



Aston St. Mary's Newsletter

Our value this half term is **Honesty**

www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk

24th September 2021

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

Diary Dates

Wednesday 6th October: Danes and Puddlebridge classes visit to Duxford IWM.

Tuesday 12th October: Harvest Festival

Tuesday 12th October and Wednesday

13th October: Parent Teacher consultation evenings

Friday 5th November: Non-uniform (chocolate donations for raffle prizes)

Thursday 11th November: Remembrance service

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

Friday 26th November: Non-uniform (bottle donations for raffle prizes)

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

Now that we are three and a half weeks into term, it is fantastic to see how much learning has already taken place around the school. The children's enthusiasm and love of learning is demonstrated not only by their responses in the classroom but also by the impressive range of home learning projects which are now arriving in school. We really are grateful for the support that the children receive at home; this really does make a difference to the progress that they make and their engagement in learning. Thank you.

We would also like to thank you for doing everything possible to keep our school community safe whilst the virus is still prevalent. We really do appreciate parents taking the precaution to get their children tested if and when sore throat, cough or cold symptoms appear. In school, the children are enjoying being able to share assemblies and play together again – it is lovely to see our Aston family reunited.

This week you will have received flu immunisation forms, please return these to school as quickly as possible. This programme is part of the government's wider winter planning to reduce flu levels in the population, and therefore the potential impact on the NHS, when we are likely to see both flu and coronavirus (COVID-19) in circulation.

We wish all of our families a happy and relaxing weekend and look forward to seeing the children on Monday.

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

Jubilee Day (School Closed) – Monday 20th June 2022) ****PLEASE NOTE ADDITIONAL DATE ADDED****

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



Shining Stars were awarded to:

Benji, Favian

A Thought from Reverend Jenny:



May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back,
May the sun shine warm on your face,
The rain fall softly on your fields;
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the *palm of his hand*.
(Irish blessing)

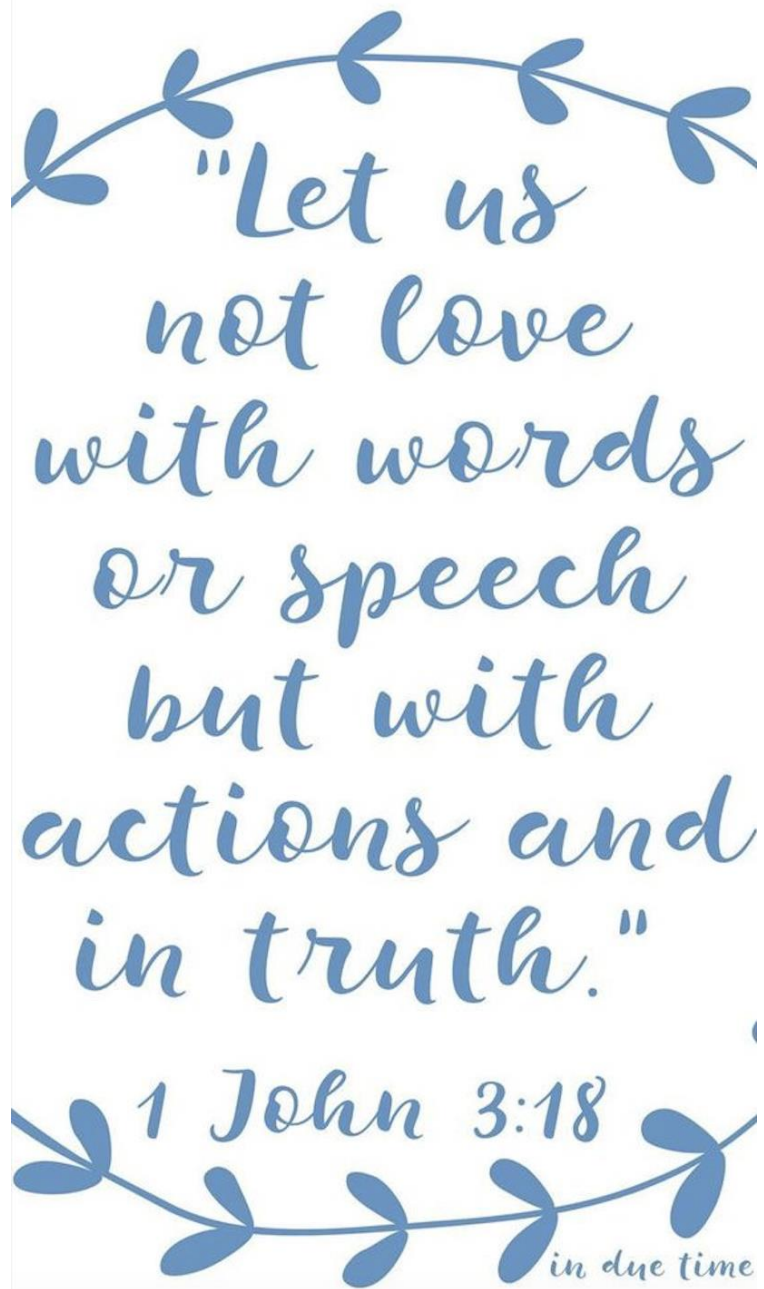
‘The eternal God is our refuge, and
underneath are the *everlasting arms*’.
(Deut 33:27)



Merits were awarded to:

Niamh, James, Lucas, Ava, Keely, Darcie, Niamh, Stanley H, Demi, Hanna, Blake, Charlie, Harrison, Stanley P, Finlay, Benji, Anouska, Aidan S, Paris, Jessica, Mia, Betsy, Finley T, Alfie, Joshua, Primrose, Finn, Ethan H, Evie and Jayden.

Honesty



This half term, our value is honesty. As a family, you could create an acrostic poem together to really explore what honesty means to Christians and within our homes.

1. Write the word HONESTY down your paper vertically.
2. Brainstorm words and ideas that describe what honesty means to you.
3. Now look at your ideas. Start each line of your poem with a phrase that begins with the capital letters you wrote down. This can be tricky but fun!

Notices

Lateral Flow Tests

There are boxes of Lateral Flow Tests behind the Lych Gate at the church.

Please help yourselves.



Uniform and PE Kit Reminder

Please make sure that all items of uniform and PE kit are clearly named as we already have a collection of lost property. If items are named, we can ensure they are returned to their owner.

Thank you.

Choir

I am very excited to be able to start up our school choir again this year. Choir takes place on Friday lunchtimes 12:00-12:20 in Orchard classroom. For the time being, it is open to all children in Years 2 and 3 although this will change throughout the year. It is a fun, relaxed environment with lots of singing and dancing so please do encourage your child to join us if they are interested.

Thank you.

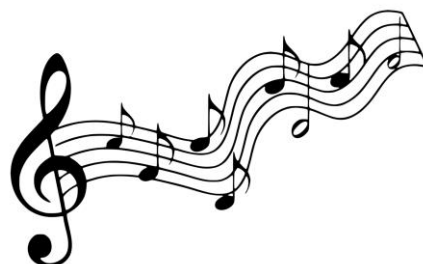
Miss Keen



Congratulations!

Congratulations to Tabitha who passed her Grade 1 piano with a merit. Well done also to Demi who passed his Grade 3 piano with a merit.

Both children have worked very hard practising piano during the lockdown periods over the last year. We are so proud of their motivation and determination.



Notices



Madness for Max 2021

Many of you will know Helen and Lee Avis (parents of Jake who left Danes to move on to secondary school in September and Max. Helen is Danes class teaching assistant).

Next Sunday (3rd October), they are taking part in 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.

Thank you to everyone who has already donated; Helen and Lee have now almost reached their fund-raising target. Any further support and donations would be greatly appreciated.

<http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/lee-avis3>



Help Needed – Football Club

We are looking for someone to help Rising Stars with our football club on a Friday after school. If you have an interest in football and would like to help, please speak to Mrs Winwood. Before anyone could start, all safeguarding checks would need to be carried out.



Class News

Shackadell Class

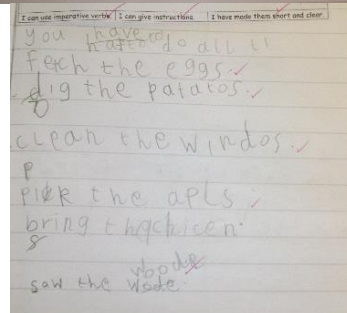
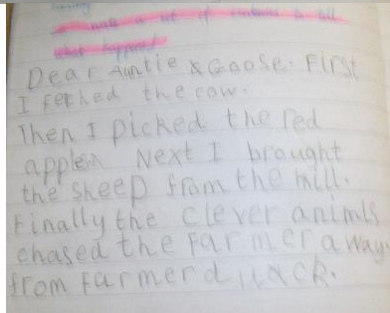
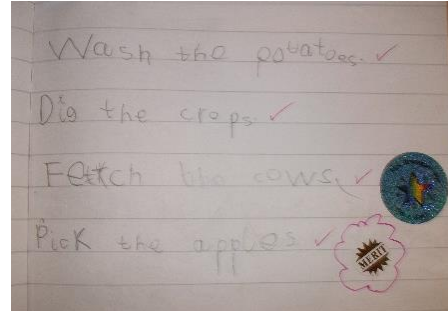
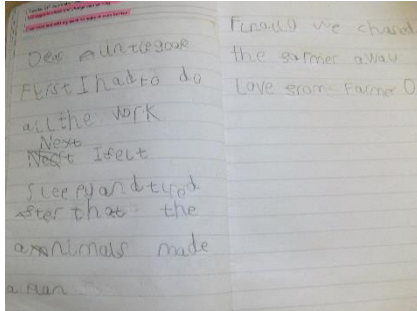
This week, Shackadell have been continuing to get to know each other and we have been finding out all about ourselves. We did some work on the colour monster and our feelings. We also have been thinking about our value of honesty. We have talked a lot about our families and celebrated our similarities and differences.



Class News

Peartree Class

In our English lessons, we have been doing some lovely writing. We have been reading the book Farmer Duck by Martin Waddell and Helen Oxenbury. Farmer Duck has been writing some instructions for the jobs that the lazy farmer has to do whilst he goes on holiday. He has also written a letter to Auntie Goose complaining about all the work he has had to do himself.



In maths, we have been subitising patterns and representing numbers in a variety of ways using all of the maths equipment.



In science, we have started our topic of 'Animals including Humans' and body parts. We even labelled a real human.

Peartree have started forest school this half term with an exciting game of 'Creeping Caterpillars'. We cannot wait for all the wonderful activities and outdoors learning we are going to do.

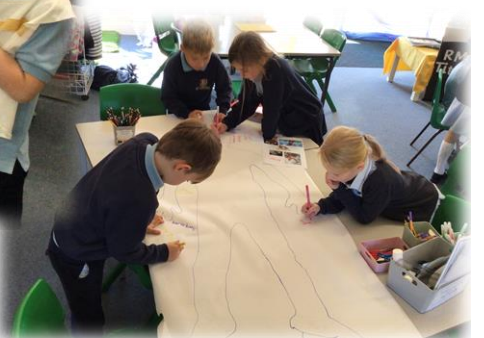
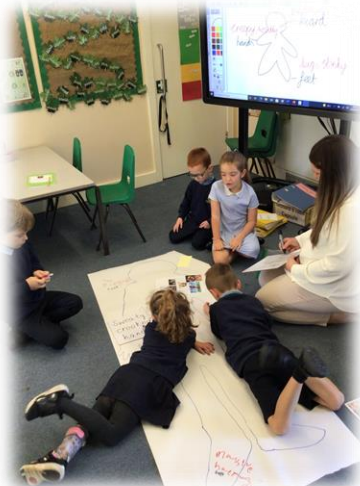


Class News

Orchard Class

Our history topic became even more dramatic this week when we began thinking about the night the Titanic sunk. We used role play to depict just how unfair the distribution of lifeboats were and to unpick the many fatal mistakes that were made. This helped to build our understanding of cause and consequence within the context of this significant historical event. The children were quite rightly outraged to learn that class, status and wealth meant that a disproportionate number of second-class and third-class passengers lost their lives in comparison to the first-class passengers. We have also started seeing some impressive homework projects too!

In English last week, we enjoyed working in groups to generate descriptive vocabulary to describe the giant. We used these "roles on the wall" to help us write our own warning posters for the bottom of the beanstalk. This week, we are exploring alternative versions of Jack and the Beanstalk and will be planning and writing our own retellings of this traditional tale.

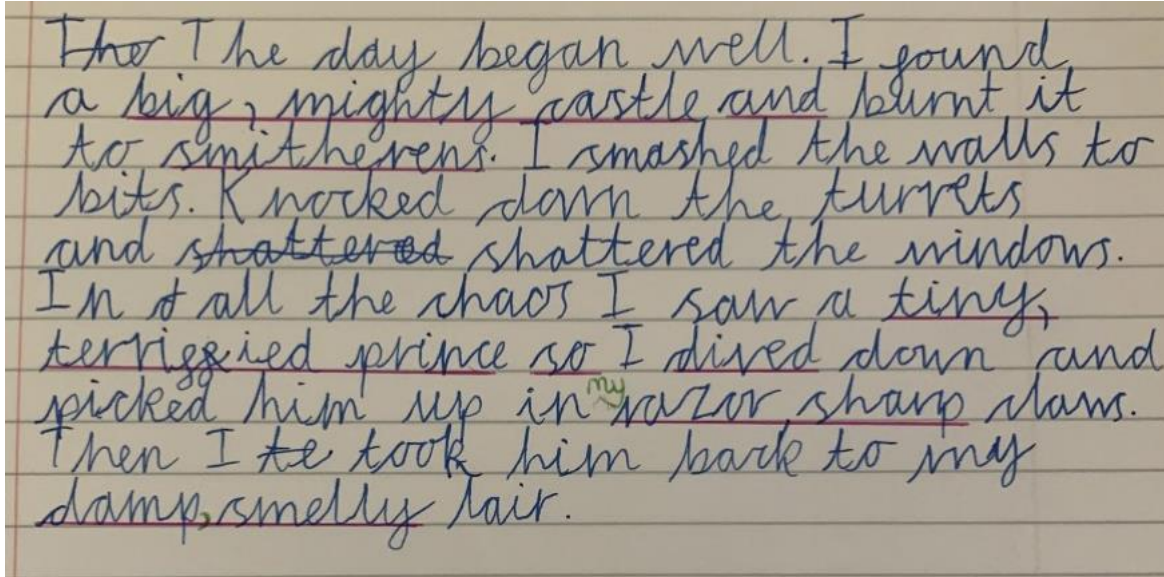


Class News

Haffydown Class

It has been a busy first two weeks for Haffydown.

In English, we have been reading the story 'The Paperbag Princess'. We have been planning and writing a narrative from the perspective of the dragon. The children have become experts at using coordinating conjunctions and expanded noun phrases to create exciting sentences.



In Maths, we started with place value. We represented 3-digit numbers using base-10 equipment and place value counters. The class did so well we even tried 4-digit numbers! Haffydown have now moved on to adding and subtracting 10 and 100 from any given number.

In History, we are learning about the Anglo-Saxons, discovering where they came from and when they invaded Britain. To find out why they came, we examined push and pull factors: what was great about Britain and what was bad about their homeland. Haffydown have also shown me their amazing deduction skills through their investigation of the Sutton Hoo burial. We uncovered who the artefacts may have belonged to.

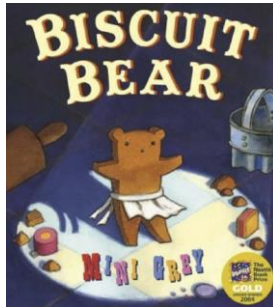
We are looking at plants in Science. The children have been investigating how water is transported in plants. To do this, we conducted an experiment using celery and food colouring. This allowed us to identify how the water moves up the xylem. I have been very impressed with the recycled models of plants coming in!



Class News

Puddlebridge Class

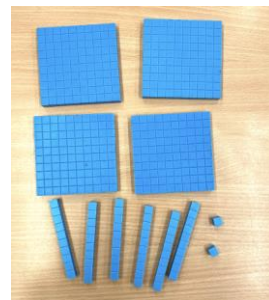
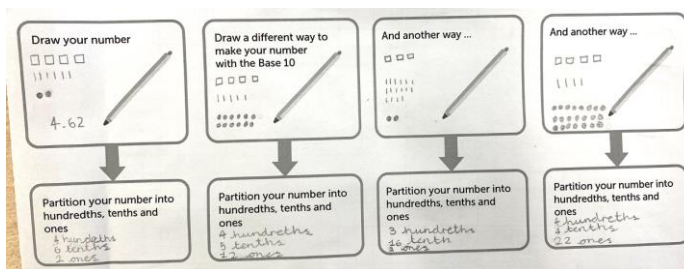
We have had an exciting few weeks in Puddlebridge as we have settled into our full range of topics. In English, we have produced work based on the book, Biscuit Bear by Mini Grey. Although this story is aimed at younger children, it is helping us to develop our performance reading skills. We are also looking forward to writing our own Biscuit Bear adventures for a younger audience next week.



Scan this QR to hear Isla, Jessica and Phoebe's performance reading of Biscuit Bear!

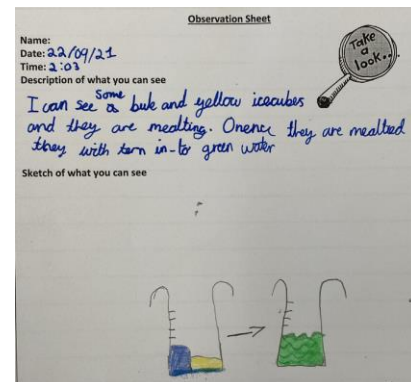
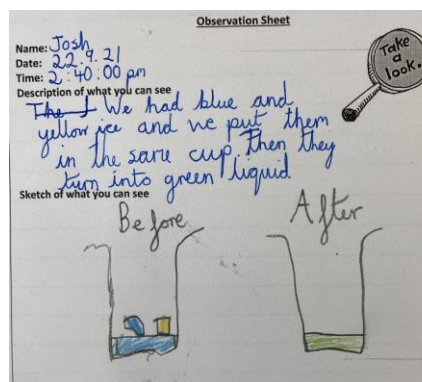


In Maths, we have been getting to grips with place value. We have explored large numbers up to 8 digits, considering the magnitude of these numbers, as well as very small numbers and decimals. We have found using the base-ten equipment very useful for helping us to regroup decimal numbers flexibly.



We are becoming experts on the WWII Evacuation programme as a result of our historical enquiries and class story, Letters from the Lighthouse. We have used a number of drama activities to help us to understand how the evacuation varied between children, depending on their age, class and host family.

Year 4 have enjoyed exploring States of Matter using a range of hands-on activities in Science. This week, we were thinking about the learning question: *How does temperature affect the state of a material?* We used our knowledge of particles to explain what was happening as two coloured ice-cubes melted.



Class News

Danes Class

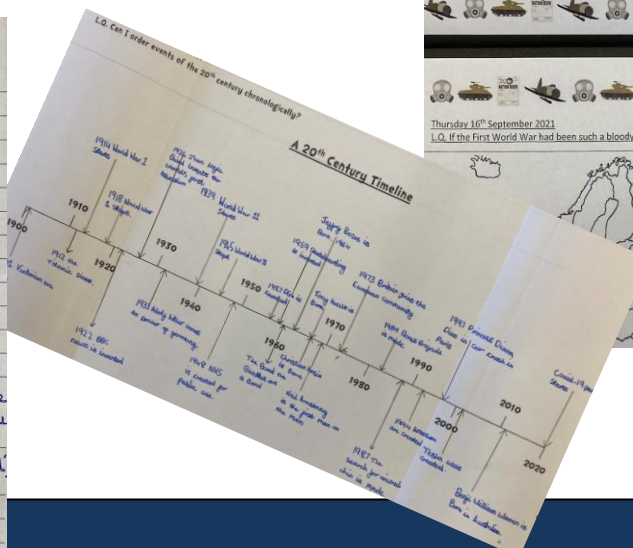
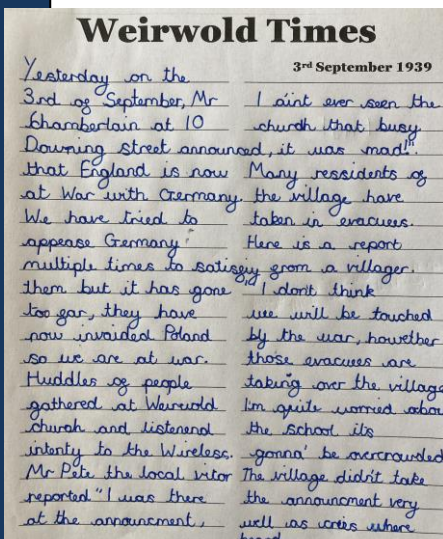
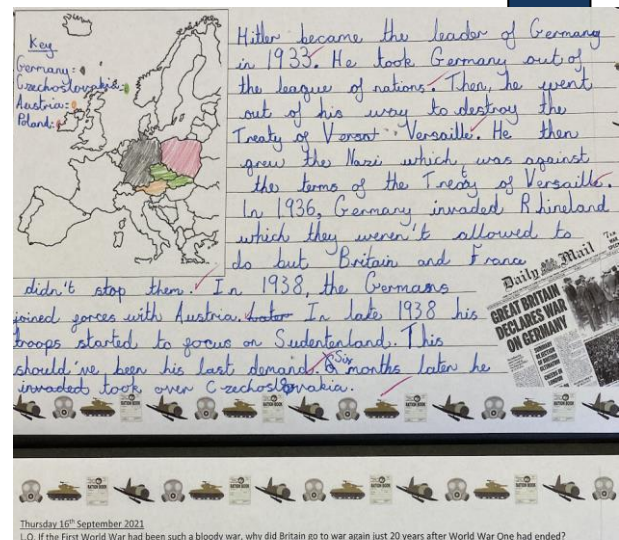


Year Six are enjoying spending time with their young buddies from Shackadell class. Buddy reading takes place each Friday morning. During this time, they enjoy reading together and visiting the school library. They also share a special assembly around our value of 'honesty'.



In history, we have been learning about the event leading up to World War Two. The children plotted timelines showing the First and Second World Wars within the 20th century; they then researched other significant events (international, national, local and personal) to include on their timelines in order to gain a deeper understanding of the chronology of the wars within history. Next, we posed the question: **Why, if the First World War had been such a bloody war, Britain went to war again just 20 years after the First World War had ended?** The children developed their understanding of cause and consequence as they explored whether or not Britain should have adopted their policy of appeasement.

In English, we are continuing to enjoy 'Goodnight Mister Tom'. This week, we have written local newspaper reports about the declaration of war. We included in these evidence from the text about its impact on the small village community. We have also written instructions for people using an Anderson shelter in winter as we read about Willie and Tom building a shelter in their garden.



Britain and France still didn't make a move. Britain said that if Germany invaded Poland, a war would break out. In September of 1939 Hitler invaded Poland and what was said is what happened.

School Transitions: Managing Anxiety and Worries in Children and Young People



Who is this workshop for?

Parents of a child/young person and/or young people who are struggling with the transition into a new school year or a new school.

Parents and young people can attend.

What will be covered?

- What anxiety looks like
- How to identify and explore worries
- Strategies for managing anxious thoughts
- Strategies for managing physical symptoms related to anxiety
- How to implement a step-by-step plan to manage anxious behaviours
- Practical tips on school transitions
- General emotional wellbeing tips



Dates

All workshops are via MS Teams



Monday 20th September 2021
12.30pm – 2.30pm

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/school-transitions-managing-anxiety-worries-in-children-young-people-tickets-169450243239>



Wednesday 29th September 2021
10am – 12pm

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/school-transitions-managing-anxiety-worries-in-children-young-people-tickets-169450243239>



Online Training

Practical Tools to Support Children with Autism

For Parents and Professionals

(via Zoom)

Sessions led by Vaneessa Sudan, Autism Consultant

Zones of Regulation How to deliver the programme to support self-regulation in children	Tues 21st Sept 2021 10:00 - 11:00
Behaviour that challenges Practical Strategies to support behaviour with children with autism	Tues 5th Oct 2021 10:00 – 11:00
Girls and Autism Understanding the differences often seen in girls and strategies to support	Tues 2nd Nov 2021 10:00 – 11:00
Social Stories and Comic Strip Conversation How to create these tools to support social communication difficulties	Tues 7th Dec 2021 10:00 – 11:00

Only £15 per person

Limited spaces available

To book a place please email:

v.sudan@spectrum-autism.co.uk



Bringing up confident children for parents of children with ADHD/ASD (online group)

Worried about your child? Join our online group and get support to help your child feel more confident and happier. This is an online group and will be delivered via MS Teams.

When: Every Thursday, 16th September to 21st October

Time: 9.30 am - 11.30 am

For more information, contact Louise on 0204 522 8700 or 8701 or email services@familylives.org.uk



Find us on Facebook @FamilyLivesHertsandBeds

www.familylives.org.uk

We build better family lives together



Family Lives is registered as a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales No. 3817762. Registered charity No.1077722. Registered address: 15-17 The Broadway, Hatfield, Hertfordshire, AL9 5HZ.



Bringing up confident children for parents of children with ADHD/ASD (online group)

Worried about your child? Join our online group and get support to help your child feel more confident and happier. This is an online group and will be delivered via MS Teams.

When: Every Thursday, 11th November - 16th December

Time: 7.00pm - 9.00pm

For more information, contact Louise on 0204 522 8700 or 8701 or email services@familylives.org.uk



Find us on Facebook @FamilyLivesHertsandBeds

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Family Lives is registered as a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales No. 3817762. Registered charity No.1077722. Registered address: 15-17 The Broadway, Hatfield, Hertfordshire, AL9 5HZ.

Please park **SAFELY**

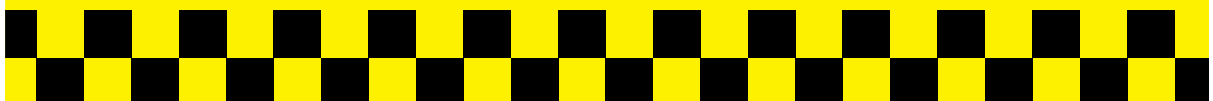
We need everyone to play their part in keeping the roads near schools safe.

DRIVERS SHOULD NOT:

- **park on yellow zig zag markings.**
- **park on double yellow lines at any time, or on single yellows during restricted hours.**
- **park or drive on footpaths.**
- **park within 10 metres of a junction, as this decreases visibility.**
- **block driveways or dropped kerbs.**

You may be issued with a fixed penalty notice.

Thank you for your cooperation.



Sleep solutions for all children

Funded by Hertfordshire County Council and FREE for parents living in Hertfordshire and parenting children aged four to ten.

A proven evidence-based, behavioural approach to help families get a better night's sleep

Together, in small interactive groups Lesley and Francine who are licensed sleep practitioners with a wealth of experience will help parents to restore healthy sleep. This course covers:

"Understanding why my child couldn't sleep without me in the bed was life changing. Learning that all I needed to do was make a few simple, gentle changes made it all seem so much more achievable. We do now all sleep in our own beds!"

- ✓ Understanding the stages of sleep and impact of sleep deprivation on children's behaviour and learning
- ✓ Identifying the causes of sleep difficulties, including a child's sensory sensitivities
- ✓ Support to find ways to bring balance to your child's sleep issues
- ✓ Tips and ideas that help children go to sleep and stay asleep
- ✓ Understanding and managing sleep problems such as night terrors and nightmares
- ✓ Learn how to actively listen and respond empathically to children to reduce concerns and feelings such as anxiety
- ✓ Helping parents to create a routine & sleep induced environment to aid healthy sleep for the whole family



Funded by Hertfordshire County Council and free for parents living in Hertfordshire and parenting children aged 4-10.

Where: Online via Zoom

When: Tuesdays 12pm - 2pm

November: 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th

December: 7th, 14th



Limited free places available. Email bookings@familiesinfocus.co.uk to secure your place