



Aston St. Mary's Newsletter

Our value this half term is Peace

www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk

7th May 2021

Diary Dates

10th – 14th May: Christian Aid Week

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

31st May – 4th June: Half Term Week

10th June: Danes class First Aid training

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

29th June: Summer Concert (7pm) – instrumentalists only ****Please note change of date from previous newsletter****

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

We hope that you all enjoyed the long bank holiday weekend and were able to enjoy some quality family time.

The summer term in school feels different in so many ways this year. Usually, Year Six and Year Two SATs assessments would be rapidly approaching – these have been cancelled this year (as they were last year). Had these taken place, we know that our children would have achieved just as well as previous year groups despite the periods of school closure. We are so proud of all that they have achieved.

Later in the term, we would usually enjoy many whole school events – you will see from the dates list that we are planning to run as many of these as possible whilst organising them slightly differently. Sports Day will be split by year groups – parents are welcome to attend. Our annual music evening will this year be an opportunity for only individual instrumentalists to perform.

Usually, the children would work together to perform a whole school production. Despite this taking place in July, it doesn't seem sensible to get that many children and parents together in the hall. So instead, Danes class will do their own production – they learned, with great excitement, this week that they will be performing The Jungle Book! We hope the rest of the school will enjoy their performance.

Fingers crossed that the next academic year will allow us to get completely back to normal; one of the many special features of our small school is that we enjoy so many whole school events and activities – we certainly miss these special times together.

Stay safe and let's hope the plans to ease restrictions over the coming weeks run smoothly and allow us all to get our lives back to some sort of normality.

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

ACADEMIC YEAR 2021/2022

AUTUMN TERM

Thursday 2nd September 2021 to Tuesday 21st December 2021

HALF TERM Break - Monday 25th October 2021 to Friday 29th October 2021

Occasional Day (School Closed) - Monday 29th November 2021

SPRING TERM

Thursday 6th January 2022 to Friday 1st April 2022

HALF TERM Break - Monday 14th February 2022 to Friday 18th February 2022

SUMMER TERM

Wednesday 20th April 2022 to Wednesday 20th July 2022

HALF TERM Break - Monday 30th May 2022 to Friday 3rd June 2022

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 Thought to Share from Reverend Jenny

*'Sing a song of Maytime,
sing a song of Spring.
Flowers are in their beauty,
birds are on the wing.'*

*Blossom on the hedgerows,
sunshine on the hills,
Oh the happy Maytime
all my being fills.*

*Maytime, Maytime,
God has given the Maytime.
Thank Him for his gift of love,
sing a song of Spring.'*

*'This is the day the Lord has made.
We will rejoice and be glad in it.'*



Shining Stars were awarded to:

Paris, Jack, Anouska,
Poppy C.



Merits were awarded to:

Primrose, Mia A, Harry B, Joshua,
Gabiella, Ademidun, Jayden, Ethan R,
Willow, Harrison, Isadora, Cameron,
Muctarr, Alfie, Vinnie, Nyah, Rosie,
Joel, Poppy-Belle, Oscar, Isabelle,
Elizabeth, Poppy C., Albert, Kacie,
Charlie, Leyla, Teddy, Keely, Jasmine,
Hettie

Notices



Christian Aid Week

10-16th May



At Aston St. Mary's school we will be taking part in activities as part of Christian Aid Week next week. Christian Aid exists to help create a world where everyone can live a life free of poverty. The focus of the week is all about the climate crisis, as people around the world living in poverty are being affected by it every day – through issues such as drought and flooding due to climate change.

All classes next week, will be taking part in lessons and activities related to this and finding out more about climate justice through our collective worship and class sessions. We also hope to raise some money to support this important cause.

If you do wish to donate, we have set up an e-envelope where you can donate directly to Christian Aid Week. This can be accessed through this link:

<https://envelope.christianaid.org.uk/envelope/aston-st-marys>

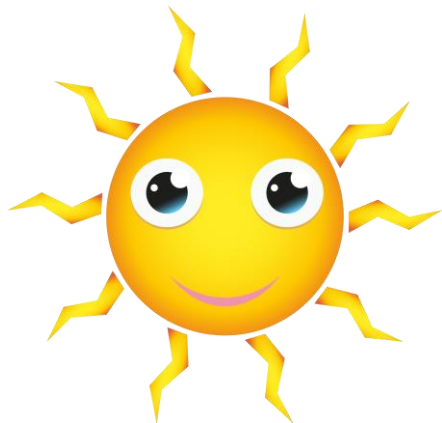


Want to boost your child's reading skills?

Research shows that turning on the subtitles while children are watching television can double the chances of them becoming a good reader. To find out more visit:

<https://turnonthesubtitles.org/parents/>

Notices



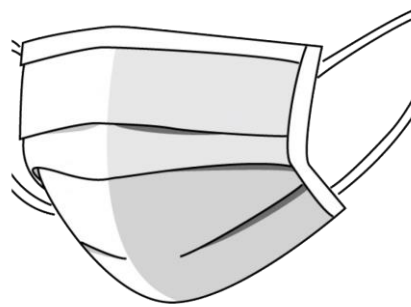
Despite cooler and wet weather this week, we are hopeful that it will improve and would like to remind you that suncream should be applied before school. Should this need to be reapplied in school, your child will need to do so themselves. Children are not allowed to share suncream. Also, please ensure that your child has a sun hat for sunny days.

Thank you

School Uniform

Please can we ask for your support in ensuring your child is appropriately dressed for school in accordance with our uniform policy. Recently, we have noticed a few children wearing items of jewellery (only items allowed are a watch and plain metal stud earrings). Hair should be tied up if it is longer than shoulder length and hair bands or scrunchies should be plain black or blue. School book bags should be used – no other bags are acceptable unless agreed by the teacher if a child is cycling independently to school.

Thank you for your support with this.



We thank you for your continued support in respecting social distancing and the wearing face masks on the playground at the beginning and end of the school day.

Please remember that should any members of your household test positive or display symptoms whilst school is closed, it is essential that we are informed via the 'closed' email address:

closed@astonmarys.herts.sch.uk

This address can also be used should you need to contact us for any other emergencies.

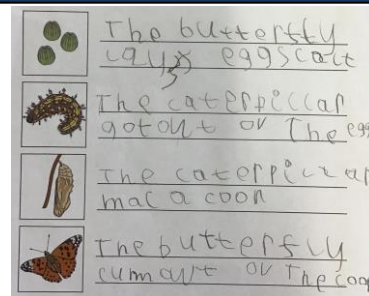
As the next possible date for the easing of restrictions approaches, it is important that we all continue to follow government guidelines to help ensure that numbers continue to decline. In this way, we can all look forward to getting our lives back to normal as soon as it is safe to do so.



Class News

Shackadell Class

Continuing our growing topic, Shackadell have been learning all about animal life cycles including butterflies and frogs. The children have enjoyed acting out, filming and writing about each life cycle.



In maths, we have been learning about how two parts make a whole and using our reasoning skills to explain our answers. We have also been using "cherry diagrams" to help us and to work out what the missing part of a whole number could be.



In phonics, we have been writing lots of words with consonant blends and learning to write our phase 4 tricky words.



In child-initiated learning, the children have really enjoyed making potions, medicines and playing doctors and vets.



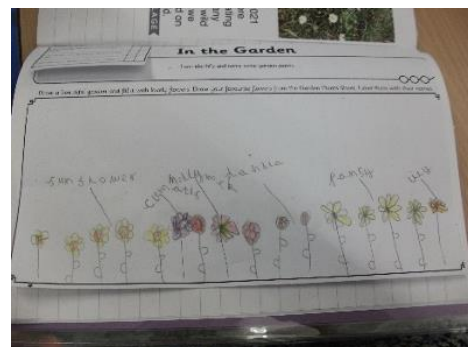
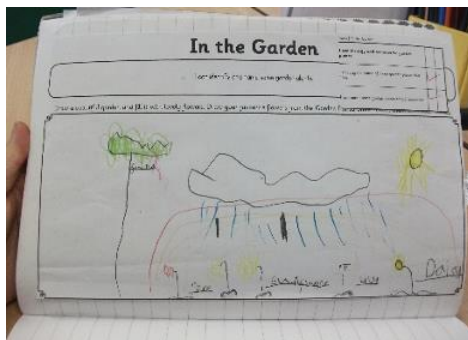
After learning about how we can look after our planet on "Earth Day" last week, Shackadell decided to do some litter picking on our school field using the litter pickers. They were so surprised to fill two black bin bags with rubbish! Some of the children made posters to remind everyone at Aston St Mary's to put their litter in the bin and to do their bit to look after our beautiful planet. Well done Shackadell!



Class News

Peartree Class

In science, we are learning all about plants and trees. We all planted a sunflower seed two weeks ago and some of them have started to grow. We are keeping a weekly diary of the progress of our plants. We have also learned about wildflowers and garden flowers. We did a local investigation into which wildflowers were the most common in our school and most of us agreed it was the daisy. We also had a go at designing a garden that we would love to relax and feel at peace in which ties in with this half terms value.



Class News

Orchard Class



Wow, what a super few weeks of learning we have been having in Orchard class! Well done to everyone for working so hard in all your lessons as always. It is just fantastic to see everyone's smiling faces arriving to school every day and I am always amazed by the hard work all the children put into their learning each day.

We have been enjoying learning lots about the Romans in our history topic and it has been brilliant seeing so many fantastic pieces of topic home learning being brought in to show in class. Well done everyone!

In our English lessons, we have been learning about and writing instructions. Last week, we wrote and followed instructions on how to build the layers of a Roman road using biscuits, custard and chocolate! We had to make sure our instructions were clear and precise to ensure they could be followed easily. It was a very fun lesson indeed, and the chocolate Roman roads were delicious too! This week we have been researching about how to be a Roman gladiator, and have also been planning and writing our own instructions for this. Everyone has been doing some excellent writing, well done Orchard!

In maths, Year 2 have been working really hard for the last two weeks on fractions. We have been finding thirds, halves and quarters of different amounts. Year 3 have been working on multiplication and challenging themselves to work with larger numbers. We have been so impressed with how all the children have been challenging themselves in their maths lessons! Keep up the great work 😊.

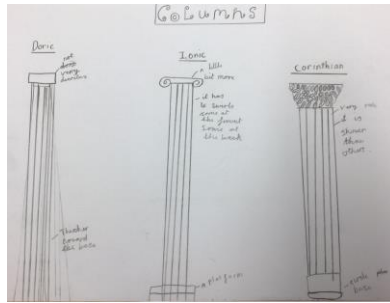
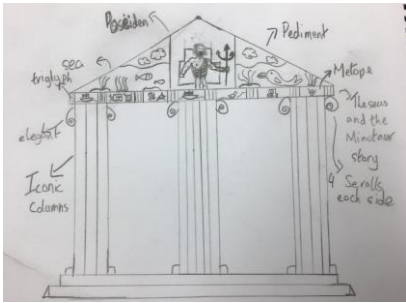
It has been brilliant to see everyone's cricket skills improving in our PE lessons, we have been practicing our catching and fielding skills, as well as striking the ball with the bat. Everyone has displayed excellent teamwork and partner work.

Well done on your brilliant learning Orchard class.

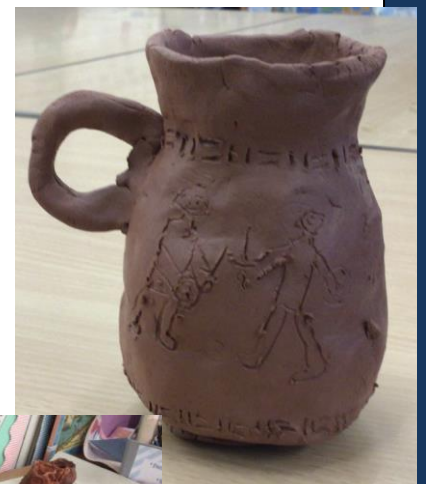
Class News

Haffydown Class

This week we have been exploring Greek art and architecture! Did you know that many famous more modern buildings today are inspired by the techniques and designs of ancient Greek architects? We compared the different types of columns, explored the myths behind the metopes and looked at the different design features of pediments. Next, we used our new knowledge and understanding to design and draw our own ancient Greek temples.



On Wednesday, we explored ancient Greek vases. We discussed what they can teach us about daily life in ancient Greece and identified the different shapes, colours, tools and techniques used to create them. We experimented with drawing different patterns and with making shapes from the clay before making our own ancient Greek inspired vases.



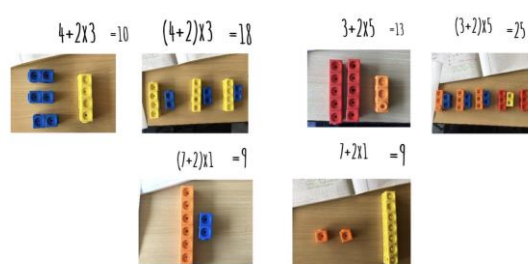
Class News

Danes Class

Danes class are getting very excited about their forthcoming trip away for a week of outdoor and adventurous activities at Marchants Hill PGL Centre in Surrey. This week, we have received our exciting itinerary for the week. This includes: rifle shooting, raft building, orienteering, giant swing, rock climbing, zip wire, archery, abseiling and lots more! Seventeen more sleeps...

We have now completed our three weeks of English based on 'The Eye of the Wolf'; some fantastic extended narratives were written which the children have decided they would like to make into real books, so they have been busy producing final polished versions ready to be laminated and bound.

In maths, we have continued with our learning focussed on algebraic reasoning. We used modelling to help us secure our understanding of the order of operations using BODMAS.



We then went on to find unknown values of algebraic equations and to evaluate algebraic expressions. To practise our skills, we played snakes and ladders with a difference. Instead of rolling a die, we had to pick a card showing an expression to evaluate. We could choose one of three levels of difficulty each turn. It was so much fun...and meant that we became algebra experts!



Snakes and Ladders



Handling Anger in Your Family

Funded by HCC and FREE this 6 session CANparent Quality Award evidence based course is for parents living in Hertfordshire and parenting children from 5 to 11 years.

Facilitated by Lesley and Francine who are trained, qualified and experienced facilitators and parents too with 20 + years personal and professional experience.

This course will enable you and your family to:



"A great non-judgemental space and to be with others who "get it" and my family is so much calmer and less anxious and meltdowns have reduced"

- ✓ Gain greater understanding of anger dynamics in your family
- ✓ Understand more about Autism and ADHD
- ✓ Understand the root causes or triggers of anger in your family
- ✓ Learn proven and effective strategies that will reduce anger in your family
- ✓ Discover new ways to communicate to calm and prevent anger... before it occurs!
- ✓ Learn safe and creative ways for children to 'let go' of pent up emotions safely
- ✓ Create a calm family environment so all can talk about their emotions safely
- ✓ Gain skills to manage your family's emotional regulation
- ✓ Meet other parents in a calm, judgement-free group



Funded by Hertfordshire County Council and free for parents living in Hertfordshire and parenting children of primary school age with a diagnosed condition and those awaiting diagnosis

Where: Online via Zoom

When: Wednesdays 9.30-11.30am

June 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th

July 7th, 14th

Only 12 free places available. Places must be booked by emailing bookings@familiesinfocus.co.uk with name and date of course



SAFER GAMING

PARENT/CARER & CHILD WORKSHOP

THURSDAY 13TH MAY 2021

5PM - 6PM

Join Sam from TechSafe for this interactive workshop for parent/carers and children. Using fun activities we discuss how to keep safe whilst gaming online.

Topics covered include:

- *What information is safe to share online?*
- *Who do I talk to if something goes wrong?*
 - *How much time is too much time?*



Please use the Eventbrite link below to book your place:
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/safer-gaming-activity-workshop-tickets-152018931717>

Limited Places Available

spaceherts@gmail.com

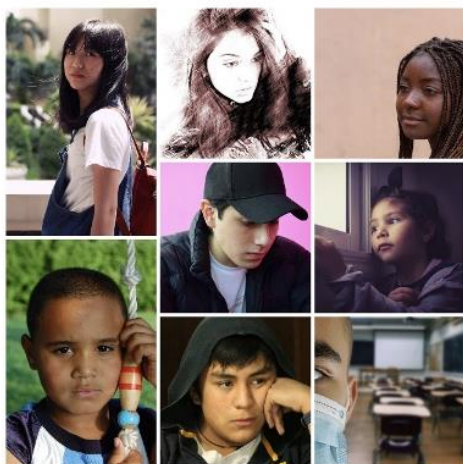


www.spaceherts.org.uk

SUPPORTING FAMILIES IN HERTFORDSHIRE - AUTISM | ADHD | NEURODIVERSE CONDITIONS

REGISTERED CHARITY ENGLAND AND WALES NO: 117 2178

Anxiety in Children & Young People



Stevenage - DSPL Area 2

DSPL | Delivering Special
Provision Locally
Achieving quality outcomes

Workshop Overview

Exploring causes of anxiety in children/young people and an opportunity to discuss effective management.

This training is designed to give parent/carers the opportunity to explore and discuss the issues around anxiety in children and young people.

The aim of the session is to help develop a better understanding of feelings and the ways in which we can support children and young people to develop confidence and resilience.

This training will be led by Rachel Lambie (Dramatherapist and CEO) and Viv Ofstedahl (Training Lead, and experienced School Mental Health and Wellbeing Lead) from NESSie.

Date: 19 July 2021

Time: 9.30am-11am

Venue: Online via Teams

Joining instructions will be emailed on the morning of the training

Cost: FREE. Funded by DSPL2.

To book a place please click [HERE](#)

Or visit: nessieined.com/events

Helping children and young people thrive

NESSie IN ED CIC. Company registered in England & Wales number: 11719406
nessieined.com

Dear Parents/Carers,

We write to you to inform you about DSPL2 (Delivering Special Provision Locally).

DSPL2 is a Hertfordshire-wide approach where parents, carers and staff in early years settings and schools, further education colleges, Local Authority and representatives from other agencies, work together to ensure that there is a range of provision and support service available in their local community that;

- Meets the needs of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and or Disabilities (SEND), aged 0-25, as close to home as possible.
- Improves outcomes for wellbeing and attainment
- Widens choice for children and parents/carers.
- Removes barriers to learning.
- Use resources more effectively.

The main focus of DSPL is to inform you about services and support for children and young people with SEND. However, these resources can be beneficial to all children and young people as well as parents and carers.

We update the DSPL2 website and Facebook page on a daily basis to provide useful information and guidance. We also share resources and links from other services that may be of interest to you as well as some fun activities to complete with your family.

The DSPL2 website can be found by searching <http://stevenagedspl.org.uk/>

Please follow us on Facebook –DSPL2 Stevenage.



Yours sincerely,

The DSPL2 Team.

FAMILY LEARNING

FAMILY PHONICS

MAKING PHONICS FUN

TUESDAY
8TH
JUNE
10AM -12PM

5 WEEK COURSE
Delivered at
Bedwell Community
Centre, Stevenage,
SG1 1NA

Drop the children at school and head over to our hub in Stevenage to gain confidence to support your child on this 5-week course.

This course is designed to help adults learn what 'phonics' is and how phonics is taught in school from age 3-7 yrs old. You will learn about the six phases of phonics and what aspects are taught in each phase through engaging, interactive activities. You will find out about the Phonics Screening check in Year One and be able to check your skills by trying it yourself.



Only £15



01992 556194

WWW.HERTFORDSHIRE.GOV.UK/HAFLS



SUPPORTED BY
MAYOR OF LONDON



LOVE TO LEARN

Online
and face-to-face
options this June



ADULT COMMUNITY LEARNING
FOR HERTFORDSHIRE RESIDENTS
BROWSE OUR COURSES STARTING ON
MONDAY 7TH JUNE AT
WWW.HERTFORDSHIRE.GOV.UK/HAFLSCOURSES



Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
10.00am to 12.00pm		Intermediate Sewing Online course	Build your skills in Word & Excel – Beginners Online course Fully booked!	Family English (Key Stage 2) Online course	Computing for Beginners Planned for Stevenage
10.00am to 12.00pm		Family Phonics – making phonics fun Planned for Stevenage		Photography for Beginners Planned for Stevenage	
9.15am to 12.15pm	Level 1 Award in Skills for Business and Administration – a 7 week online qualification, run across 2 days per week				
10.00am to 12pm		Build your skills in Word & Excel – Beginners Online course			
QUALIFICATIONS IN ENGLISH & MATHS AVAILABLE – Please visit www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/englishandmaths to find out more					
1.00pm to 3.00pm	Social Media for Business Online course Fully booked!	Social Media for Business Online course Fully booked!	Computing for Beginners Planned for Stevenage	Writing for Pleasure & Profit Planned for Stevenage	
1.00pm to 3.00pm		Ipads & Tablets Made Easy Planned for Stevenage	Introduction to Customer Services Online course	Introduction to Health & Social Care Planned for Waltham Cross	
1.00pm to 3.00pm		Improving your skills in Word & Excel Online course		Introduction to Health & Social Care for ESOL Online course	
Evening: 6pm to 9pm	Level 1 Award in Skills for Business and Administration – a 7 week online qualification, run across 2 days per week		Build your skills in Word & Excel – Beginners -6pm to 8pm, starts 21 st July Online course		

Fully-funded courses in employability skills, digital skills, English & maths and low-cost arts & crafts and wellbeing courses





We offer a wide range of fully-funded and low cost community learning opportunities to Herts adults aged 19+.

- English & Maths: Qualifications & non-accredited courses
- ESOL courses for those with English as their second language
 - ICT and Digital Skills (accredited courses available)
 - Arts and Crafts
- Employability & Work Skills (accredited courses available)
 - Family Learning
 - Health & Wellbeing

We also offer 1-to-1 mentoring support through the Building Better Opportunities Project, funded by The National Lottery Community Fund & the European Social Fund, helping unemployed Herts residents find work and achieve their potential. Meanwhile, our Work Solutions programme can help people with learning, physical or sensory disabilities or autism find and stay in work.

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/hafls

Follow us:

