



## Aston St. Mary's Newsletter

Our value this half term is Perseverance

[www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk](http://www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk)

2<sup>nd</sup> July 2021

### Diary Dates

**8<sup>th</sup> July:** Change over morning –  
children visit new classes

**9<sup>th</sup> 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

**12<sup>th</sup> July:** Year 6 Leavers' Trip  
(PM) – details to follow

**13<sup>th</sup> July:** FS & KS1 Cinema trip

**14<sup>th</sup> July:** Danes Class Production

6:30pm

**15<sup>th</sup> July:** KS2 Cinema trip

Danes Class Production

6:30pm

**16<sup>th</sup> July:** Reward Day

**20<sup>th</sup> July:** Year 6 Leavers' Service  
(details to be confirmed)  
Term finishes at 1pm.

What a treat it was to attend our music evening on Monday this week! We listened to some fantastic performances from twenty-six children from Year Two up to Year Six. Each and every child made us very, very proud. They certainly demonstrated our value of perseverance as playing any instrument takes a great deal of commitment and determination as well as many, many hours of practise. It was certainly a very special evening; we were delighted it could go ahead despite the threat of bad weather. In fact, we stayed almost dry having relocated the concert under the Shackadell and Peartree canopy. Having missed so many events over the past year, this socially distanced, outdoor evening felt particularly special. Well done to everyone involved.

As the end of the school year approaches, we hope that the events that we have planned will be able to go ahead. These include class change over morning, sports day, cinema trips and Danes class production. It is important that we all persevere with following government guidelines if we are to avoid any 'bubble closures' which are currently affecting many schools in the local area.

All parents have received the child's annual report this week; we hope that you found these useful; they certainly take many hours to prepare! Please make sure the reply sheet is returned to school as soon as possible.

Early next week, your child will bring home details of their class for next year and on Thursday they will spend the morning with their new teacher. Details about the arrangement for Sports Day will also be shared soon; please make sure that you read this carefully so that we can ensure that the event can go ahead safely.

## ACADEMIC YEAR 2020/2021

### SUMMER TERM

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2021 to Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2021

HALF TERM Break - Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021 to Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Bank Holiday (School Closed) - Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2021

## ACADEMIC YEAR 2021/2022

### AUTUMN TERM

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2021 to Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2021

HALF TERM Break - Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2021 to Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Occasional Day (School Closed) - Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2021

### SPRING TERM

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2022 to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022

HALF TERM Break - Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022 to Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2022

### SUMMER TERM

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2022 to Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Bank Holiday (School Closed) - Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2022

HALF TERM Break - Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2022 to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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



Merits were awarded to:

Ella, Nikita,  
Gabriella, Ethan H,  
Daniel, Willow,  
Oscar, Leyla, Seth,  
Amelie, Phoebe,  
Max, Rosie



## Cost of School Meals



Please note that, from September 1<sup>st</sup> 2021, the cost of school meals will increase to **£2.80 per meal**.

### A thought from Reverend Jenny

Lord, there are places we have never seen.  
Stretch the limits of our experience.

Lord, there are people we have never understood.  
Stretch the limits of our comprehension.

Lord, there are hurts we have never learned to live with.  
Stretch the limits of our awareness.

Lord, there are people's stories we have never heard.  
Stretch the limits of our compassion.

Lord, there are challenges we have never faced.  
Stretch the limits of our courage.

Lord, there are possibilities we have never explored.  
Stretch the limits of our imagination.

Amen



Shining Stars were awarded to:

Jacob, Teddy,  
Hettie, Ali, Seth and  
Evie

# Notices

## A Few Goodbyes

We will be saying a few goodbyes to members of staff at the end of term.

Mrs Haigs is retiring after 8 ½ years running the school office. It really is hard to imagine Aston St.

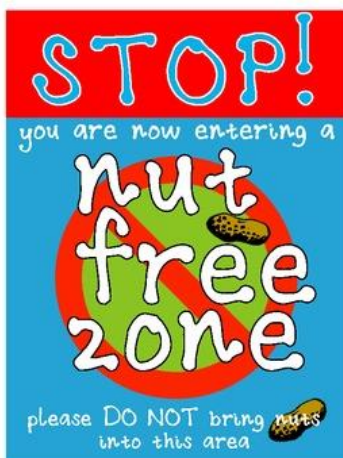
Mary's without her; her reliability and efficiency really does ensure the smooth running of the school in so many ways. We really will miss her greatly and would like to wish her all the very best for her retirement. We know that she will enjoy having more time to herself and with her family. Her last day at Aston St. Mary's will be Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> July. Thank you, Mrs Haigs, for being simply amazing!

We will also be saying goodbye to Mrs Merry. She will be taking up a new post as foundation stage leader at a school in Welwyn Garden City. Orchard class have had a wonderful year with her and, like us, will be sad to see her go. Her new school are very lucky to have appointed her. Good luck Mrs Merry and thank you for being a wonderful member of our team.

Finally, we need to say goodbye to our two trainee teachers. Mrs Goodfellow left Peartree class last week. She will be teaching a Year Two class at a school in Hitchin in September. Miss Branagan will be leaving us at the end of term; she has been appointed as Year Four teacher at a school in St. Albans. We are sure that both Orchard and Haffydown classes will miss her. Congratulations to both Mrs Goodfellow and Miss Branagan for qualifying as teachers. You have both been brilliant and have so much to offer to the teaching profession.



## Important Reminder



If your child has a packed lunch, please remember that we are a nut free zone. This is to ensure the safety of children with allergies. It is essential that you check that nuts are not contained within any ingredient in your child's lunch.



Thank you for your support with this.

# Notices

## A Message from Herts County Council

### Primary, infant and middle schools

Free rapid tests are available for anyone in year 7 and above and, if taken regularly, can help reduce the risk of us spreading Covid-19 to one another and help us to keep children in school. Our staff are taking regular tests and we're encouraging all parents and carers to do the same, order online, collect from a pharmacy or visit a mobile testing site, view your options at: [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/rapidtest](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/rapidtest). Please do not test children below year 7, these tests are not recommended or made for use on younger children.

If you test positive using a rapid test you must book a confirmatory PCR test at: [www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](http://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test). Your whole household, including any children, must begin self-isolating immediately.

These are challenging times for us all, please do not send children in if:

- They have any symptoms of Covid-19 (a new, continuous cough, change or loss of taste or smell, a temperature) – in this instance you must book a PCR test
- If they are generally unwell, especially with colds, sore throats, headache and runny noses – it's better to be safe than sorry
- They have been identified as a close contact and/or asked to self-isolate

### **Madness for Max 2021**

Many of you will know Helen and Lee Avis (parents of Jake in Danes class and Max). On Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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>





# Music Evening



**Well done to all our performers! We are so proud of you.**

Isla L, Phoebe, Jessica J, Isadora, Sophie, Ademidun, Joshua, Tabitha, Leyla, Nyah, Jayden, Nathan, Amelia, Cameron, Favian, Jake, Poppy C, Jessica D, Mia, Ray, Rosie, Paris, Summer, Anouska, Demi, Joel

# Class News

## Shackadell Class

We've been trying something new in Shackadell this week- hammers and saws! We discussed and created safety posters before we set to work using them. The children then created these happy faces using pieces of wood that they cut to size using a hack saw and hammered in the drawing pins to hold the other pieces in place! Don't they look fabulous?



We have also been learning to give and follow instructions to make tea and toast!



In maths we have been learning about odd and even numbers and also using our tens frames to really understand how bigger numbers are formed eg 35 is three lots of ten and 5 more.

In phonics we have been learning the diagraphs ay, ie, oy and ea.



# Class News

## Peartree Class

We have been learning all about trees in science. We are all able to label the different parts, talk about their functions and say what is similar or different than a flowering plant. We also know the difference between deciduous and evergreen trees.

We looked at different types of trees and took some bark rubbings. We looked at a log and counted the rings which told us how old the tree was.

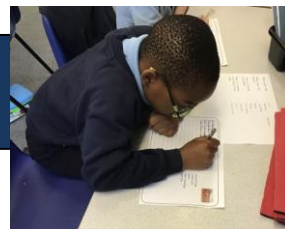
We all know it is important to look after and respect our trees as they help look after us.







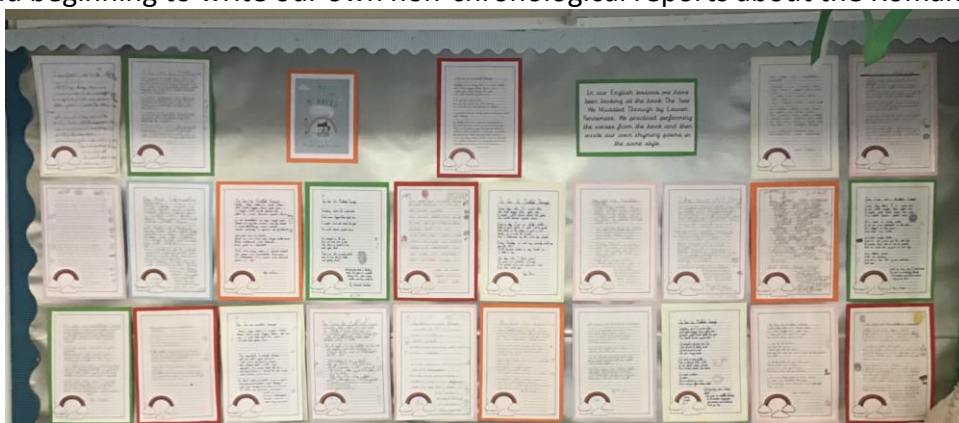
# Class News



## Orchard Class

Wow, what a fantastic few weeks of learning we have had in Orchard class. As always, I am so proud of how hard all the children work each and every day.

Last week, In English, we looked at the book 'The Year We Muddled Through' by Lauren Fennimore. We thought about all the things we would remember from the past year and wrote our own rhyming poems in this style. Everyone wrote excellent poems and all the children are very proud to see their poetry on display in our reading corner. This week we have begun our new unit of work on non-chronological reports. We have been looking at the key features of these and planning and beginning to write our own non-chronological reports about the Romans.



In Maths, Year Two have been practicing adding and subtracting two digit numbers from two digit numbers, and recording this in the written method. It has been wonderful to see how confident they are with this and are working brilliantly. Year Three have also been doing some fantastic work on measuring weight and capacity, and have been comparing the difference between two different things. They have been linking this to their work with decimals, so instead of saying 120cm, saying 1.2m. Well done everyone!



This half term, in RE, we have been learning about the River Ganges and why it is important to Hindus. On Monday, we imagined we were visiting the river and wrote postcards to explain how we felt and why it was so important.

Well done on your brilliant work Orchard. You always continue to amaze me and I am looking forward to enjoying these last few weeks of learning with you before the summer!

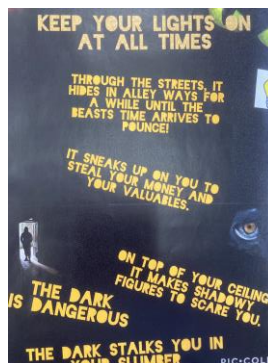


# Class News

## Haffydown Class

Haffydown have had another impressive week this week. They have been doing some fantastic learning and are such a pleasure to teach.

In our English lessons we have started a new book called 'The King Who Banned the Dark'. This has certainly seemed to grab the children's attention and they are producing some fantastic work including writing their own opinion on whether the dark should be banned or if the current system of night and day is preferable, writing in role as the dark and designing some persuasive posters. When given the instructions to appear menacingly evil through their writing, the children have absolutely nailed it - you wouldn't know such lovely children would take to the evil role quite so well!



I wanted to say a big WELL DONE for Haffydown's efforts on Times Tables Rock Stars, the children have been spending lots of time on the app and it is lovely to see how far they have come. If they persevere in school and at home, we will have Rock Heroes in no time! Please encourage your child to practise regularly at home.

In geography, they have been learning all about America. Children have produced some rather impressive homework for this topic as you can see in the photographs!



Keep up the excellent learning Haffydown, thank you for your continued hard work and great sense of fun!

Miss Branagan

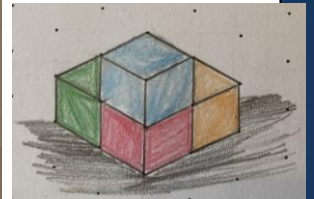
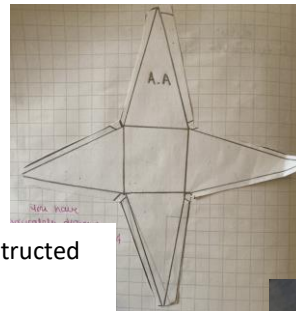
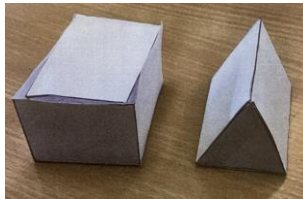
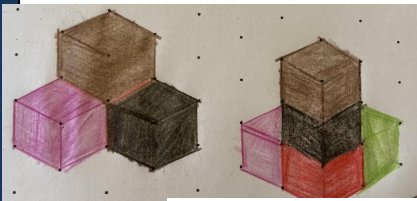
# Class News

## Danes Class

Danes class are certainly having a very busy time this half term! They are working hard rehearsing their end of year production of 'The Jungle Book'. We have been so impressed by how hard the children have worked to learn their lines; it really does promise to be a fantastic performance. This week, Year Six have completed the Bikeability training. Knowing how to ride safely on roads and cycle paths is a really important life skill especially as the children become more independent as they transfer to their secondary schools in September.



In English, we are reading Shakespeare's tragedy, Macbeth. We began with a drama session where we met the three witches in Act 1 Scene 1. Since then, we have read a narrative retelling of the story and discovered exactly why this play is a tragedy! Scan the QR codes if you would like to watch some of our performances of the opening scene.



Our focus in maths has been 3d shape. We have constructed nets of different solids and learnt to draw in 3d.

In RE, we read the Sikh story of Guru Nanak, the Milk and the Jasmine Flower. In the story, Guru Nanak is denied entry to a city because the holy men had been greedy and unkind. A messenger presents a bowl of milk and explains that the city is as full as the bowl and there was no room for anyone else. Guru Nanak thanked the messenger and very gently picked a jasmine flower from a nearby bush and floats it on the top of the milk saying that there would always be room in the world for more goodness. We used clay to create our own bowls and thought carefully about what else there is always more room for, such as compassion, generosity and respect.



Last week, in Design and Technology, we designed and made our own pencil cases. We learnt how to use a sewing machine as well as how to use embroidery stitches (running stitch, back stitch and over stitch). We lined our pencil cases with a contrasting fabric and decorated them with felt shapes, buttons and embroidery. We also had to decide whether to position our zip at the top or on the side of the pencil case. We certainly needed to demonstrate our value of perseverance in order to produce such wonderful products! Lots of us are now using our pencil cases for all our equipment in school.







# FAMILY SUPPORT WORKER



## FAMILY SUPPORT

Do you need a listening ear?

Do you need practical help  
or emotional support?

Why don't you contact  
Abby or Steph

*Appointment Times*

*Monday - 7pm - 9pm*

*Thursday - 10am - 12pm*

***To book your time slot please use the Eventbrite link below:***

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/space-hertfordshire-family-support-helpline-tickets-160194818013>

*For general enquires regarding family support please email:* [support@spaceherts.org.uk](mailto:support@spaceherts.org.uk)

[support@spaceherts.org.uk](mailto:support@spaceherts.org.uk)



[www.spaceherts.org.uk](http://www.spaceherts.org.uk)

**SUPPORTING FAMILIES IN HERTFORDSHIRE - AUTISM | ADHD | NEURODIVERSE CONDITIONS**

REGISTERED CHARITY ENGLAND AND WALES NO: 117 2178



## July 2021 Zoom Parent Network

Parent Network is open to ANY parent in the UK caring for a child with any Special Education Needs including those awaiting assessment or diagnosis.

*If you would like to join us, email [bookings@familiesinfocus.co.uk](mailto:bookings@familiesinfocus.co.uk) and we'll send you the Zoom codes*

|  |                                       |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| zoom with Francine and Lesley            | Monday July 5th<br>7pm - 9pm          | Wills and trusts and my child with SEND                              |
| Early Years zoom with Tracey and Georgie | Wednesday July 7th<br>9.30 - 11.30am  | Out and about safely with my child with SEND aged 0-7                |
| zoom with Francine and Lesley            | Thursday July 8th<br>9.30 - 11.30am   | Using empathy to de-escalate anger                                   |
| zoom with Siobhann                       | Monday July 12th<br>9.30 - 11.30am    | Happy holiday tips and ideas for getting out and about               |
| zoom with Siobhann                       | Thursday July 15th<br>7pm - 9pm       | Happy holiday tips and ideas for getting out and about               |
| Teens 15+ zoom with Finola and Karen     | Tuesday July 20th<br>7pm - 9pm        | EHCP post-16<br>With Helena Marks-Dwyer, independent SEND consultant |
| zoom with Vicky and Sharon               | Wednesday July 21st<br>9.30 - 11.30am | Let's pop the kettle on - SEND chat, giggles and a cuppa             |

Parents who have attended previous sessions will receive a text invitation to join the virtual meetings



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[www.familiesinfocus.co.uk](http://www.familiesinfocus.co.uk)