



Aston St. Mary's Newsletter

Our value this half term is Perseverance

www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk

18th June 2021

Diary Dates

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

It is hard to believe that we are now two weeks into the final half term of the school year. In many ways the year has flown by but then in others it seems to have lasted forever – particularly in relation to the pandemic. We are probably all disappointed the date for the final easing of restrictions has been pushed back another four weeks but we have all had to learn to be patient over the past year and another four weeks is not too long to wait. Our value this half term is perseverance; we must all persevere and follow the rules for just that little bit longer.

Since our last newsletter, Danes class have enjoyed an amazing residential trip to PGL. We hope that you will enjoy reading what they have to say about their week on their class pages. If you have not already done so, you might also like to read the blog on the school website:

<https://www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk/pgl-24th-28th-may-2021/>

We also have a wonderful film of their trip – this will be shared with families as soon as possible. Initial preparations for the next trip in October 2022 are already underway. Children currently in Year Three and Four have received letters – please ensure reply slips are returned to school as soon as possible. Thank you.

Miss Branagan was welcomed into Haffydown class last week and everyone has made her feel very welcome. It is wonderful to see the children working with their usual enthusiasm and commitment to learning. We would all like to send our very best wishes to Miss Keen and look forward to seeing her again soon.

Happy Father's Day to all those who are celebrating this weekend.



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:

Ali, Alfie



Merits were awarded to:

Reggie, Demi, Summer, Benji, Mia, Astrid, Jessica D, Isla C, Amelia, Tabi, Connor, Mia, Primrose, Gabriella, Nathaniel, Joshua, Jacob, Willow, Liam, Jayden, Harry B, Ademidun, Betsy, Sebastian, Blake, Archie, Jess J, Niamh, James, Azariah and George

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



House Point Winners

Congratulations to Hawking (Green) house for accumulating the most house points last half term. They enjoyed an ice lolly as a reward during golden time last Friday.



A Thought from Reverend Jenny

**Jesus says I will never leave you
I am with you to the end of time (Matthew 28:)**

**'Most people in your life
Were only meant
For dreams,
And summer laughter.**

**They stay till the wind changes,
And tides turn,
Or disappear
With the first snow.**

**And then there are some
That were forged
To weather blizzards
And pain with you.**

**They were cast in iron,
Set in gold
And never ever leave you
To face anything alone.**

**Know who those people are
And love them the way they deserve.
Not everyone in your life is temporary.
A few are as permanent as love is old'.
'Temporary and Permanent'
by Nikita Gill**

**In a quiet moment, remember, with thankfulness the names of all the people who
have been a blessing to you, who have made a real difference to you. Treasure each
special friendship for the golden gift it is.**

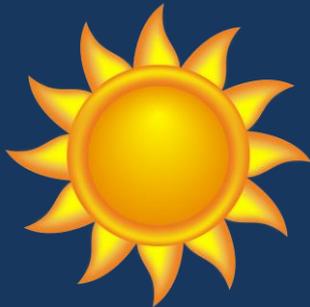
Notices

Pocket Toys and Trading Cards

Please ensure that, if your child wishes to bring a pocket toy into school, they bring **just ONE SMALL toy that fits into a trouser pocket**. Recently, some children have been bringing larger items or more than one. Also, children should not be bringing trading cards into school as these are often the cause of upset.

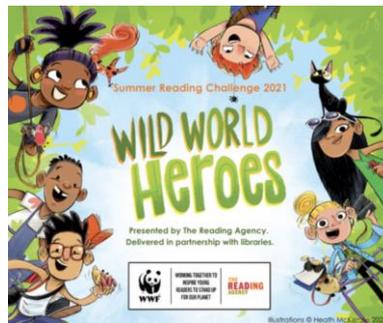
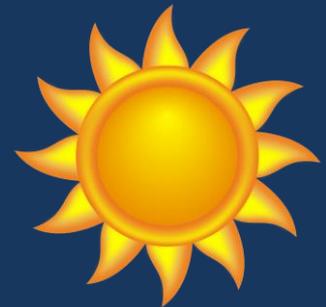


Thank you for your support.



Sunny Day Reminder

Please ensure that your child has a sun hat in school with them and that sun cream is applied before school. Should they need to reapply cream during school, they will need to do this themselves. Sun cream should not be shared between children.



Library Summer Reading Challenge

Libraries across Hertfordshire are currently preparing for this year's Summer Reading Challenge which aims to keep children reading during the summer holidays. It starts on Saturday 10 July and runs until 4 September. This year's theme is 'Wild World Heroes'. The challenge focuses on taking action for nature and tackling real-world environmental issues.

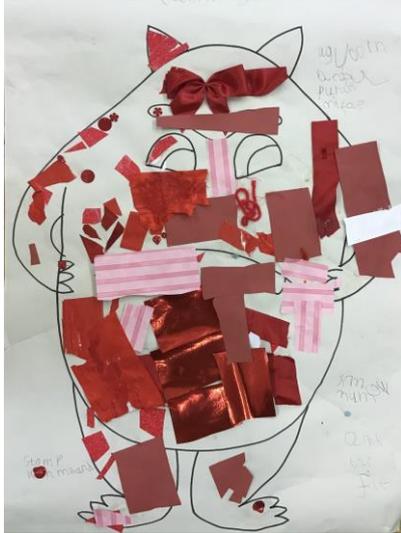
The challenge is to read six library books, eBooks or eAudio over the summer holidays. For every two books children read, they will be rewarded with a set of stickers. When they have completed the challenge, they will receive a bookmark, certificate and medal.

More information is available at: <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk>

Class News

Shackadell Class

In Shackadell, we have been focusing this week on the story "The Colour Monster" and discussing the different types of feelings and emotions we all experience. The children acted out each emotion, made a colour collage of each feeling monster and wrote about the types of things that make them happy, sad, angry, calm and scared.



In maths, we have been learning about 2D and 3D shapes and describing and sorting them by their properties. We have also been learning about doubling and halving amounts.



In phonics, we have started phase 5, which means we are now learning alternative spellings of sounds we already know eg oi/oy and ai/ay.

Class News

Orchard Class

It has been really lovely getting back into the swing of learning these last two weeks after half term. The children have lots of energy ready for their final half term of learning before the summer holidays! It has been wonderful to see lots of smiling faces back at school both this week and last week.

At the end of last half term, we had our art day. In the first part of the morning, we learnt about the features of Roman mosaics. We looked at a range of mosaics and discussed how these would have been made using thousands of tiny stones and compared the different styles and patterns we saw. We then designed and made our own ones using MDF boards, tiles, glue and grout. Everyone worked so hard on their designs and created some beautiful mosaics, well done Orchard!



This half term we are continuing with our Romans topic, it is so wonderful to see the class so engaged and interested in learning about the Romans. We are looking forward to more of our history lessons! Last week we researched and created our own leaflets about why people should visit the Roman town of Verulamium, so many excellent leaflets were produced and it was very interesting to look at photos of the remains of some Roman buildings to see how they look today.

In English, we have been writing instruction texts, based around the book '15 things not to do with a puppy'. We have been writing our own instructions called '6 things not to do with a...' about our own animals. We began by planning our instructions and thinking of silly things animals could do, then used our ideas to write our instructions. The class have produced some excellent writing and used a range of verbs in their instructions. It was lots of fun reading everyone's ideas of the silly things you shouldn't do with your pet, such as taking them hang-gliding or to not take your cat to dog school. Well done everyone!

In maths, year 3 have been learning about money, while year 2 have been solving problems using addition and subtraction. Everyone has been working so hard in their maths lessons and really challenging themselves.

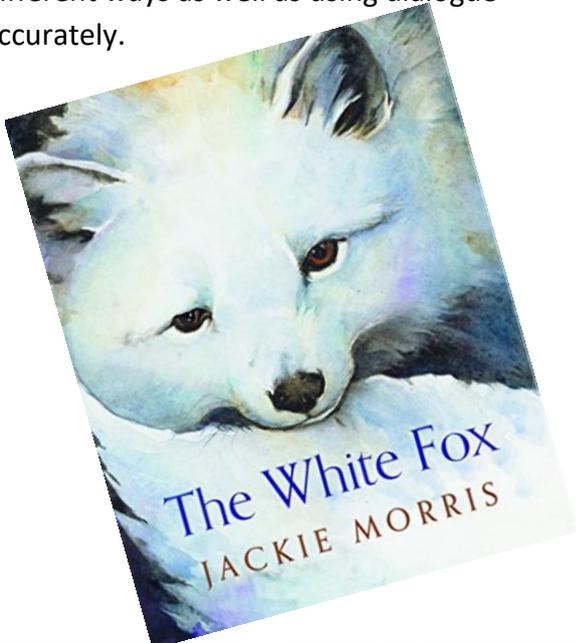
It has been wonderful to see how hard everyone has been working in all of their lessons the last two weeks. Keep up the great work, Orchard class!

Class News

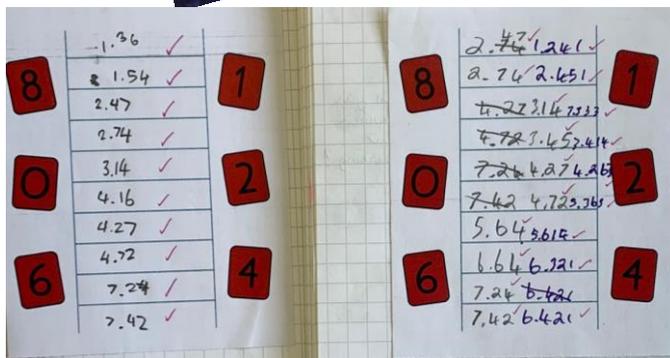
Haffydown Class

What a pleasure it has been to get to know all the children in Haffydown over the past couple of weeks! Everyone has made me feel very welcome and helped me out in so many ways. I have been particularly impressed by the children's wonderful work ethic alongside their great sense of fun.

In English, we are reading 'The White Fox' by Jackie Morris which is set in North America. This has generated some wonderful written outcomes as the children have written in role to show understanding of the plot from the perspective of different characters and described contrasting settings. They have learnt to structure complex sentences in different ways as well as using dialogue accurately.



I am a busy hardworking man doing my best to pay the rent
rent for Sid and I. That boy is so selfish and looks at me a boring old
guy that's trying to avoid him, I do worry about that kid
sometimes. As you I'm trying to be a better father to Sid, I want to
take him to see his parents grandparents but I don't want to destroy
his memories of his mother. If she were more alive, things be so different
and wouldn't feel so left out all the time. Sometimes I do wonder what
that boy does for a living each and every day. I think he might ^{care}
for the fox as when I turned around told him the news about the fox
he turned pale and walked away. Oh I do wish I had more time for my
son and then some and maybe then he wouldn't think of me the way he does
now. Sadley, I feel like he is left out on things as he is always so
miserable all the time and I have no idea what he wants for his birthday.
What should I do? Maybe I should spend more time with him or I could ask
someone like Sid what they ^{recommend} recommend for my son. Dad could ask
a family member no what I should get Sid because I have ^{no}
no idea what I should be would like.



Our learning in maths has been focussing on understanding of decimal place value. The children have learnt to partition decimal numbers with one or two decimal places. This has included playing some fun games. In the ladder game, the children had to roll a die to generate decimal numbers and then position them in order on the ladder.

Well done Haffydown for making such a great start to the final half term of the school year and thank you again for making me so welcome.

Miss Branagan

Class News

Danes Class

What an amazing week Danes class had at PGL! We set off from school on Monday 24th May and returned on Friday 28th May. We stayed at the Marchants Hill Activity Centre in Surrey. During the week the children tried lots of new and exciting activities including: rifle shooting, abseiling, archery, raft building, rock climbing, giant swing, trapeze, buggy building, Jacobs ladder, orienteering, zip wire, challenge course, sensory trail and problem solving.

'PGL was a once in a lifetime opportunity. We had so much fun.' **Leyla**

'I learnt not to be scared to take some risks in life; if you don't take the risk, you may miss the experience of a lifetime.' **Tallulah**

'It brought our class closer together and we really bonded.' **Mia**

'I will always remember PGL because it was THE BEST WEEK EVER.' **Tabi**

'I loved the trapeze because I went first, and everyone was cheering me on.' **Astrid**

'I've learnt that I'm braver than I thought.' **Finlay**

'PGL was a phenomenal experience; I would definitely go again.' **Summer**

'PGL gave me more confidence to be able to achieve things.' **Ella**

'The food was delicious, and they gave us plenty to eat.' **Joleon**

'I would like to thank our instructors for giving us the best memories that a person could never forget in a lifetime.' **Hanna**

'My favourite part of Jacob's ladder was working as a team' **Reggie**

'I will remember sharing a room with my friends, singing songs and having lots of fun.' **Charlie**

'It was an awesome experience.' **Harlee**

'I was really proud when I jumped off the trapeze.' **Isla**

'The best part was spending time with my friends...without the screen!' **Nathan**

'It all went too quickly. I loved it.' **Poppy C**

'My efforts were accompanied by much encouragement and support from my classmates and PGL staff.'
Albert

'I loved PGL and will never forget all the fun I had there!' **Amelia**

'I found the giant swing scary at first but when it was swinging, I overcame my fear and felt really proud.'
Jake

'I will remember all the fun and being brave because it made me feel better.' **Stanley**



Class News

Danes Class

'Teamwork was the main part. That is what got us through each and every activity.' **Jessica**

'PGL is a permanent memory that I will never forget.' **Danny**

'I learnt and did lots of new things. It was fun staying with my friends and teachers.' **Oscar**

'I felt so proud when I tried every challenge.' **Ellie**

'At first I was nervous but after I was happy.' **Poppy F**

'I was so happy when I conquered my fear of heights.' **Elizabeth**

'I am so proud of myself.' **Favian**

'PGL was the best school I ever had; it taught me so many things.' **Demi**

'One of the biggest things I learnt was that ever the bravest people are scared from time to time.' **Isabelle**

'I learnt that I can do more than I think I can.' **Kacie**

'Giant swing taught us to go out of our comfort zone and sensory trail taught us communication.' **Anouska**

'Giant swing was a breath-taking experience.' **Benji**





The Secrets of Parenting Teens and Building Resilience

A FREE 6 week course for parents and carers of children aged 11+
Funded by Hertfordshire County Council Children's Services **NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE**



Topics covered include:

- ◆ Teen development and the teen brain
- ◆ Building resilience/self esteem
- ◆ Temperament and its effects on behaviour
- ◆ Dealing with challenging behaviour
- ◆ Improving communication and relationships
- ◆ What is anxiety and how it is displayed in young people
- ◆ Looking at wellbeing and anxiety of teens and the impact on the wider family
- ◆ Tools for managing anxiety and conflict
- ◆ Setting boundaries and managing house rules/parenting styles and strategies
- ◆ The power of empathy in connecting with young people
- ◆ Tools for emotional health and wellbeing

ONLINE SESSIONS

Date: Monday 13th September for 6 weeks
Time: 7.00pm to 9.00pm

Date: Wednesday 10th November for 6 weeks
Time: 7.00pm to 9.00pm

Parents need to be referred onto this course or have a specific parenting need
To book contact:

Vicky Knight (Course Manager)
Email: bookings@natural-flair.co.uk
or call 01992 446 051



Natural Flair



**Natural Flair Coaching Ltd
Presents**



Natural Steps To Stronger, Safer Families

***A Protective Behaviours Approach to Emotional Wellbeing
Now offered as an online course***

An interactive and fun 6 week course, providing a safe place to explore feelings, be heard and understood, and put achievable goals in place for you and your family.
NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

Funded by:

Hertfordshire County Council,
Family Services Commissioning



Topics covered include:

- What it means to feel safe - how do we know?
- Problem solving and resilience skills
- How to support our child's worries
- Why do we get triggered? Our 'unwritten rules'
- How to build and maintain an effective support network
- Strategies to stay in control of our emotions
- What is behind anger and how this impacts behaviour

Dates: Day and evening courses available

Wednesday 8th September 9.30am to 11.30am

or

Monday 4th October 7pm to 9pm

or

Thursday 4th November 7pm to 9pm

(Each course is 6 sessions in total)

Venue: Available on your smart phone or laptop device in the comfort of your own home via a safe/secure link

This fun and inspiring online parent coaching course develops confidence, resilience and emotional wellbeing - It is packed full of strategies to support your family to manage their feelings and tips to support a calmer family life



Natural Flair
Coaching Ltd

Parents need to be referred onto this course or have a specific parenting need

For more information or to book a space please call

01992 446 051

Email: Bookings@natural-flair.co.uk

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

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Autism | ADHD
Neurodiverse Conditions

UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORTING EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONING DIFFICULTIES

Monday 5th July 2021

6PM - 7.30PM



Content that will be covered in this workshop include:

- *Understanding what Executive Functioning is.*
- *Understanding how difficulties with Executive Functioning affect access to the curriculum.*
- *Considering the range of learners who may have difficulties with executive functioning.*
- *What can we do to help?*

This workshop is presented by Susan Brooks who is a Chartered Educational Psychologist and an Associate Fellow of the British Psychological Society.

THE SESSION INCORPORATES RESEARCH FROM DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY AND INCLUDES CASE STUDIES.

Please use the Eventbrite link below to request your place:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/159540222099>

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



Message from Anja Tyler – Benington Primary School Head Teacher

Kid Fit Summer Play Scheme

We are very excited to announce that Kid Fit will be running a Summer Play Scheme at Benington School. They are a Lottery funded organisation delivering services to schools for 15 years including schools across Hertfordshire. It will run from 26th July to the 13th August.

The Scheme is open to all local children from the age of 3 – 11. Limited Places. Childcare Vouchers accepted.

There is a 10% early booking discount available for the next few weeks which can be applied at checkout: **BFP709**

For more information and to book please visit:

<https://kid-fit.class4kids.co.uk/camp/15>

Alternatively, you may contact Kid Fit directly on: infokidfit@gmail.com