



Aston St. Mary's Newsletter

Our value this half term is Happiness

www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk 12th February 2021

A huge well done to all our families for getting through a challenging half term of remote learning and lock down with some miserable, cold and wet weather to top it all off! We think you are all simply amazing; even though every family faces different challenges and pressures, somehow you have incorporated the role of class teacher into your already busy lives. Despite having no training for the role, you have taken it all in your stride and are doing brilliantly. We'll have to let you know if we have any jobs going!

Aston children never cease to amaze us. They have worked so hard, not only completing their daily remote learning but doing so to an impressive standard; the commitment they show to their learning will help ensure a bright future lies ahead. Receiving their many and varied posts on Seesaw and Tapestry makes all the hard work in preparing remote lessons so worthwhile. Thank you to each and every child for putting a smile on our faces.

We are sure that you are aware that the earliest date suggested by the government for children to return to school is 8th March. At this stage, we do not know what this will look like – hopefully, over the coming week there will be more clarity from the government about the way forward including whether it will be a full return for all children or whether another staggered return involving different year groups will be the approach. What we do know is that we will be delighted to see the children's smiling faces again whenever they are able to return. We're keeping our fingers (and toes) crossed that this will be sooner rather than later. We really do miss them all.

One thing is for sure, everyone now deserves the half term break. This includes staff who have been working tirelessly this term to make sure that the children are provided with as much support with their learning as possible. Providing high quality remote learning, regular personalised feedback as well as juggling provision for key worker children in school is incredibly challenging and staff have risen to this challenge splendidly.

Finally, we would like to thank you for all the overwhelmingly positive feedback; this really does mean a lot. The Aston school community really is second to none.

We hope you all stay safe and well and enjoy some well-deserved family time over the half term break.

Please take care, follow the government guidance and remember:

STAY HOME. PROTECT THE NHS. SAFE LIVES.

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

Residential Visits – Upper Key Stage 2

Our Year 5 and 6 residential trip is a key part of our upper key stage two curriculum offer. These visits bring the curriculum to life; they help children to build their confidence, breathe in the fresh air and make memories to last a lifetime.

Sadly, due to the pandemic outdoor activity centres are struggling, with many closing their doors for good. We want the sector to thrive, because we want every child to be able to experience a residential trip; indeed, such opportunities will probably be more important than ever as they could offer an important step in children's recovery from the past year. There's never been a more important time for children to be outside, and be together; learning, growing and developing.

Everyone remembers their school residential. The children currently in Danes class were supposed to go away in October, their visit was initially postponed to March and has now been rescheduled again to late May. We really hope they, and future classes, will have the chance to make amazing memories.

We would be so grateful if you could not only sign the petition for Government support for this sector, but also share it with your colleagues, family and friends.

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/552754>



A thought from Reverend Jenny

If there is light in the soul
there will be beauty in the person

If there is beauty in the person
there will be harmony in the house

If there is harmony in the house
there will be order in the nation

If there is order in the
nation

there will be peace in the world
(Chinese proverb)



***Jesus says, 'I am the light of the world.
He who follows me shall not walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life.'***

Jesus bids us 'Shine as a light in the world, to the glory of God the Father.'

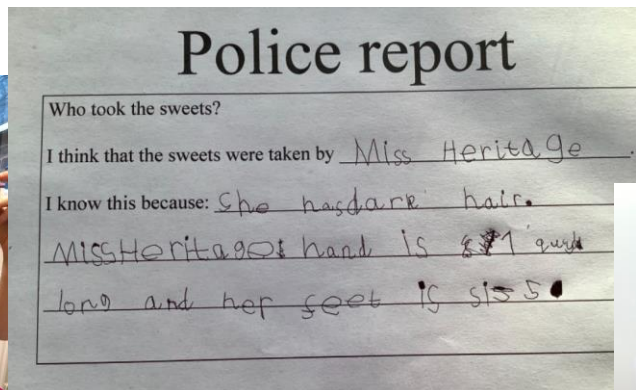
So, let us shine...you in your small corner and I in mine..."

Shackadell Class

Gong hei fat choy Shackadell! We hope you are all well and enjoying your time at home with your families. We have been very impressed with how much learning you have been doing over the last two weeks! We know that remote learning can be really hard and we so proud of each and every one of you.

Can you believe that Shackadell have learnt nearly 20 new sounds since the start of our remote learning? The children have done so well engaging with all the tasks set and we can see that they are starting to use their sounds in their sentence writing too - they are all our phonics superstars!

In Topic we have been thinking about real life superheroes and people who help us. We have spent a lot of time finding out about firefighters and the police. We even had our very own crime to solve!



In maths, we have spent lots of time learning about positional language and giving directions. We have had a great time drawing plans and writing our own instructions.



From our greeting you may realise that Shackadell have been learning all about Chinese New Year. We have been having a go at lion and dragon dancing, making paper lanterns, rattle drums and special money wallets.

Mrs Holmes and Mrs Lale



Peartree Class

Hi Peartree,

As we come to the end of this first half term, we want to again say thank you to everyone for all the hard work that you have been doing supporting the learning of our class. We wanted to share with you some of the fantastic writing that has been produced this week in our unit on non-chronological reports. It has been great reading all about the children's chosen animals and we have even learned some things ourselves!

Have a lovely half term break with some well-earned rest.

The Peartree Team

Rabbits
What do they eat?
Rabbits like to eat hay, grass and water.
They also like fresh fruits and vegetables.
There are many types of rabbits and they like different things.

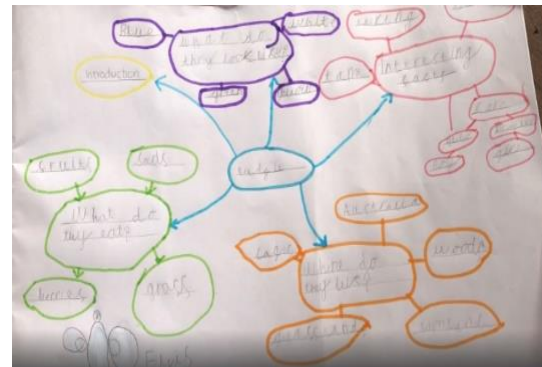
What do they eat?
Bugs are omnivores. They like to eat insects, seeds, berries and grass. They usually eat one or two bugs.

Where do lions live?
Lions live in the wild in hot countries Africa and India mainly.

What is the breed of my rabbit?
My rabbit's name is Riggie, he is a Mini Lop rabbit.
Mini Lop rabbits are one of the most popular breeds of rabbit because they are bright, cheerful and playful. They need lots of exercise, we let Riggie run around the garden.

Where do chameleons live?
Chameleons live in warm habitats from rainforests to deserts, because they hang from trees.

They live in a group called a pride. This can be up to 30 lions as long as there is enough food and water.
Lions scent mark their territory, using their wee because it makes a border around their home to protect them.

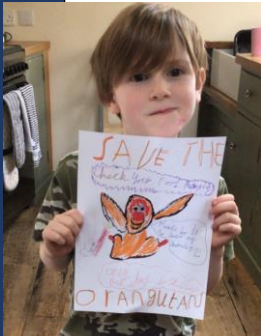


What do dogs play with?
Dogs play with squeaky toys to keep them entertained because they can be at home on their own some times.
They play fetch with a ball to give them exercise because they need to stay fit and healthy.

Orchard Class

We continue to be blown away by how well the children in Orchard have been doing with their home learning. It has been wonderful to see the children enjoying the snow too – there has been lots of sledging, snowman and snow angel posts on Seesaw which we have loved seeing.

In English, our learning was based on the story 'There's a Rang-Tan in My Bedroom', a book which explores the issues surrounding palm oil and deforestation.



The children created some excellent persuasive posters and wrote letters to different companies to encourage them to stop using palm oil in their products. Some even posted their letters, keeping our fingers crossed for a reply!



Our geography topic has complimented this story as we are learning about the rainforests; children created collages to show the different layers of the rainforest – it was lovely to see so many children went foraging outside to find a collection of sticks, leaves and stones to recreate their own rainforest, there were also some beautifully drawn pictures.



Over the last week, Year Two have been revisiting time and creating their own clocks using paper plates and split pins. We have enjoyed seeing photos of the children making and using their clocks to help with their maths learning – they're becoming masters of time! Year Three have been focussing on interpreting data using statistics to answer questions and have looked at the relationship between days, months and years.



A big THANK YOU to all the children for such super learning and to all the parents for your continued support. We hope you all have a wonderful half term and a well-deserved break; we are keeping our fingers crossed that we will be able to see you all again soon!

From,

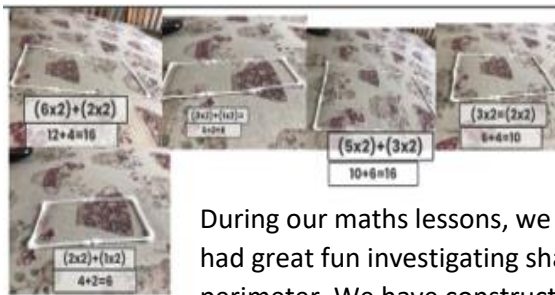
Miss Branagan, Mrs Merry and Mrs Davies ☺

Haffydown Class

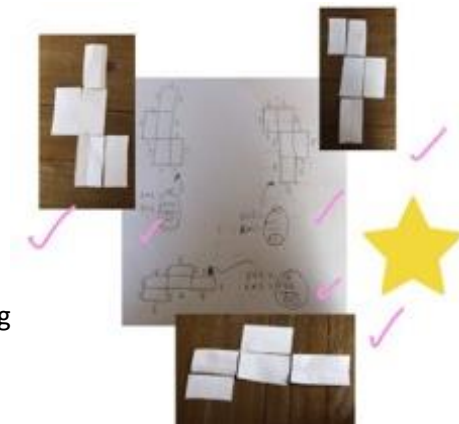
A huge well done to all the children and parents of Haffydown for all your hard work with home learning this half term. You have blown me away every single day with your resilience and perseverance to carry on with your learning, no matter what. I am so very proud to be your teacher.



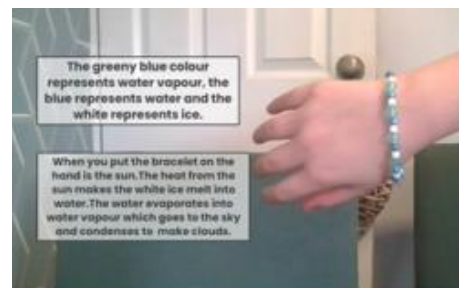
Our Geography unit, Sunny Spain, has certainly bought us all a ray of sunshine during this cold weather. Some of you have been inspired to get creative at home with cooking, crafts, and even Spanish flamenco dancing!



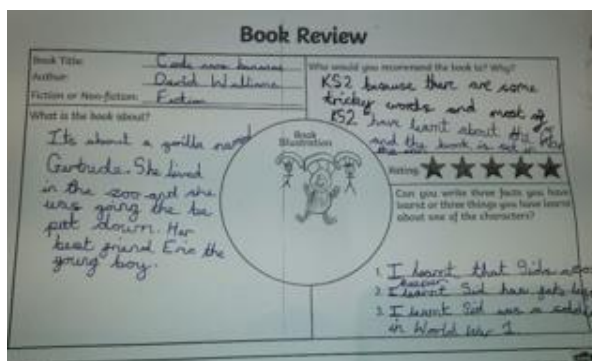
During our maths lessons, we have had great fun investigating shape and perimeter. We have constructed our own shapes and arrangements to calculate different perimeter, including when different shapes have the same perimeters. Here are some of our investigations.



In Year 4 science this week, we have been applying our understanding of evaporation and condensation to the water cycle. Here are some of your creative responses.



It has been wonderful to see so many of you carrying on with your reading at home. Many of you have been reading and recommending Code Name Bananas by David Walliams. If you are looking for a book to read over half term, perhaps this review will inspire you.



I wish you all a safe, restful and happy half term.

Miss Keen 😊

Danes Class

Well done to everyone in Danes class for working so hard at home this half term; we have been amazed and delighted by the level of commitment you have all shown towards your learning. We know that remote learning has many challenges and are so very grateful, not only to the children for their hard work and dedication, but also to the adults at home who support them. You all do a brilliant job! Thank you.

In English, we have been learning to be journalists and have written and presented our own radio broadcasts about the Apollo 11 Space mission in 1969 when man first walked on the moon.

In science, we have been learning about the phases of the moon. Many of us chose to present our learning using Oreos! It was so much fun.

Scan the QR code to listen to Amelia's broadcast.



Art Day – 04.02.21

Last week, we enjoyed our art day. We studied the work of space artist Peter Thorpe before producing our own pictures inspired by his work. Danes produced some amazing pieces – this is just a small selection!

