



Aston St. Mary's Newsletter

Our value this half term is Honesty

www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk

10th September 2021

Every child is a treasure - small in size, growing in God's love.

Diary Dates

Friday 24th September: Non-uniform day (£1 donation towards Christmas raffle prizes)

Tuesday 12th October: Harvest Festival

Tuesday 12th October and

Wednesday 13th October: Parent Teacher consultation evenings

Friday 5th November: Non-uniform (chocolate donations for Christmas fayre)

Thursday 11th November: Remembrance service

Friday 12th November: Children in Need (details to follow)

Friday 26th November: Non-uniform (bottle donations for Christmas fayre)

Monday 29th November: Occasional Day – SCHOOL CLOSED

Wednesday 1st December: Christmas Decoration Day

Tuesday 14th December: 9:45am and 1:45pm Christmas service

Wednesday 15th December: Christmas Dinner

Thursday 16th December: Christmas parties (pm)

Friday 17th December: Reward Day

Tuesday 21st December: SCHOOL FINISHES at 1:00pm

As this is our first newsletter of this academic year, we hope that all our families were able to enjoy some family time over the summer break. It has been wonderful to welcome the children back into school; they have all settled quickly into their new classes and there is already a 'buzz' of learning around the school. We would like to extend an especially warm welcome to all of our new children and staff. Shackadell class have been absolutely amazing in how quickly they have settled into their new routines; it has been wonderful to see so many of the older children looking after them at lunchtime. They met their Year Six 'buddies' for the first time this week and will enjoy reading with them each Friday. Orchard class have also welcomed two new children; they too have been amazing. We are pleased that Breakfast Club has been started again. If you would like further details, please contact the school office. Extra-curricular clubs will also be starting up again next week onwards; please look out for details. During the summer break, new fencing was installed around the boundary of the school field in order to ensure the site is secure. We now need to raise the funding to pay for this. Any suggestions for fundraising activities or contacts with local companies who might be able to contribute would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Mrs Winwood if you have any suggestions. Whilst it is good that life is beginning to feel a bit more 'normal' again, it is important that we all continue to keep ourselves as safe as possible. Having been back at school little more than a week and had positive cases already in school, we really cannot afford to be complacent. We hope that those affected make a speedy recovery and look forward to welcoming them back to school after their ten-day period of isolation. Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to working with you over the year ahead.

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



A Thought from Reverend Jenny:

*I thank Thee, Lord, for blessings, big and small;
For spring's warm glow and songbird's welcome call;
For autumn's hue and winter's white snow shawl.*

*I thank Thee for the harvest rich with grain;
For tall trees and the quiet shadowed lane;
For rushing stream, for birds that love to fly;
My country's land, the mountains and the plain.*

*I thank Thee for each sunset in the sky,
For sleepy nights, the bed in which I lie;
A life of truth and peace; a woman's hand,
Her hand in mine unit the day I die.*

*I thank Thee, Lord, for all these things above;
But most of all I thank Thee for Thy love.*

(Ralph Gaither written as a POW in North Vietnam)

Give thanks at ALL times



Shining Stars were awarded to:

We look forward to our first Shining Stars of the new school year!



Merits were awarded to:

We look forward to announcing our first merit award winners of the new school year!

Notices

Christian Vision and Values at Aston St. Mary's

On Wednesday 1st September, Aston St Mary's staff and governors gathered together to explore the school's Christian vision and values. We spent a long time thinking about and discussing what makes our school the wonderful and unique place that it is and how we could best describe the way we teach and encourage the children in our care.

As a result of exploring different Bible stories and scripture, we were able to find a phrase that we think describes our Christian vision, values and ethos:

'Every child is a treasure - small in size, growing in God's love.'

The children may have already shared this with you and we are excited to dig deeper into this with them in the coming weeks. Each child at our school truly is a treasure, uniquely made and full of wonderful potential. We always encourage them that, no matter what their size, their voice is important and that we are, all of us, continuing to grow in God's love in every aspect of our lives.

As always, we thank you for your continued support, highlighting the importance of our school's Christian vision and values in your homes and our community. We look forward to seeing everyone continue to grow in God's love as we start this new academic year.

Is your child entitled to Pupil Premium Grant Funding?

If you are on benefits, your child may be entitled to additional funding in school. This money would be spent on YOUR child. The funding would support your child's learning across the curriculum. It could also be used to help with costs of school trips and other extra curriculum activities. In addition to this, from Year 3 upwards, they would receive a free school meal.

If you think your child may be entitled to this funding, please speak to Mrs Winwood or Caroline in the office.

Is your child in Year Six?

Applications for secondary places to start September 2022 are now open. Applications close on 31st October 2021.

Parents of children in Year Six have received information electronically including **'Moving on 2022 – Open School Events'** and **'Secondary Transfer 2022'**. Please make sure that you read these carefully and complete your child's application before the deadline.

Welcome to our new staff

Hello everyone! My name is Miss Megan Wynne and I teach Haffydown class. I have really enjoyed getting to know the Year 3 children over the last few days. I have lived in Hertfordshire my whole life, apart from three years studying in Canterbury for my Primary Education degree. My favourite subjects are English and History – I love to read! In my spare time, I like to walk my dogs Oscar and Louis and feed the ducks in my local canal. I also enjoy the theatre; my favourites have been The Lion King and Matilda.

I am excited to get to know everyone and for the year ahead.



Hello, my name is Mrs Sarah Wilson and I have joined Aston St Mary's as an Administration Assistant in the school office. I completed an Early Childhood Studies degree after leaving school and prior to starting at Aston St Marys, I was working in a school office in a Hertfordshire secondary school. I have two young children, Freya and Freddie aged 6 and 4 who keep me very busy in my free time! I am really looking forward to meeting you and your children and getting to know you all over the year ahead.

Hello! My name is Miss Lauren Elliott and I'm very excited to be starting my teacher training at Aston St Mary's School. I will be working in Shackadell class alongside Mrs Holmes and Mrs Lale. It has been lovely to get to know our new pupils in Shackadell over the past few days. This summer I graduated from Anglia Ruskin University where I studied Primary Education, which helped me to further my knowledge and enhance my interest in teaching. I am looking forward to being able to use these skills with the children and my year ahead at Aston St Mary's School.



Hello! My name is Miss Preston and I have joined Danes Class as a trainee teacher. I studied Countryside Management at university, which lead to working as an Education Officer at Celtic Harmony. I really enjoyed working with the school groups and it inspired me to go into teaching. I love being outdoors and I currently have my own allotment, which has been fun but a challenge! I also enjoy baking and exploring both the UK and abroad (pre-Covid!). I'm really excited for the year ahead and being part of the school.

School Council

Congratulations to the children from Years One to Six who have been recently elected to represent their peers as part of our school council. On Tuesday, we had a special assembly where they were presented with their badges by Stephen McPartland MP.

Our school council plays a key role in the development of our school.

Over recent years, they have been instrumental in many initiatives - including us purchasing the school stage. It was also school council who suggested that we should have a school pet. As a result, Miss Nellie is now a much-loved member of our school community – she was named as the result of the children's votes.

Our new school councillors are:

Peartree Class: **Pixie**

Orchard Class: **Orlagh**

Haffydown Class: **Ethan H**

Year Four: **Rosie**

Year Five: **Jessica and Muctaar**

Year Six: **Benji and Nathan**



Class News

Shackadell Class

We are really excited to welcome our new children, not only to Shackadell class, but to Aston St Mary's School.

This last week we have spent a lot of time exploring our classroom, getting to know each other and settling into our new routines. We have also enjoyed meeting lots of older children who have been looking after us really well, especially our buddies in year 6.



Class News

Peartree Class

Welcome back to school Peartree.

I hope you have all had a well-deserved break and are ready for an exciting time in Year One. We have all been getting used to and exploring our new classroom. We have a lovely reading area with soft cushions to sit on and enjoy a variety of books. We can do lots of writing activities in the writing area, which is kitted out with lots of exciting resources.

In science, we are going to be learning all about animals including humans and we have an interactive display for some hands-on learning. Our topic is about toys! Yes, that's right. We are going to be looking at similarities and differences between older and more modern toys. We will get to handle some toys from the early 1900s. In DT this half term, we will be designing and making our own wheeled toy. In our garden, the playhouse has been converted into a toy museum for us to play in.



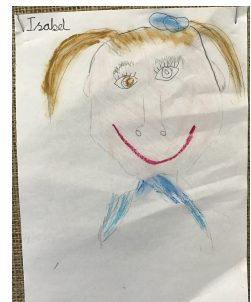
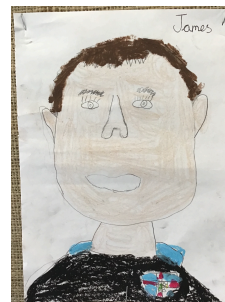
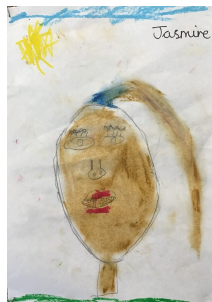
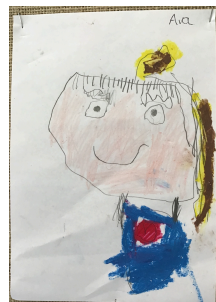
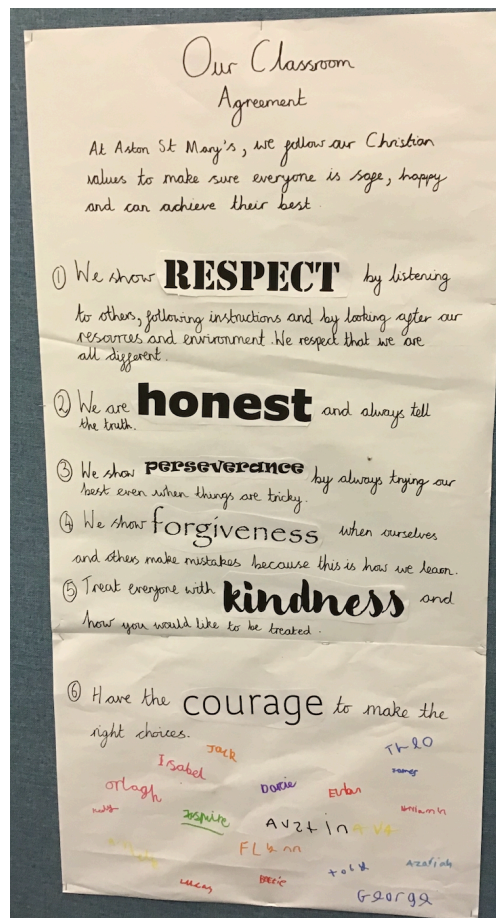
Class News

Orchard Class

It has been so wonderful welcoming all the children back this week and seeing them so excited to see their friends and start their learning. They have all settled in very well to Year Two and our new classroom. We have been delighted to welcome two new children, Bertie and Ethan, to our school.

Using our Christian values, we came up with the following class agreement to help keep us safe, happy and to help us learn.

On our first day back at school, we created self-portraits for our art gallery. We used sketching techniques and thought careful about our colour choices using pastels.



In our history lessons, we are so excited to be learning about the sinking of the great Titanic and have already enjoyed writing our own posters to advertise the famous, luxurious ship.

Please check your child's bookbag for the welcome letters which were sent home on Monday. These contain important information about equipment and homework. For more information and updates on our learning, check out our web page on the school website.

I look forward to working with you all this year.

Miss Keen

Class News

Haffydown Class

Haffydown have had a wonderful start to the new year. We have spent the first few days getting to know each other and settling into new routines. I have been extremely impressed with how fast Year 3 have settled back into school.

We had wonderful discussions on being resilient workers and caring classmates, and how this is vital for a happy and safe environment. These discussions helped form our Class Charter.

It was lovely to see how selfless Year 3 are when they wrote their prayers for the prayer box. They prayed for their classmates, family and the school and showed how thankful they were for what they have.

During our introduction to our topic for this term, Anglo-Saxons, the children acted like archaeologists digging up the past. They showed their inquisitive minds as they completed a puzzle to reveal an artefact, to then create a theory as to what it might be and what it told us about the Anglo-Saxons.

We are very excited to see the children's learning over the coming year.



Class News

Puddlebridge Class

Puddlebridge class have made a wonderful start to the new school year. We spent the first few days getting to know each other and settling in. During this time, we discussed what it means to part of the Puddlebridge team and agreed on a set of rights and responsibilities for us to follow in our class charter. We also spent some time creating a stained-glass cross to display in our reflection zone and wrote prayers to add to our prayer box.



We have started thinking about our history topic, 'Brave and Beautiful Britain'. We now have a good understanding of the events that led up to the start of WWII and are looking forward to finding out more about the Home Front.

In English, we have started reading 'Letters from the Lighthouse' by Emma Carroll. The book tells the story of Olive and Cliff who have been evacuated to the Devonshire coast during the Second World War. We will be using this text as a stimulus for our writing over the next couple of weeks. In Maths, we have enjoyed taking part in a 'Week of Inspirational Maths' that has helped us to understand why a growth mindset is so important across all of our subjects.



Class News

Danes Class



Danes class really have made a fantastic start to the new school year. It has been lovely to welcome the Year Five children into the class; as Year Five are now split between Danes and Puddlebridge, the two classes will be working closely together throughout the year. We will be studying the same topics and the Year Five children from Puddlebridge are joining us for science lessons every Wednesday. This term our topic is called 'Brave and Beautiful Britain' and will include historical learning about World War Two as well as a geographical study of the British Isles.

In English, we are reading 'Goodnight Mister Tom' by Michelle Magorian. This is a classic text which tells the story of a young evacuee called William Beech who develops a very special bond with the kind, old Mister Tom. This wonderful story will provide us with many opportunities for writing as well as developing our vocabulary. We have started our mathematical learning journey with 'A Week of Inspirational Maths'. We have learned that everyone is capable of doing well at maths and that it is important to make mistakes and be challenged. A growth mindset will help enable the best possible progress in all areas of the curriculum.



Years Five and Six are doing a wonderful job of welcoming our youngest children in Shackadell class to Aston St. Mary's. They have been looking after them at lunchtimes and Year Six are now 'buddies' with them. This includes reading together each Friday, eating lunch together and looking out for each other. We have an exciting year ahead and so much to look forward to.