



Aston St. Mary's Newsletter

Our value this half term is Peace

www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk

21st May 2021

Diary Dates

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

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

The theme of our newsletter this week is Christian Aid week which was our focus in school last week. As this was an important whole school event, we have replaced the usual class pages with a whole school celebration of learning. It was lovely to see so many parents and carers on the playground last Friday when some examples of what the children had been doing in their classes was outside to share. You may have been a little surprised to arrive to the sound of Haffydown's climate change protest!

This week, we have welcomed into school Miss Hawthorn (Shackadell) and Miss Searle (Haffydown and Danes) who have joined us from Amwell View School for the next few weeks. We know that they will both be made very welcome by the children in the classes in which they are based and the whole school community. Today, Orchard children have said goodbye to Mr Stevenson who has been on placement with us from Heath Mount School.

Levels of excitement have been high in Danes class this week as they prepare for their five-day residential trip to PGL next week. They will be leaving school around lunchtime on Monday and will return at the end of school on Friday. **Please can we politely ask that ALL parents avoid parking in School Lane for pick-up on Friday 28th May as the coach will need access.** The children will be tired and have lots of bags to carry so it is essential that access for the coach is not blocked. **Thank you.** If you would like to share in the children's adventures over the week, please check the PGL post on the school website – this will be updated regularly through the week. It can be found both on the Danes class page and under 'Enrichment' on the home page.

Whilst mentioning parking around school, you may have noticed that police have been monitoring this recently. Thank you to all parents/carers who are being considerate towards our neighbours and the safety of children by parking sensibly.

With just one more week until the half term break, we are delighted to have had such a successful (and healthy) first half of the summer term. We hope that all our children and families enjoy the week and stay safe whilst enjoying having a few more freedoms once more!



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

Bank Holiday (School Closed) - Monday 2nd May 2022

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



Shining Stars were awarded to:

Jack and Benji



Merits were awarded to:

Lucas, Evie, Keely, Nathan, Favian, Ethan H, Brody, Paris, Harry C, Daniel, Aidan, Harry H, Finn, Vinnie



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 from Reverend Jenny:

We see scenes of the devastating impact of Covid in India and elsewhere but there seems little we can do...compassion fatigue kicks in...yet God calls us to care... to pray... to give what we can to agencies like Christian Aid working to help

God says: 'I will give them a new heart, and put a new spirit within them; I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh...' Ezekiel 11:19

*Dear God,
Transform our hardened hearts and closed minds.
Help us accept the changes needed for all of
creation to be sustainable and thrive.*

*Turn our apathy and indifference
into hearts of concern and compassion.*

*Turn our stones of self-preservation
and fear of scarcity
into hearts of generosity.*

*Turn stones of judgement
into hearts of mercy.*

*Turn stones of longing and consumerism
into hearts satisfied in communion with you.*

*Transform us by your Spirit
that we might be your people
and you, our God.
In your name we pray.*

Amen

Notices

A **Big** Thank You!

Thank you to all those who have generously donated to Christian Aid via our fundraising page. We have now reached our £150 target. Should you still wish to contribute, the link is:

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



Help Aston St. Mary's Primary School raise £150 for Christian Aid Week

Created by **Aston St. Mary's Primary School**



Hello,

The climate crisis is having a devastating impact on communities in Kenya.

Right now families struggle to survive without a reliable water source. Every day, they walk further, dig deeper and build stronger to survive. Unrelenting. Determined.

Join us at Aston St. Mary's this Christian Aid Week as we stand together with those on the frontlines to battle coronavirus and fight for climate justice. We will be taking part in activities in school throughout the week to raise awareness of this crisis.

If you should wish to make a donation, we would be very grateful.

Thank you,

Aston St. Mary's Primary School

So far, Aston has raised

£ 150.25

and **£184.25** with Gift Aid added
of a **£150.00** target
with **12 donations**

Donate

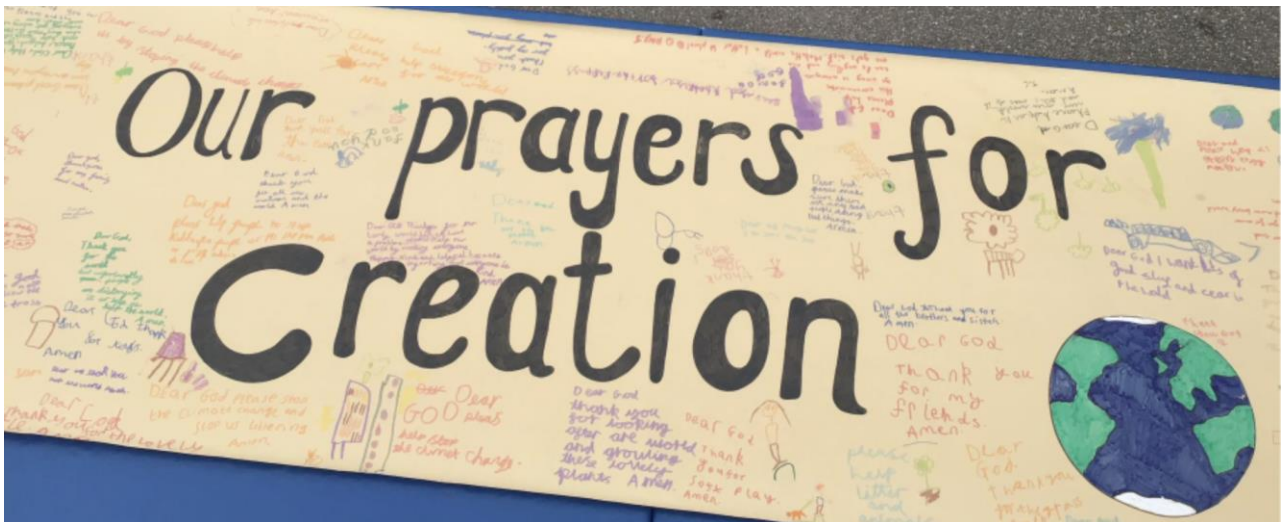
Share this page

[Log in](#) to make changes to your page,
or [create your own fundraising page](#)

Christian Aid Week at Aston St. Mary's

Last week, all classes at Aston St. Mary's took part in activities all about Christian Aid Week. We learnt all about how Christian Aid helps to create a world where everyone can live a life free of poverty and supports many communities. Across all classes, the focus of our activities throughout the week was the climate crisis, and how people in poverty are being affected through issues such as drought and flooding due to climate change. It was wonderful to see how engaged all of the children were when learning about these issues.

At the end of the week, all of the children's work was displayed outside on the playground (luckily we had some sunshine!) and everyone enjoyed looking at what each class had been learning. All of the children also contributed to our **'prayers for creation'** where they wrote down their hopes and prayers to help look after our world. We hope you enjoyed seeing all the wonderful learning on the playground, here is what each class got up to throughout the week.

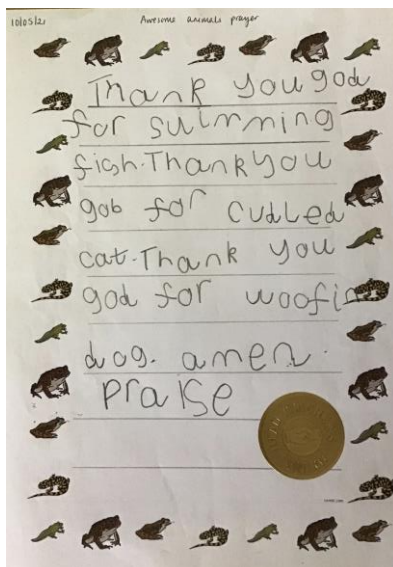


Shackadell thought about God's wonderful creation and why it is important that we look after it carefully. The children created paintings, pictures and models of some of God's wonderful creatures. They also wrote prayers of thanksgiving. They looked at things we can do to help the climate crisis and thought about recycling and reusing things. The children were excited to make flower paper. They took some scraps of paper, ripped them up, added water and pressed it to make new paper. They mixed wildflower seeds in with it so that when they have finished with the drawings, they can plant the special paper and wild flowers will grow, helping the bees that are hugely important to our world.



Christian Aid Week at Aston St. Mary's

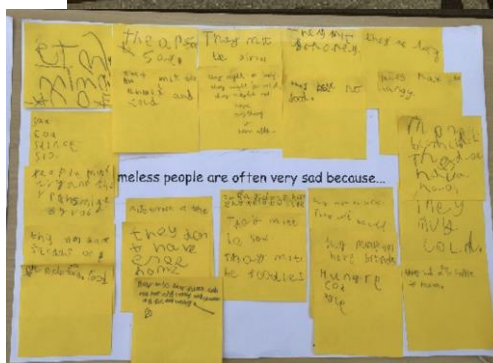
Paintings on Flower Paper by Shackadell



Peartree's Blossom Tree



Peartree looked at Christian Aid as a charity and their association with homeless people and what they do with money raised to help combat this. They read 'Wonderful Earth' and 'You're a what?' and talked about the creation of our planet and all the amazing things on it and what we can do to help protect it from damage caused by pollution on land, in the air and in seas and deforestation. They decided to do some 'upcycling' to help our planet, so they made bird feeders from plastic bottles. They talked about the planting of new trees to help towards the problem of global warming and loss of homes and habitat. They made a collage of a tree covered in spring blossom as we all agreed they are very beautiful.



Christian Aid Week at Aston St. Mary's

Orchard Class learnt about families living in communities being affected everyday by the climate crisis. They felt very passionate about making small changes every day so wrote letters to Boris Johnson about the climate crisis, these have been posted off – let's hope we receive a reply! Later in the week they read the creation story and thought about the world God created; they created their own pastel artwork of the creation story.



Dear Boris Johnson
change
Please can you stop the cause of climate ~~ing~~ by telling the world to walk to school once a week if you are within one mile. Tell people to stop littering so people can stop suffering. Help the people that live on hot islands by ~~burning~~ fossil fuels. Use solar panels and encourage people to stop ~~through~~ litter in the sea. Did you know christian aid are helping make stop people from suffering? Please can you be one of those people. Help bring back Gods creation!

From Joshua Asemota
Age: 8

Dear Boris Johnson,
as you know what is going on about the climate crisis it is has affected our world we are bring about the brown the world is getting affected. I beg you to help care for our planet. I heard about the ^{child} girls homes were blown down from a typhoon for we need to help our world! I have some idea for our world walk to short places and drive to long places for we don't burn fossil fuel that much for it doesn't cause the climate crisis.

from Ademidun age: 7

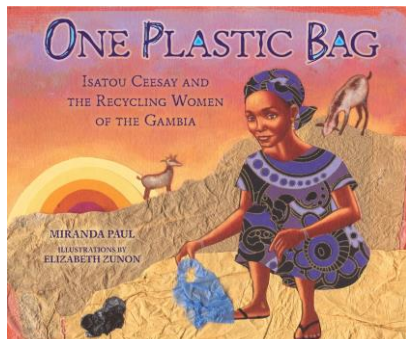


In Haffydown, the children learnt all about the work Christian Aid were doing to support the climate crisis; they found out about families being affected by climate change. They talked about how we can help support the crisis and how they can make their voice heard. They created some protest banners in support of Christian Aid Week and even held a peaceful protest on Friday afternoon in the playground!



Christian Aid Week at Aston St. Mary's

Danes class read the book 'One Plastic Bag' by Miranda Paul. It tells the true life and inspiring story of Isatou Ceesay and the recycling women of The Gambia. As part of their learning the children learnt all about this small African country. They have become experts in plastic pollution and the damage it is doing to our beautiful planet. The children then wrote their own speeches to persuade people to reduce plastic waste.



This speech is about the ^{heart-breaking} ~~negative~~ affects plastic has on our environment.

Although plastic can be useful, it is eradicating our marine life rapidly due to our impulsive actions. We're destroying their habitat by just simply littering. Plastic is a threat to the animals. How do you feel knowing that we're killing our marine life? They are in need of help and we can stop their suffering. In the last ten years we've produced more plastic than in the last century. Small changes have a significant impact in the world, our oceans are infested with plastic, the marine life depends on us.

We can stop this by using substitutes for plastic such as metal or even just recycle some of the plastic we consume. Everything counts. You can use sustainable items instead - we must act now and banish single-use plastic forever. I insist that we change, the animals are drowning in plastic.

~~We need to act now.~~ I hope I've inspired you to change.

For years humans thought that we were incapable of polluting the vast blue oceans, but the harsh reality's show that we are drowning in plastic, the plastic is drifting down into the undiscovered depths of the ocean. Causing worldwide catastrophic ecological chaos; the world is dying and approximately five trillion pieces of plastic have been discarded across the deep dark ocean. Plastic is killing thousands of wildlife; roughly 90% of sea birds have eaten plastic causing tragic changes to their body for example twisting their intestines and stomach. Although plastic ~~isn't quite destroying ecological catastrophe~~ ^{billions} we need to think about the ~~trillions~~ of ~~child~~ children scattered across the globe what will their adulthood be great or be destroyed but together we can make a change by banishing plastic pollution to the history books.

As part of their learning in science, Danes class have learned about the life and work of naturalist David Attenborough. They watched some of his more recent documentaries that aim to raise awareness of climate change and thought about how this linked with the work being done by Christian Aid. They were so inspired by his documentaries that they decided to write and record their own to raise awareness of the impact that climate change is having on our world! Scan the QR codes to hear the important messages that they wish to share.



As always, thank you to you as parents for your continued support. We hope you enjoyed seeing your child's work out on the playground last week and we are very grateful for the donations that have been made to Christian Aid. Should you wish to make a donation, our page can be found at

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