child.

We hope that you all have a lovely weekend.

Please take care, follow the government guidance and remember:

**STAY HOME. PROTECT THE NHS. SAVE LIVES.**

Should you need to contact us, for whatever reason, please use the temporary email address:  
**[closed@astonmarys.herts.sch.uk](mailto:closed@astonmarys.herts.sch.uk)**

# FOREST SCHOOL

Hi everyone,

I hope you are all well and enjoying your home learning. I've been amazed at the amount of work you are all sending in! We are all missing you very much.

I especially miss our Forest School sessions and some people have asked for some Forest School type activities that you can do at home when you do your daily exercise or in your gardens. I have listed below some fantastic web sites where I get a lot of my ideas from for our activities. Many are linked to the curriculum and are great fun!

Please post any photos of any of the activities you do on seesaw or tapestry and your teachers can show me what you have been up to. The RSPB's bird watch is coming up so it would be great to see what birds you see in your gardens. You can download a special bird watch pack from the RSPB web site which has lots of information on it.

Remember the main rule of Forest School is to have fun so make sure you enjoy any time you spend outside. We hope to see you all soon!

Best wishes and KEEP SAFE

Mrs Skull (Forest School Leader)

Wildlife Watch (The Wildlife Trusts)

[www.wildlifewatch.org.uk](http://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk)

Forestry England (scroll to the bottom of the page and click on educational resources)

[www.forestryengland.uk](http://www.forestryengland.uk)

Rspb Wild Challenges and bird watch

[www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk)

[www.rspbwildchallenge](http://www.rspbwildchallenge)

Woodland trust- Nature Detectives. (We are currently taking part in the Green Tree Awards and are working towards our Silver Award.)

[www.woodlandtrust.org.uk](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk) Nature Detectives



This half term, our school value is happiness. What does happiness mean to you? It will mean different things for different people. This week, I expect you have experienced some happiness in the snow, building snowmen and having snowball fights!

The Bible says: **'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.'** Romans 15 v 13

Think about what brings you joy. It is really important that we continue to do things that make us feel happy. Plan something this weekend that you know will bring you happiness. We would love to see pictures of your 'happy activities' on Seesaw and Tapestry. Show us what brings you joy!



### A thought from Reverend Jenny

**Jesus was surrounded by crowds of ordinary people seeking his help and regularly invited to meals and parties in people's homes. Wherever he went, he brought joy and celebration. His presence always had the effect of turning the dull water of life into the fresh new wine of the Kingdom of God. It happened in Galilee 2000 years ago.**

**His presence still gladdens, enriches and changes the lives of all who come to him today.**





# Shackadell Class

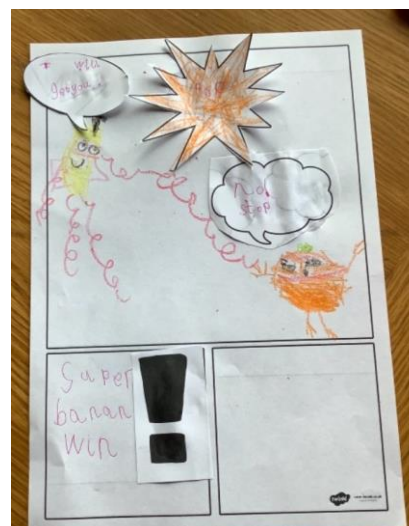
In phonics, we have started phase 3 which means we have started learning lots of new digraphs, these have two letters but they still only make one sound. We have already learnt ch, sh, th and ng and this week we learnt the vowel sounds ai, ee, igh, oa. The children have been having lots of fun in their phonics lessons including dancing with king frog, searching for sounds in the dark, making tricky word car parks and helping Farmer Lale sort her chicken's eggs!



In maths, we have been comparing numbers and amounts using multilink. The children have been measuring length, capacity and timing things and then comparing using the words less, more and equal. We can make towers to represent our numbers and then find the difference.



In topic, we have been learning all about superheroes. We started off thinking about what superheroes are like. Next, we listened to Supertato and made our own super veggies. This week, the children have been making some amazing comic strips about their superheroes. They had to include captions, speech bubbles and sound effects.



# Peartree Class

Hi Peartree,

Thank you again for all the amazing work you are all doing in or out of school.

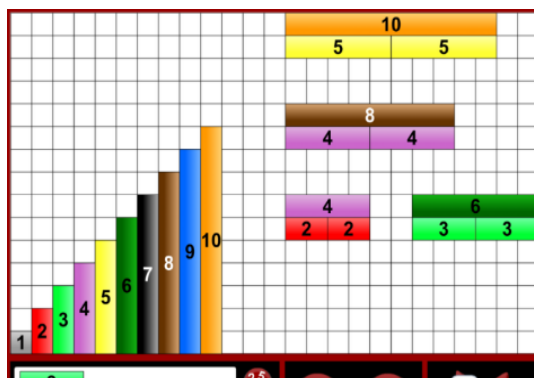
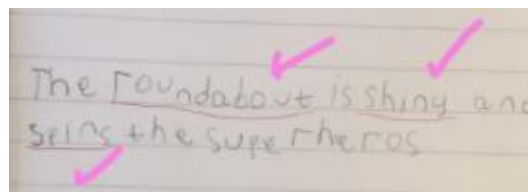
In English, we are looking at nouns, adjectives and verbs and how to use them to make our writing more interesting.

In PSHE, we are learning all about the different ways there are to pay for different items. We have been learning about all the different jobs there are and have been role playing them in order to get our wages.

In Maths, we have been learning about halving and doubling and in topic we learned that there were a lot of amazing things that happened during Queen Victoria's reign such as the first FA cup match and the invention of ice cream.

Keep up the fantastic work and keep safe.

Mrs Baker, Mrs Goodfellow and Miss Heritage ♡





# Orchard Class

Wow, what a strange few weeks it has been! What has been so amazing is how incredibly well all of Orchard class have been doing with their remote learning. They have been working so hard and we have absolutely loved seeing the fantastic work they are producing. However, none of the above can be said without also saying a huge THANK YOU to all of you wonderful parents for supporting your children at home, you are all doing an incredible job and we are so very grateful for how brilliantly you are supporting them with their learning.

Over the last few weeks, our English learning was based around the book 'The Tunnel' by Anthony Browne. We compared characters and wrote descriptive sentences using verbs, adverbs and adjectives. In the final week, we wrote our own stories about what we thought might have happened to Jack in the forest; we loved reading the children's stories! This week we began our new book 'There's a Rangan in my bedroom', it has been brilliant seeing how much the children have been enjoying this book. They have been making predictions about the text and reading it using their performance voices. They have been doing some fantastic topic work about rainforests too, we particularly enjoyed watching the children's videos last week acting as weather reporters in the rainforest as well as reading postcards they had written from the rainforest!



$1 \square \times 3 = 42$ $10 \times 3 = 30$ $42 - 30 = 12$ $4 \times 3 = 12$ $14 \times 3 = 42$ ✓	$\square 3 \times 4 = 92$ $3 \times 4 = 12$ $92 - 12 = 80$ $20 \times 4 = 80$ $23 \times 4 = 92$ ✓	$1 \square \times 5 = 85$ $10 \times 5 = 50$ $85 - 50 = 35$ $7 \times 5 = 35$ $17 \times 5 = 85$ ✓
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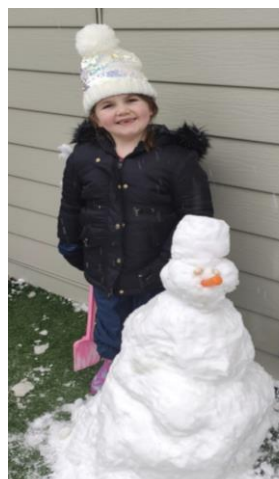
Brilliant explanation of how you got to the answer.  
This is amazing work as it was a difficult challenge

In Maths, Year 2 have been learning about shape. They have been playing games to describe shapes and their properties, going on shape hunts and sorting shapes. Year 3 have been learning about bar charts and tables, they have been drawing information onto bar charts and finding information from these too. We have been so impressed with all of the children and have loved seeing their learning.



It also put a huge smile on our faces to see some lovely photos of children enjoying the snow we had at the weekend. It was great to see everyone having so much fun out on walks and building snowmen. Have a lovely week and keep up the fantastic learning!

Mrs Merry, Miss Branagan and Mrs Davies



# Haffydown Class

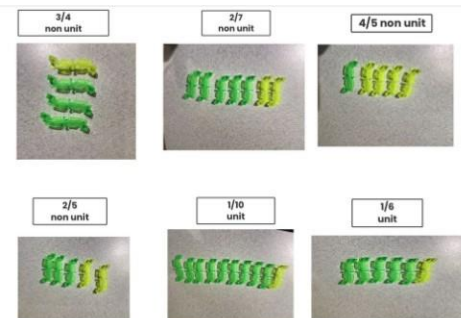
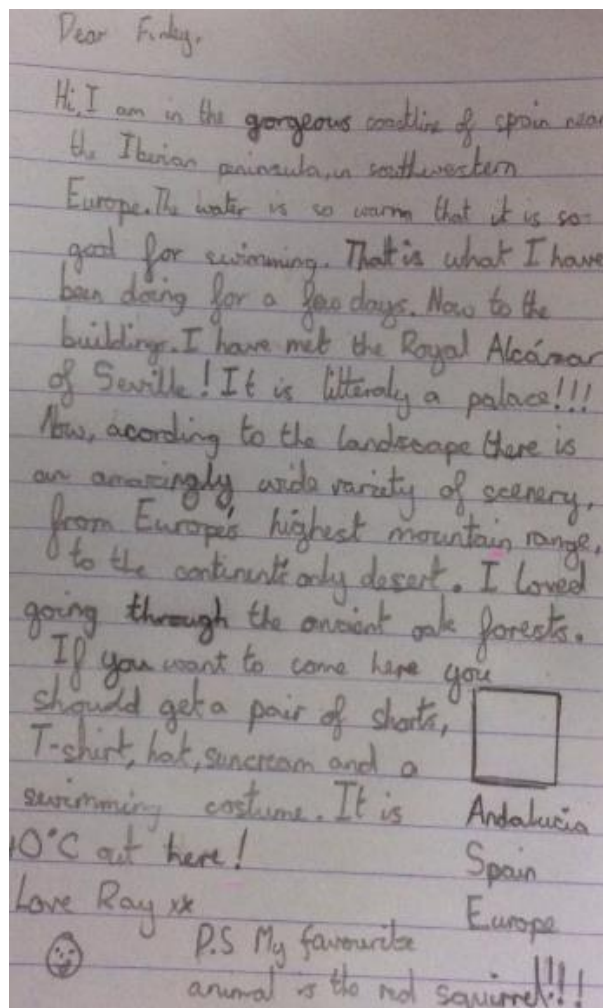
Hello Haffydown,

Once again, I am so impressed with all your home learning and hard work on Seesaw! It really is so wonderful to see so many of you fully engaged with our learning sequences for all our different subjects. Now that you are in year three and four, you should be able to access most of the activities independently. It is great to see many of you are taking on this ownership and level of independence with your learning, as well as responding to my feedback. I am so proud of you all!

In our English lessons, we have continued reading the story "Toro! Toro!" Your powerful, persuasive letters to Uncle Juan explored the very emotive subject of bull fighting and I was impressed with all the different persuasive features you used.



During year 3 science, Mrs Evans has been enjoying seeing your models of sedimentary rocks. You were able to identify the different layers and came up with many creative responses.



In maths, I have been so impressed with your fraction work. Your practical and pictorial representations have certainly demonstrated your secure understanding of this unit. We are now starting our new learning sequence which is all about shapes! We have enjoyed exploring how the number of sides relate to the number of angles using sticks to create the shapes!

The angles expand when a new side is added.

What do you notice happens to the number of angles when you add a side? Explain why.



Our Geography unit all about sunny Spain, certainly has had us all dreaming of the beach! I especially enjoyed reading Ray's postcard all about his virtual visit to the city of Barcelona. Lots of you included facts and description of both human and physical geographical features.

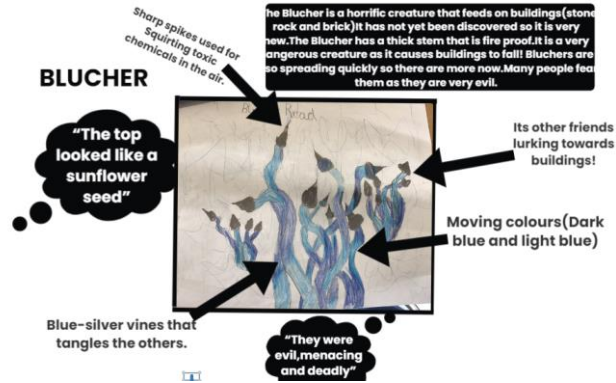


# Danes Class

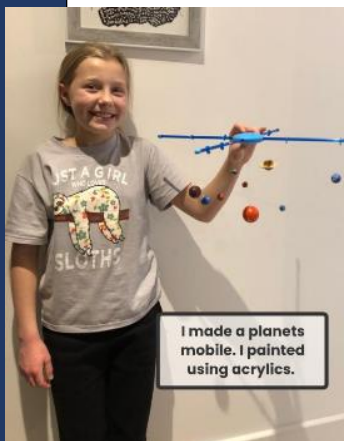
What an interesting start to 2021 we have had! We are both so impressed by the motivation and dedication shown by everyone in Danes class with regards to their home learning. Everyone is engaging so well with the learning; it is a real pleasure seeing the quality of work that is being produced at home.



In English, we have been developing our skills in building mystery and suspense in our writing inspired by reading 'Boy in the Tower' by Polly Ho-Yen.



In Maths, we have been building on our knowledge of square numbers finding the area of rectangles, rectilinear shapes, triangles, and parallelograms. We are currently working hard to extend our learning further to use our knowledge of cube numbers to find the volume of a cuboid.



Our Geography topic this term is 'Everybody's Earth'. This topic has allowed us to think about the resources our world has and how they are traded between countries. We have carried out independent enquiries to find out where our food comes from. We have been able to make lots of cross-curricular links. These include Science (with our Earth and Space topic), considering the conflict between Science and Creation in RE, learning about the planets in French, as well as rehearsing songs to help us remember key facts about the Earth and Space in Music! Even our PSHE topic, 'Money Matters', is helping to develop our understanding of trade and the economy.



This is my Apollo 10 rocket going to explore Olympus Mons on the Mars. I filled my rocket with some water and the pressures of the air forced the rocket up to the sky. It was hard work making giving my rocket enough air.

**Value for money**

**FOCUS ON  
FAIRTRADE**

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**Job security  
for workers**

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

people are  
paid  
minimum  
wage

**treated  
fairly**

spend a  
little more  
to make a  
big  
difference  
in  
someone's  
life