



Aston St. Mary's Newsletter

Our value this half term is Peace

www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk

23rd April 2021

Diary Dates

27th April: Reception class screening

24th – 28th May: Danes Residential trip to PGL

31st May – 4th June: Half Term Week

28th June – 2nd July: Year 6 Bikeability Training

28th June: Summer Concert (7pm) – instrumentalists only

8th July: Change over day – children visit new classes

9th July: Sports Day

9:00 Reception class

10:30 Years One and Two

1:00 Years Three and Four

2:15 Years Five and Six

14th July: Danes Class Production
6:30pm

15th July: Danes Class Production
6:30pm

16th July: Reward day

20th July: School finishes at 1pm for summer break

2nd September: Start of autumn term
All dates are subject to change

What a difference the lovely weather makes! It has been wonderful to have the children back in school since the Easter break and particularly wonderful to see them learning and playing outdoors in our beautiful school grounds. We hope that families enjoyed the time at home and, in particular, being able to get together with friends and family as restrictions have begun to ease.

There is a buzz of learning around the school with all classes enjoying the launch of new topics – find out more in the class pages.

We would like to welcome Mr Stevenson to Orchard class this half term. He has joined us from Heath Mount School for the next few weeks. We know he will be made to feel very welcome by the children in Orchard and the whole school community.

Danes class are delighted that their twice postponed residential trip to Marchants Hill PGL activity centre is finally able to go ahead. Children gain so much from trips such as these: they develop independence; they learn the importance of teamwork; they learn to face new challenges with determination and to believe in themselves and, above all, they have lots of fun! It is wonderful that every child in Danes is able to join us on the trip. They will be away for five days and return just in time for the half term break.

Please note the dates included on this newsletter – all of which are subject to change especially in the current climate. We are really hoping that some, or even better all, of these usual summer term events will be able to go ahead.

Please stay safe and continue to follow the current rules.

ACADEMIC YEAR 2020/2021

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:

Sophie, Isla L., Max, Phoebe, Archie, Lily-Anne, Blake, Willow, Liam, Finn, Jack, Nathaniel, Connor, Ella, Harry C, Joshua, Gabriella, Paris, Albert, Danny, Astrid, Tabi, Hanna, Isla, Benji, Harlee, Stanley, Finlay, Jessica, Tallulah, Anouska, Demi, Darcie, Seth



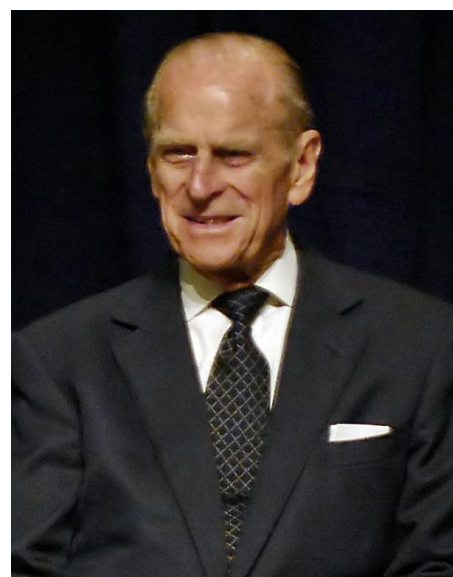
Shining Stars were awarded to:

Charlie, Willow

A Prayer from Reverend Jenny

Almighty God,
We give thanks for the long life of service of Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh.
Be with us as we mourn his death.
Give comfort to the Queen and the whole Royal Family
and your peace to all those who grieve his loss.
We thank you for his dedication to the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth,
and for all the support he gave to the Queen during their long marriage.
May Prince Philip rest in peace and rise in glory
We ask this in the name of Jesus our Saviour.
Amen.

In class worship last week, we reflected on the life of Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh.



Notices

Perimeter Fencing

Last summer, new fencing was erected at the back of our school field; the fencing along the side of the field next to the path also needs replacing. This will not come cheaply.

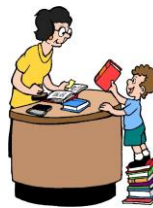
Krystina, Ava and Austin's mum, has kindly offered to organise some fundraising to help us pay for this work. She is busy thinking of ideas of ways to help us raise enough money to enable us to have a new fence fitted in the near future. If you have any ideas, or can help in any way, please look out for Krystina or contact Christine in the office for her contact details.

A message from Hertfordshire Library Service...

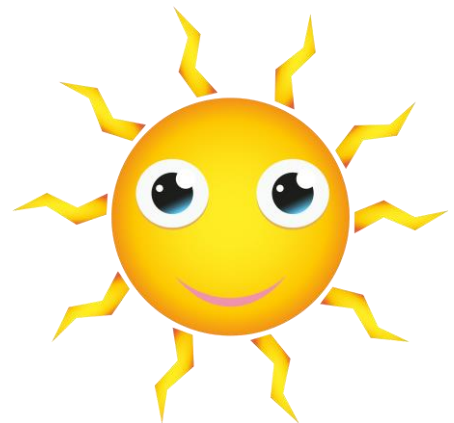


Libraries

welcome back families



As from Monday 12th April, families are now be able to visit most Hertfordshire libraries to choose their own books. We have been buying new titles throughout the year so there are lots of exciting new books to discover, as well as classic favourites. We have switched off our Ready Reads pre-ordering service and instead families can, if they wish, pick up Grab and Go packs of pre-selected picture or board books and packs for adults too. Children enjoy choosing their own books and they get to explore a huge range of quality titles that they would not find elsewhere. The great thing about the library is that they can try out new authors and genres and as they are borrowing books rather than buying them it does not matter if they decide they don't like a story, it can just be swapped for a new one on their next visit, all for free. While some of the smaller community libraries are not open quite yet, we are working towards a full service over the next few weeks for details of opening times visit our website.



As the warmer weather approaches (hopefully!), we would like to remind you to that suncream should be applied before school. Should this need to be reapplied in school, your child will need to do so themselves. Children are not allowed to share suncream. Also, please ensure that your child has a sun hat for sunny days.

Notices



Rocks of Remembrance

Last November, due to restrictions, we were unable to attend church for Remembrance Day as we usually would. Instead, every child painted a Rock of Remembrance and classes held a short service at the war memorial. The rocks remained at the memorial until last week. They now form a lovely display next to our school playground and provide a focal point for us to remember those who gave their lives for our country.

Madness for Max 2021

Many of you will know Helen and Lee Avis (parents of Jake in Danes class and Max). On Sunday 3rd October 2021, they are taking on the huge challenge of the Virgin London Marathon in order to raise funds for the National Autistic Society. Their youngest son, Max who is eight, was diagnosed with autism in February 2017. Autism is a lifelong disability which affects how people communicate and interact with the world.

You can read more about Max's story on their Just Giving page.

Any support and donations would be greatly appreciated.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/lee-avis3>



Class News

Shackadell Class

In Shackadell class, we have learning all about growing. We are growing our own potatoes and beans. We are also planting carrots, tomatoes and sunflowers in our garden. We know how to prepare the seeds, plant them and look after them. We have written labels and instructions which clearly explain how to plant a potato. We are also learning about Jack and the bean stalk. We enjoyed retelling the story using the class story map and Moriah even made her own. We look forward to watching everything grow over the next couple of months.



Class News

Peartree Class

Hello Peartree,

Welcome back after a well-deserved Easter break.

We are going to be learning about some fun things this half term and will be including as much outdoors learning as possible as the weather is beginning to get better.



We felt things, tasted the air and listened to natural sounds.

This week we started Forest School and we were all very excited.

We learned the art of 'Shinrin – yoko' which is Japanese for 'forest bathing'.



We also played 'Go Find It'.

Where we were given words and we had to find a natural object to represent it.



Class News

Orchard Class

Hello everyone!

What a super first couple of weeks we have had back following the Easter holidays. It has been wonderful seeing the children getting back to their learning and catching up with their friends! Everyone has been doing some excellent learning over the last two weeks and have produced some fantastic work.

At the end of last term, we had so much fun taking part in lots of Easter activities. We enjoyed our egg rolling competition and seeing everyone's decorated eggs!



We have started our new History topic all about the Romans this half term and loved learning all about how the Roman empire spread this week, we worked in partners to create our own chronological timelines to show the spread of the Roman empire.



In English, we have been reading the Roman myth 'Romulus and Remus', and began our learning with role-playing the characters. This week we have been planning and writing our own Roman myths in a similar style. We have loved reading everyone's myths!

Over the last two weeks, we have been developing our cricket skills in PE. We have practiced our fielding and catching skills and working together with partners to develop our throwing skills. It has been great to see everyone working fantastically with their partners and in teams.

This week, we have also welcomed Mr Stevenson to our class, he will be joining us in Orchard class for the next few weeks and you might have already spotted him on the playground in the morning.

We are very much looking forward to another brilliant few weeks of learning.

Mrs Merry, Mrs Davies and Mr Stevenson

Class News

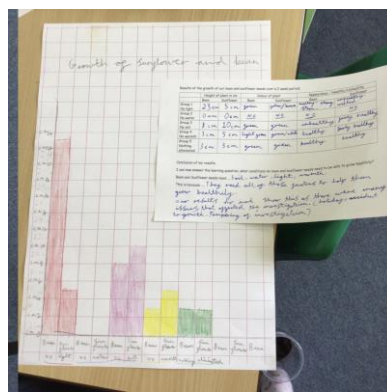
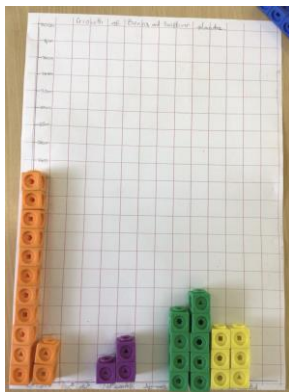
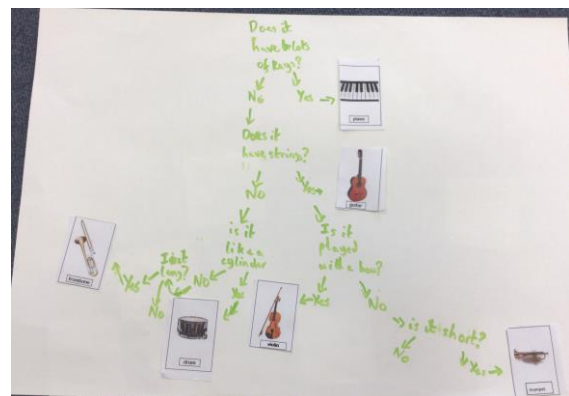
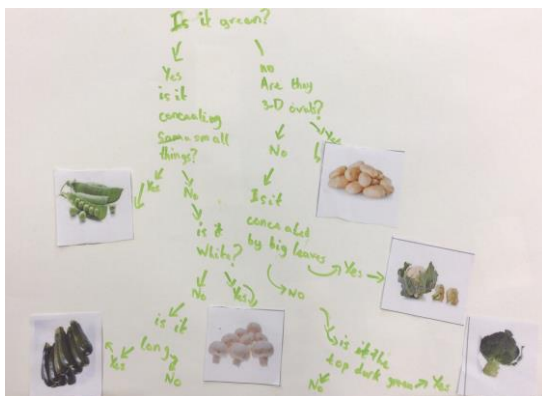
Haffydown Class

I hope you all had a lovely Easter and enjoyed some of the restrictions being lifted. It's so wonderful to be back in school again and continuing with our learning.

In English, we have been travelling around the world with our current text "Atlas of Adventures". We have been discovering many countries, famous landmarks and festivals. We have been using our reading skills of summarising, retrieval and inference in order to fill in our own passports along the way. We will be writing postcards, radio broadcasts and our own travel guides all about our exciting adventures.



We have begun a new computing unit this half term which focuses on data bases. This week, we made branching data bases in order to sort vegetables and instruments. We had to think carefully about the yes/ no questions and the process of elimination. Next week, we will be using branching diagrams using Purple Mash.



During Year Three science, Mrs Evans was particularly impressed with the bar graphs which clearly show the results of their cress growing investigation.

Class News

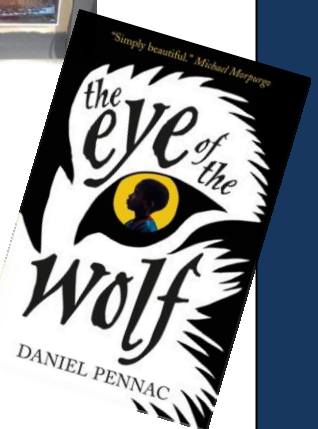
Danes Class

We are so excited about the term ahead and have so many exciting learning opportunities planned for the children. It is hard to believe that Year Six are now in their final term at Aston; we will certainly be sad to see them go at the end of term, but we know that they are ready to take the next exciting step in their education.

This half term in history, we are learning about Thomas Clarkson and the Transatlantic Slave Trade. Thomas Clarkson has local connections and there is a memorial to him and his contribution to the abolishment of slavery in nearby Wadesmill. In our lesson last week, the children used a range of historical evidence to make deductions about the treatment of enslaved people.



In English, our learning is based upon the text 'The Eye of the Wolf'. We have already become experts on wolves as well as many African countries. The text links perfectly with our learning in history as both the wolf and the boy were taken against their will. They develop an unusual bond as a result.



In maths, we are developing our algebraic reasoning. As part of this, we have revised the application of BODMAS to multi-step calculations. We are learning to solve algebraic equations and evaluate expressions.

Our learning in science this term is all about Living Things, in particular life cycles and reproduction of plants. Last week, we planted strawberry seeds – we are hoping that they will grow! Before the Easter break, we ended our Properties of Materials topic by observing an irreversible change. We saw that, when vinegar is added to bicarbonate of soda, a gas (carbon dioxide) is given off; this proved that a chemical reaction had occurred. We had so much fun!



Parent and Carer Support Online Courses Summer Term 2021



TALKING FAMILIES

Our FREE 6 week course for parents and carers of children aged 0-12 will cover

- Managing challenging behaviour with consistency.
- Encouraging positive behaviour.
- Building your child's self esteem.
- Setting and maintaining boundaries.
- Responding to tantrums and difficult feelings in children.
- Developing a strong parent/child relationship now and for the future.



Tuesday 9.45-11.15am
20th, 27th April, 4th, 11th,
18th 25th May **Course 412**

Tuesday 8.00-9.30pm
20th, 27th April, 4th, 11th,
18th 25th May **Course 434**

Tuesday 9.45-11.15am
8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th June,
6th, 13th July **Course 435**

Tuesday 8.00-9.30pm
8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th June,
6th, 13th July **Course 436**

TALKING TEENS

Our FREE 6 week course for parents and carers of children aged 12-19 will cover

- The Teen Brain: the physical and emotional changes taking place during the teenage years and why their behaviour changes.
- The link between behaviour and communicating difficult feelings.
- How to maintain your relationship with good communication.
- Understanding risk taking behaviour around drugs, alcohol and gang culture.
- How to negotiate and reduce conflict.



Thursday 7.45-9.15pm
22nd, 29th April, 6th, 13th,
20th, 27th May **Course 437**

Monday 7.45-9.15pm
7th, 14th, 21st, 28th Jun
5th, 12th July **Course 438**

Pre-booking essential

To check eligibility and book a place, please contact

Supporting Links on:

07512 709556

bookings@supportinglinks.co.uk

Quoting the Course ID

TALKING DADS

Dads play an important role in a child's life. This FREE course will help you be the Dad you want to be. Over 6 weekly sessions, fathers and male carers of children aged 0-19 will be supported to:

- Increase confidence in your parenting.
- Develop your dad/child relationship, now and for the future.
- Improve listening and communication skills.
- Develop strategies for dealing with anger and conflict.
- Learn how to enforce boundaries.



Dads,
Step-Dads,
Stay at
home Dads,
Working
Dads...

Wednesday 7.45-9.15pm
21st, 28th April, 5th, 12th,
18th, 26th May **Course 439**

Wednesday 7.45-9.15pm
9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th June
7th, 14th July **Course 440**

UNDERSTANDING BEHAVIOUR IN YOUR CHILD WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS

A free 6 week course for parents and carers of children aged 2-19 years with a recognised additional need. We will help you to:

- Understand your child's behaviour.
- Find strategies that really work.
- Understand conflict: why it happens and how to handle it.
- Manage anger effectively.
- Motivate, encourage and support your child.
- Manage different needs within your family.



Diagnosis
not
essential

Tuesday 8.00-9.30pm
20th, 27th April, 4th, 11th,
18th 25th May **Course 432**

Wednesday 9.45-11.15am
9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th June
7th, 14th July **Course 433**



Sessions will be run over Zoom so you will need access to a device such as a phone, tablet or computer with a webcam and microphone. We will help you get set up if you haven't used Zoom before. No special skills are needed.

Courses are open to parents and carers living in Hertfordshire

Pre-booking essential

**To check eligibility and book a place, please contact
Supporting Links on:**

07512 709556 or bookings@supportinglinks.co.uk

Quoting the Course ID

www.supportinglinks.co.uk



This course is provided free to parents
by Hertfordshire County Council

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