



Danes Class Information 2021– 2022



We hope that you and your family have had an enjoyable and relaxing summer break and that your child is enjoying the start of the new school year. We are delighted to welcome the Year 5 children into Danes class and also to welcome back the Year 6 children. Being the oldest children in the school, Year Six take on many responsibilities around the school. This includes supporting our youngest pupils by becoming ‘Buddies’ to the children in Shackadell class. They have already been looking after the Shackadell children at lunchtime.

Obviously, we work hard to ensure that all children maximise their academic progress; we prepare them as fully as possible for secondary transfer and our overall aim is that they leave Aston St. Mary’s as confident and ambitious ‘young adults’ - children do a lot of growing up in their final years at primary school! This letter provides information about the term/year ahead. Please do not hesitate to speak to any of the Danes staff if you have any further questions.

Staffing

Mrs Branagan – Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday

Mrs Dean – Tuesday morning & Friday afternoon

Miss Preston– Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday

Mrs Avis – supports in class every morning

Mrs Evans – teaches RE and French on Monday & Tuesday afternoons

Mrs Crowley – teaches music on Tuesday afternoon

Mr Nash – PE on Monday & Friday afternoons



Water Bottles

It is essential that all children bring a named water bottle into school each day and take it home to be washed daily. They will keep these next to their table for use throughout the day.

PE Kit

PE lessons will take place on Mondays and Fridays. Please ensure appropriate kits are in school and items clearly labelled (this should include navy tracksuit bottoms and a sweatshirt for cold weather). Trainers will be needed EVERY DAY for the ‘Daily Mile’.



Danes Class Web Page

Please remember to check our class page on the school website (www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk) in order to see updates about and photographs of our learning throughout the year.

Homework

Maths and English homework will be set on **Seesaw*** every Monday and should be submitted by Friday morning each week (commencing w/b 20th September).

Spellings should be practised daily in the spelling journal. Regular lessons will take place in school; children should practise words from these sessions and/or any personal spellings.

Times tables should now be secure allowing for rapid recall, application to division and decimals. If your child is not yet confident with facts up to 12 x 12 then please aim to get these learnt by October half term. Regular practise on **Times Tables Rock Stars** really does make a difference.

Reading should also take place every evening, with regular recording of this in reading records (to be signed by an adult).

Children are also required to complete one **homework project** each half term (see separate sheet for details). These will link to our topic and/or science.

Homework is designed to be part of our home/school agreement, where children and parents work together to reinforce concepts learnt in class. In Years 5 and 6, homework is also important preparation for the expectations of secondary school. Following the Covid-19 closures, children should now be more used to working with some independence at home; giving the children plenty of time to do their homework allows them to prioritise and plan when they are going to do it. Should your child experience any difficulties with their homework, please remind them that we are always happy to help them in school before the submission deadline.

Seesaw Login Home Learning Codes

Your child's new login details for Seesaw are attached to this letter. Please **keep this safe** as your child will need to access Seesaw for their weekly English and maths homework.

Collection at 3:15

Children in Years Five and Six no longer have to tell the member of staff when they see the adult who is collecting them. Instead, they can go straight to the adult they are leaving with. Should you wish your child to leave the school site independently then we require a letter from home to authorise this.

Read, Read, Read!

It is very important for all children to maintain regular reading throughout the year. In school, regular guided reading sessions will take place and the children will also have opportunities to read independently. It is important that your child has his/her **reading book in school each day** as well as taking it home to **read every evening**. Please support your child by encouraging them to read independently as well as reading with them regularly and discussing their reading. Reading record books should be signed every day if possible. Children should be reading as widely as possible choosing books from a range of different genres and authors. Part of our work in English will include looking at historical fiction. Where possible, every child should therefore make sure that they **read at least one book from the booklist below** in addition to any other books they choose to read this term. We have copies of most of the titles in school, or they could be borrowed from the local library.

World War Two Fiction – Booklist

Goodnight Mister Tom*	by Michelle Magorian
Adolphus Tips	by Michael Morpurgo
Blitzcat	by Robert Westall
Once	by Morris Gleitzman
Then	by Morris Gleitzman
Machine Gunners	by Robert Westall
Blitz	by Robert Westall
Carrie's War	by Nina Bawden
Thunder and Lightnings	by Jan Mark
Time Train to the Blitz	by Sophie McKenzie
When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit	by Judith Kerr
Bombs on Aunt Dainty	by Judith Kerr
A Small Person Far Away	by Judith Kerr
Put Out the Light	by Terry Deary
I am David	by Anne Holm
The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas	by John Boyne
The Silver Sword	by Ian Serraillier
The Buried Crown	by Ally Sherrick
Our Castle by the Sea	by Lucy Strange
Wave Me Goodbye	by Jacqueline Wilson
Paradise Barn	by Victor Watson
War Dog	by Martin Booth
After the War was Over	by Michael Foreman
The Boy at the Top of the Mountain	by John Boyne
The Emergency Zoo	by Miriam Halahmy
Jet the Rescue Dog	by David Long
The Lion and the Unicorn	by Shirley Hughes

*please note this will be read as our class text this term

Curriculum

Our theme this term is a **historical and geographical** based theme: **‘Brave and Beautiful Britain’**. We will be learning all about World War Two, in particular The Battle of Britain, developing our mapping skills and finding out about the physical and human geography of different UK localities. Our work will also include other curriculum areas:

English: Historical Fiction, Reports, Biography and Poetry. We will be reading ‘Goodnight Mister Tom’ by Michelle Magorian as our class text.

Design Technology: World War Two shelters and planes.

Art: the life and works of Paul Cezanne, landscapes using watercolours.

In **Maths** we will be following the National Curriculum, making links with our topic where possible (e.g. imperial/metric units of measure).

Our work in **Science** will cover Electricity and Light (how we see things). The children will use their learning about electricity when they design and make their World War Two planes.

Trip to Duxford Imperial War Museum



To support our ‘Battle of Britain’ theme we will be visiting Duxford Imperial War Museum on Wednesday 6th October 2021. See separate letter for further details.

Equipment

It is wonderful that all the children have come to school equipped for learning with pencil cases and equipment. They have all been provided with a pen which will be replaced when the ink runs out. Should they lose their pen, they will need to purchase a new one from school.

Recorders

All children need to have their own recorder in school every Tuesday. These are available to purchase from the school office.



SATs

You are probably already aware that all Year 6 pupils are assessed via SATs during the summer term. Tests include Reading, Grammar, Spelling & Punctuation and Maths. Writing, Speaking & Listening and Science are assessed via teacher assessment. We will, of course, make sure that the children are fully prepared and given every opportunity to achieve their full potential. SATs will take place between:

Monday 9th May 2022– Thursday 12th May 2022

Further information about the tests and expectations will be shared with Year Six parents closer to the time.