



Aston St. Mary's Newsletter

Our value this half term is Perseverance

www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk

20th July 2021

On our final newsletter last summer, we said that it would be hard to imagine a more unusual and challenging school year than 2019-2020; never would we have believed then that we would also be spending the whole of the 2020-2021 academic year working in bubbles and with another lengthy period of home learning. Our whole school community should feel immensely proud of what has been achieved despite all these challenges. Last week, we held our regular pupil progress meetings and are both proud and delighted that the children of Aston St. Mary's have continued to make such good progress throughout this year and last. This could not have been achieved without the hard work of the children, the parents and the teachers; by working together and supporting each other, in very challenging circumstances, fantastic outcomes have been achieved. Thank you!

We are also delighted that we have been able to get through this term without any bubble closures; many other schools have not been so fortunate. When planning for the many events that take place towards the end of the school year, all we could do was hope that they would be able to go ahead. We are so pleased that the children have not missed out as much as they might have done. Sports day was undoubtedly a great success. Usually this would be a whole school event, but the year group sessions all ran smoothly, and we were delighted to be so well supported by parents who respected the restrictions that ensured the safe running of the day.

Danes class have worked hard throughout this half term to rehearse their production of 'The Jungle Book'. Again, this would usually have involved the whole school, but we are thrilled that our oldest children didn't miss out on their opportunity to lead a performance. Small, socially distanced audiences were able to enjoy a fantastic performance – see Danes class pages for some lovely pictures and also a link to a video of the show.

Today we are saying goodbye to our Year Six children and also Ava in Year Four. We wish them every success and happiness as they embark upon the next stage of their education at secondary school or middle school. Whilst it is always sad to say goodbye, we know that Aston children are always well-prepared and ready to take this big and important step. We are sure that you would wish to join us in sending them off with our love and prayers. Albert, Amelia, Harlee, Isla, Jake, Jessica, Joleon, Kacie, Mia, Poppy, Reggie, Summer, Tallulah and Ava, we will miss you greatly. You will always be an important part of our Aston family and we hope that you will keep in touch.

We wish all of our Aston families a great summer break.

We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on **Thursday 2nd September**.

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

School Meals

To order school meals,
please log onto your
School Gateway account
via the website or the app.

DINNER MONEY FEES

£2.80 per meal



Merits were awarded
to:

Harry B, Harry C, Harry
H, Ademidun, Phoebe,
Aiden, Poppy Belle, Ray,
Rosie, Isla, Jack, Max,
Alfie, Sophie, Poppy C,
Jake, Poppy F, Ellie,
Harlee, Jack, Ted,
Orlagh, Isabel, Austin,
Theo



Shining Stars were
awarded to:

We look forward to
our first shining stars
of the new academic
year!

A thought from Reverend Jenny

Jesus says 'Come away to a deserted place all by
yourselves and rest awhile'...

Lay your healing hand upon us,
Jesus, when we cry in pain;
Bind our wounds with your compassion;
Bring us back to health again.

Hold us like a gentle mother,
Heal the hurt we feel inside,
Set us on our feet to make us
Strong to take life in our stride.

With the confidence you give us,
Give us your compassion too,
So that we may offer others
Comfort, healing, strength from you.

Then whatever grief awaits us,
as we learn your gentle ways
we will share your joyful Spirit
and forever sing God's praise.

(Alan Gaunt – English Hymnal)

Notices



We are very grateful to the Stevenage Community Trust who have recently provided us with £400 to purchase new guided reading books to support the progress of our early readers. We place a high priority in providing children with engaging, high-quality texts; this money has enabled us to buy eighteen new sets of six books for the children to enjoy in their guided reading sessions.



Did you know that by turning on the subtitles at home on your TV's children's content, you can double the chance of your child leaving school a proficient reader?

If you haven't already done so, please do spend a couple of moments switching them on for your child's profiles and help them continue their reading journey (unknowingly!) over the school holidays.

Sandi Toksvig recently recorded us this little video to ask for your help:

You can watch it here: <https://youtu.be/M5EWSCTjLkI>



Class News

Shackadell Class

This week Shackadell have had an 'activities week' and we have had SO MUCH FUN! On Monday, we brought our bikes and scooters to school and tried out an obstacle course and practised our skills. On Tuesday, we enjoyed going to the cinema to see Peter Rabbit 2. On Thursday, we had a whole day of forest school where we built dens, made necklaces and crowns and then had a camp fire! We finished our week on Friday with a splash morning and then inflatables in the afternoon. What a busy week!

Shackadell class, we have loved teaching you this year and we will miss you very much. Have a fabulous summer, and we will see you through the door next year!

From Mrs Holmes and Mrs Lale.



Class News

Peartree Class



Dear Peartree,

It has been a very interesting action-packed year which seems to have flown by so quickly. It seems like such a short time ago this lovely bunch joined our class as year one or year two children. It hardly seems possible that they are now moving on to years two and three!

We hope you have a lovely relaxing summer with family and friends enjoying the time with each other.

We look forward to seeing you all in September in your new classes.

Love from Mrs Baker, Miss Heritage and Miss Houlding.



Class News

Orchard Class

What a year we have had!

We have absolutely loved teaching Orchard class over this last year. The children's determination to always try their best and learn, both at school and also from home on Seesaw, has truly amazed us, and we couldn't have done it without the wonderful parents too. Orchard class, you really have blown us away!

We have had so much fun over these last few weeks of term too, including sports day and our cinema trip as well as so many fun activities in class. What wonderful memories Orchard class will have of all the great things we have had the opportunity to do!

Thank you, parents, for your continued support throughout the year and thank you children for being such superstars all year long too; you really are amazing!

Have the BEST summer holiday filled with fun and laughter, and enjoy your new classes in September!

Mrs Merry, Miss Branagan and Mrs Davies



Last week, we enjoyed watercolour painting outside on the field.

Class News

Haffydown Class

Our final art topic this year focused on the Brooklyn born mixed media artist, Jean Michel Basquiat. We explored the features of his abstract artwork, the messages he conveyed and how we could use his unique style and techniques to create our own artwork. "A beautiful mess," is how his work is often described and we had great fun creating our own. Here are some examples of the pieces we created using mixed media and inspired by his designs.

It has been another year full of challenges for us all but once again I have been continually blown away by the children's passion for learning and the support of parents and carers. Every day, the children continue to inspire me and I am forever grateful that I have the privilege to be their teacher. Thank you for all your hard work this year. I wish you all a wonderful summer.

Miss Keen 😊 x



Class News

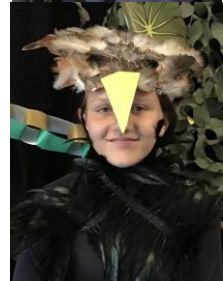
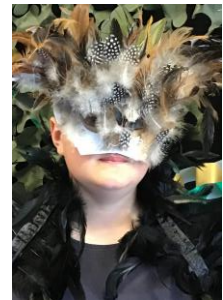
Danes Class



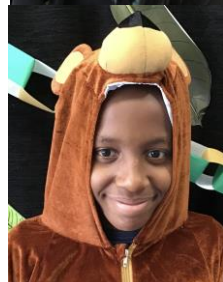
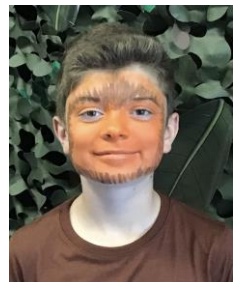
The Jungle Book

What a fantastic performance! Last week, Danes class shared their performance of *The Jungle Book* five times over the week. Each class were treated to a viewing during the afternoons and two evening performance s enabled the children to entertain their parents. If you weren't able to see the show and would like to do so, a video is now posted on our school website:

<https://www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk/danes-class-production/>



The Year Six Cast

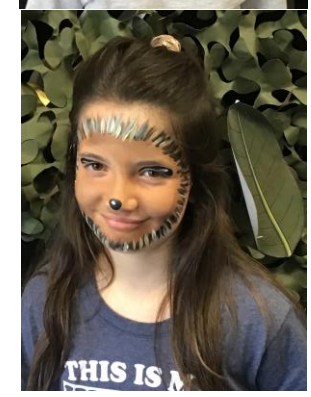


Class News

Danes Class



The Year Five Cast



Class News

Danes Class

Today, we say goodbye to our wonderful Year Six children. They are now well-prepared and ready for their transition to secondary school in September. We will miss them so much. Last week, they enjoyed their leavers' treat – at trip to the leisure park to enjoy a game of golf, followed by lunch at Prezzo and dessert at McDonalds.





July 2021

Dear Parent/Carers

As we move into the summer months and welcome in the school holidays, the Safer Neighbourhood Team wishes to take this opportunity to provide parents and carers advice around the use of E-scooters within our community. Despite their increase in popularity in recent years, E-Scooters are only legal to ride on private land with the landowner's permission or as part of a government trial.

We would like to remind you that riding an E-scooter in public when it is not part of an authorised trial is against the law and can result in penalty points, a fine and the vehicle being seized. It is also illegal to ride a Segway, Go-Ped or powered unicycle on public roads, cycle lanes and pathways as they are not considered roadworthy vehicles.

With trials of rented e-scooters taking place around the country, some people are purchasing their own in the mistaken belief they can legally use them on public paths and roads. This is not the case and we are finding that otherwise law-abiding citizens are inadvertently breaking the law in this way.

Some parents are giving them to children to travel to school. It is important to highlight that many e-scooters have a maximum speed of 15.5mph and some are able to exceed this, which can be dangerous for the rider and pedestrians if they are involved in a collision.

Our focus is engaging with members of the community and making them aware of the law regarding e-scooters. Offenders who knowingly and persistently break the law will be dealt with appropriately.

What is an e-scooter?

Electrical scooters (also known as e-scooters) come under the category of "powered transporters". This also covers a range of other personal transport devices which are powered by a motor.

"Powered transporters" fall within the legal definition of a motor vehicle under the Road Traffic Act 1988. Therefore, the rules that apply to motor vehicles, also apply to e-scooters.

As a motor vehicle, they must comply with various pieces of Road Traffic Legislation, including but not limited to:

- driving with a licence
- driving/riding with insurance
- driving/riding other than on a road
- need to be taxed

It is not currently possible to get appropriate insurance for privately owned e-scooters, meaning it is illegal to use them on the road or in public spaces.

Rental e-scooter trials

Trials of rental e-scooters are taking place in the UK. Any person who uses a rental e-scooter on a public road or other public space, must comply with the relevant Road Traffic Legislation or they face potential prosecution.

Legal use of an e-scooter

It is legal to use an e-scooter:

- on private land with the permission of the land owner
- when the trial comes in, it will be legal to use the rental e-scooters, from specific companies on the road

For more information on using publicly owned e-scooters please read the New legislation at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/powered-transporters/information-sheet-guidance-on-powered-transporters>

If you have any queries in relation to this matter, please do not hesitate to contact your local Neighbourhood officer. Details of your local officer can be found at <https://www.herts.police.uk/Your-area/your-area>

Regards

Safer Neighbourhood Team

Stevenage Police Station