



# Aston St. Mary's Newsletter

Our value this half term is **Honesty**

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

22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021

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

## Diary Dates

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November:** Non-uniform (chocolate donations for raffle prizes)

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup>-Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November:** Maths Week England (further details to follow)

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November:** Remembrance service

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November:** Children in Need (details to follow)

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November:** Haffydown class to West Stow Anglo-Saxon village

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November:** Non-uniform (bottle donations for raffle prizes)

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November:** Occasional Day – SCHOOL CLOSED

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December:** Christmas Decoration Day

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December:** 9:45am and 1:45pm Christmas service

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December:** Christmas Dinner

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December:** Christmas parties (pm)

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December:** Reward Day

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December:** SCHOOL FINISHES at 1:00pm

What a busy and challenging half term it has been! It has been truly wonderful to be operating with things pretty much back to normal in school most of the time. We have enjoyed so many special assemblies - together as a school once more. We particularly enjoyed our Buddy assemblies where the Year Six children introduced our youngest children in Shackadell class to the Aston School family.

Last week, we were delighted to be able to hold face-to-face consultations (for most classes) for the first time in what seems like a very long time! We hope that you found these both useful and informative and that you went away feeling proud of your child's achievements.

Unfortunately, this week we have had a growing number of positive cases across the school. We would like to thank you for keeping your children off school when possible symptoms appear and for getting them PCR tested; in this way the spread of the virus has been minimised. It has not just been children who have been affected but staff too. The half term break really is needed – not only to recharge batteries but also to hopefully prevent further cases within the school. Should any children test positive during the half term break, please remember to email us on: [closed@astonmarys.herts.sch.uk](mailto:closed@astonmarys.herts.sch.uk).

We would like to wish all our families a happy and relaxing half term break. Please stay safe and enjoy the extra family time. We will look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November.



## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2022

**HALF TERM Break** - Monday 30th May 2022 to Friday 3rd June 2022

**Jubilee Day** (School Closed) – Monday 20<sup>th</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

£2.80 per meal



## A Thought from Reverend Jenny:

*'Lord we come to ask Your healing  
Teach us of love  
All unspoken shame revealing  
Teach us of love  
Take our selfish thoughts and actions  
Petty feuds divisive factions  
Hear us now to You appealing  
Teach us of love  
  
Soothe away our pain and sorrow  
Hold us in love  
Grace we cannot buy or borrow  
Hold us in love  
Though we see but dark and danger  
Though we spurn both friend and stranger  
Though we often dread tomorrow  
Hold us in love...  
Fill us with love...  
Bind us in love...'  
(Jean Holloway)*

*Jesus sets before us the hope of  
God's kingdom, that all that is  
broken will be bound in God's  
healing love, all that is marred  
by weakness and sin will be  
transformed by God's  
reconciling love.*

*May Christ bring you  
wholeness of body, mind and  
spirit,  
deliver you from evil  
and give you His peace.*

*Amen.*



**Shining Stars** were  
awarded to:

Lily-Anne, Blake, LJ,  
Hanna, Anouska and  
Jack



**Merits** were awarded to:

Keely, Isabel, Toby, Bertie, Austin, Louie,  
Ted, Tate, Leon, Nyah, Phoebe, Isla,  
Anouska, Elizabeth, Oscar, Finlay W,  
Favian and LJ

# Notices

## Orchestra

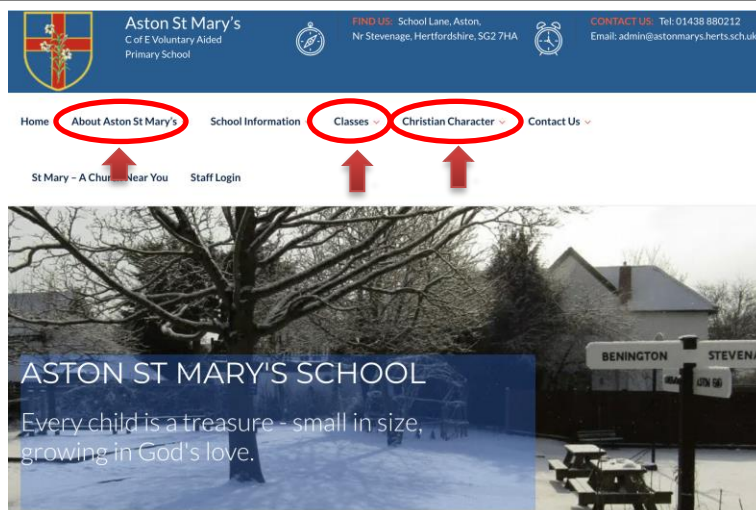
### – A message from Mrs Crowley

**I am restarting orchestra after half term for Puddlebridge and Danes children. Letters went out last week. It is a free club and anyone in those classes may attend, recorders can be played and glockenspiels and other percussion also. Children having violin, clarinet and sax lessons would be very welcome! It is after school on Tuesdays until 4pm. Please send your forms back as soon as possible.**

**Many thanks.**



Mel from Aston Pre-School is looking for someone to work sometimes - anyone who is interested and available should contact Mel in the Pre-School or Louie's mum in Peartree Class



We are continually updating our school website so please do remember to refer to it. Under the 'About Aston St Mary's' you will find a wide range of information including details about our rich and varied curriculum. The class pages include up-to-date information about the learning in your child's class. Under the 'Christian Character' tab, you will find information about our vision, values, prayer and worship.

# Notices

## Thank You!

**Thank you very much for all your amazing support with our harvest festival this year. We were overwhelmed by the generous amounts that were given. These have already been delivered to 'The Foodshed' where they were gratefully received.**



**After the class pages, we have added two pages of activities related to our values of honesty and truthfulness. There are lots of ideas and things to think about at home as a family. We hope you enjoy these; we would love to see any pictures of the things you have been doing together.**





# Class News

## Shackadell Class

Shackadell class are learning all about Autumn! We had a lot of fun going out for a walk around the village looking for signs of Autumn. We collected lots of things, especially conkers. In class we looked carefully at our objects and learned their correct names. We have been exploring our vocabulary choices when trying to describe each item.

We listened to the story 'Leaf man' by Lois Ehlert and then made our own leaf men using some of our collected resources.



We also made repeating patterns with some of our Autumnal finds.



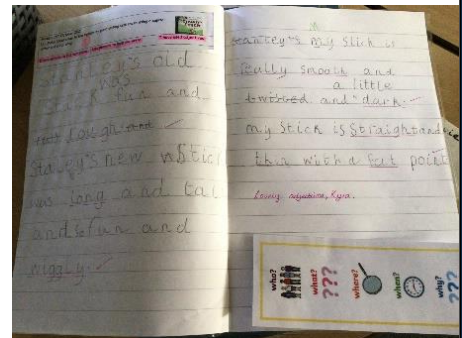
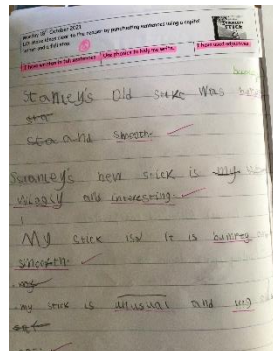
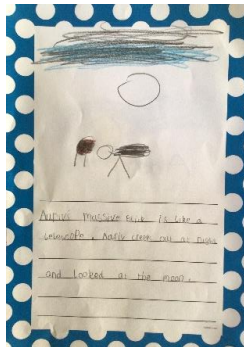
We used some conkers to practice some of our fine motor skills.

# Class News

## Peartree Class

Well, we finally made it through the first half term. We have been so busy the weeks have just flown by.

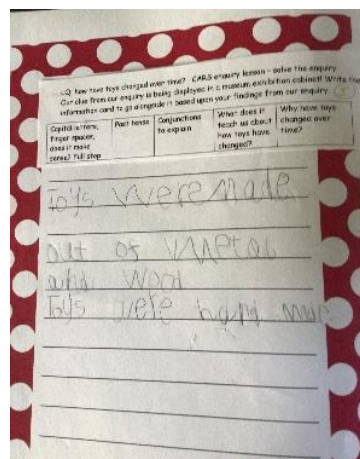
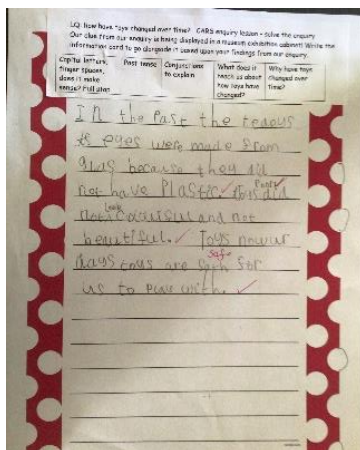
In English, we have been doing some super work on adjectives to describe all the different sticks in our class book 'Stanley's Stick'. We have also begun to write our own version about our own sticks.



We have also had some fun with nature and created our own 'Leaf' characters using some interesting leaves with lovely colours that we gathered whilst on a brief walk outside of the school.



In history, we were looking at the changes in toys throughout time and why they may have happened. We looked at artifacts and history books as evidence. We then did a piece of writing to tell what we had found out.



Have a lovely half term.

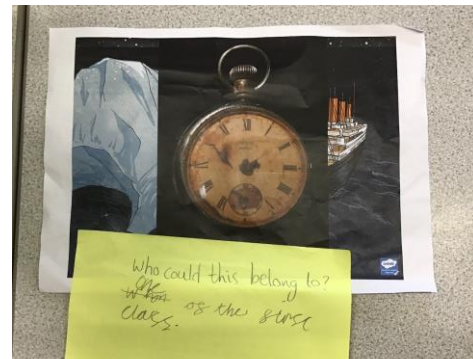
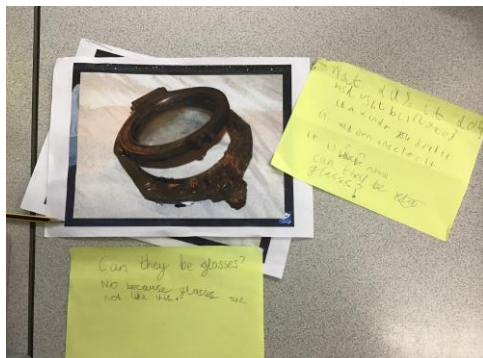
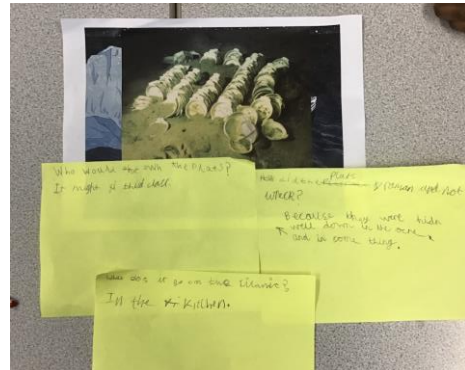
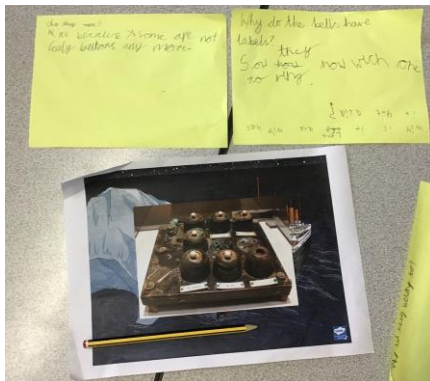
Mrs Baker, Mrs Evans  
and Mrs Crowley



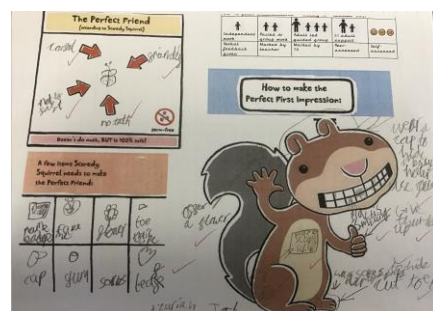
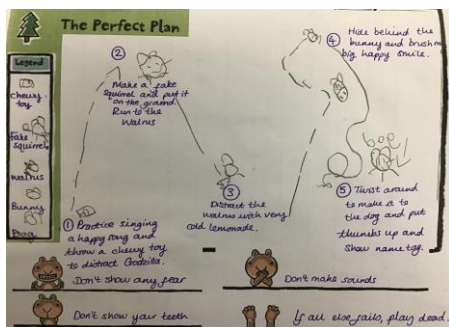
# Class News

## Orchard Class

We have had a fantastic first half term in Orchard! We have all been inspired by our history topic – The Sinking of The Great Titanic and have been fascinated by this significant event in history. I have been very impressed with the variety of different home learning projects the children have produced. From posters to cakes, models and diaries, it is clear that a lot of fun and learning has taken place. In our final lesson, we became archaeologists. We asked and answered historical questions about a range of artefacts found at the wreckage. Finally, we pondered the question, “should the site be treated as a grave site or an archaeological site?” The children came up with some very thoughtful responses.



In English, we have been looking at writing instructions. We helped Scaredy Squirrel come up with a perfect plan to help him make a perfect friend. We planned our instructions using the templates below. During the week we will be using command sentences to write our own instructions.



Thank you for your continued support and I wish you all a wonderful half term.

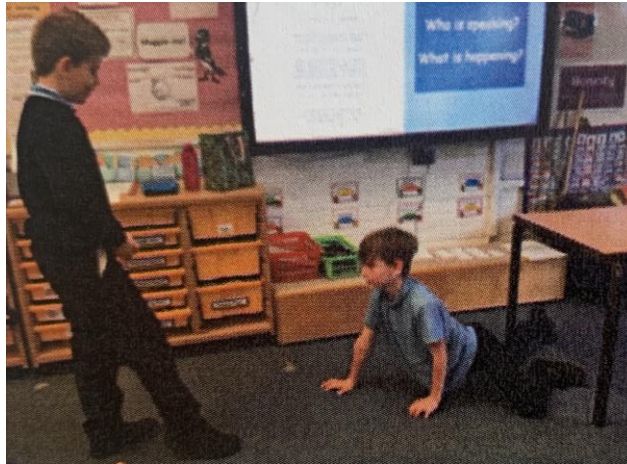
Miss Keen

# Class News

## Haffydown Class

Haffydown have been working super hard!

In English, we have started examining a new poem called 'Overheard on a Saltmarsh'. We have been expanding our vocabulary by discussing amazing adjectives for our initial impressions of the nymph and goblin. We had a fantastic lesson where the children acted out their favourite part of the poem. We had some wonderful nymphs and some very scary goblins!



In Maths, we have been focusing on mental addition. The children have done an excellent job understanding that addition is commutative and using the compensation method. I have been incredibly impressed with how quickly they have made progress.

'What conditions affect the growth of a plant?' was the question we worked on in Science. The children have designed and completed an experiment where they removed one variable that a plant needs to discover how this affected the plant. We had some great results and we will continue to see how our beans grow.



In History, we have focused on what Anglo-Saxon houses were made from and the jobs adults and children did around the village. We made some brilliant posters advertising typical Anglo-Saxon jobs.



# Class News

## Puddlebridge Class

This week, we have enjoyed a whole day of Design and Technology. Working in groups, we were set the challenge of designing and building an authentic looking model of an Anderson Shelter. Our shelter had to include a strong framework in order to withstand bombing from The Blitz. We also had to make sure that the shelter was durable, functional, and stable. While this project helped us to deepen our understanding of WWII shelters and building structures, it also taught us lots about the importance of thorough planning, time management, economic use of resources, and working as a team.



Great work Puddlebridge class – you all deserve to have a wonderful half term and we will look forward to seeing you all again after the break.

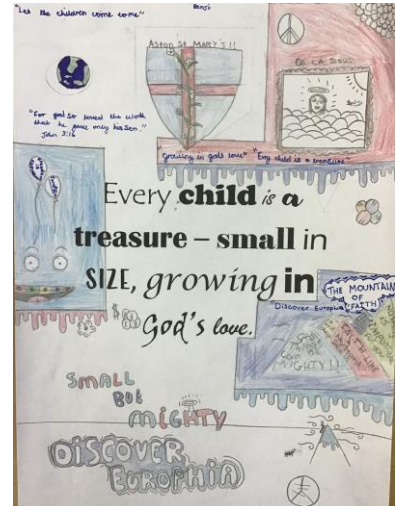
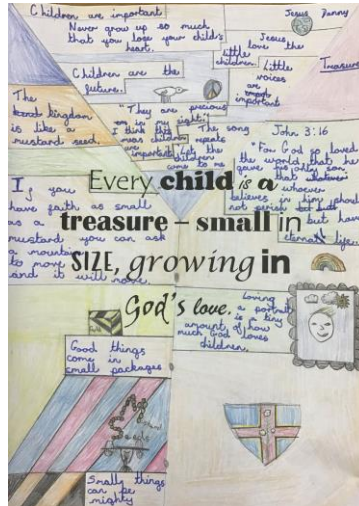
Miss Pear

# Class News

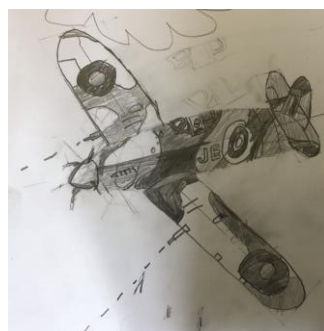
## Danes Class

We have been thinking about our individual interpretations of  
**'Every child is a treasure – small in size, growing in God's love.'**

We created posters of our ideas.



In art, we have been developing our sketching skills by drawing Second World War planes. We drew construction lines to get the angles and proportions for the fuselage, wings and tail and then used our observation skills to produce detailed sketches.





# TRUTHFULNESS

HOME SCHOOL VALUES

This term we will be focussing in school on the value TRUTHFULNESS. We hope your family will find these ideas helpful as you explore the value and have fun together.

## TALK ABOUT TRUTHFULNESS TOGETHER...

'I promise to tell the **truth**, the whole **truth** and nothing but the **truth**, so help me God'

In a court of law a witness swears an oath on the Bible or another sacred text, but sometimes in everyday life people find it more difficult to be **truthful**.

Talk together about occasions when complete honesty could cause trouble or be hurtful. For example:

- When a member of your family asks you if you like their new shoes
- When telling the **truth** will get your friend into trouble
- When someone asks what you are thinking but the answer would hurt their feelings

## THINK TOGETHER ABOUT WORDS OF WISDOM

"To be **truthful** with others, you must first be **truthful** with yourself"

Anon



## READ TOGETHER... A Day That Changed Everything

It began just as any other day.

Peter the fisherman was mending his nets as he always did.

But then Peter met Jesus. On that ordinary day his life was changed for ever.

Peter was to actually see Jesus heal people who were ill, make blind people see again, and turn 5 loaves and 2 fish into a feast for 5000!

Peter became Jesus' follower and friend. "I will do anything for you" he said to Jesus. "Just say the word!"

"One day you will tell people you never knew me" said Jesus, "and then a cock will crow."

"No" shouted Peter "Never, Never, Never!"

Sure enough, life for Jesus did become difficult - difficult and dangerous.

The day came when Jesus was on trial for his very life. He needed his friend to stand by him. But Peter said "I don't know him, I never knew him, I never saw him before."

And at the end of the day a cock crowed.....just as Jesus had said it would.

Jesus was sentenced to death and crucified, even though he had done nothing wrong.

But death could not defeat God's Son! Three days later Jesus was alive again and went to find his friend, not to blame him but to forgive him.

It was a new day and Peter had another chance.

Everything was different!



Bible story based on Luke 5: 1-11; Luke 22:54-62; John 21:15-19



## QUIZ Words in the Fishing Net

Pair letters from the net together to make words from the story.  
You could colour matching halves...

For answers, see reverse.







## HALL OF FAME

### Aung San Suu Kyi

For many years the nation of Burma was ruled by their ruthless army which refused to allow the ordinary citizens to have free elections to choose their leaders. If Burmese people spoke openly about politics they were thrown into prison or even killed. But a tiny brave woman called Aung San Suu Kyi refused to be silent about the **truth** of what was happening in her country. She campaigned openly but peacefully in the streets and around the world for Burma to have free elections. For this the army put her under house arrest, keeping her prisoner in her own home for 20 years! Whilst under arrest she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for being 'an outstanding example of the power of the powerless'

In 2010 Aung San Suu Kyi was finally freed by the army just after free elections were held in Burma for the first time. On her release thousands of people gathered to welcome and thank her for standing for **truth** and democracy and helping to bring about change in Burma.



## HOME-SCHOOL CHALLENGE

### Truth be Told

If you could ask a famous person (from history or alive today) to answer a question about themselves what would it be?

For example,

David Beckham - How old were you when you knew for sure that you wanted to be a footballer?

Aung San Suu Kyi - Was there ever a time when you felt like giving up your campaign in Burma?

Make a colourful question mark and write your question on it to take into school to display in the Gallery.



## FAMILY FOCUS

The human body is probably the most complex machine on earth. But do you know what your body is made of, how it moves and how all the parts work together?

See if you can answer these questions correctly.

- Your brain is made up of - 20%, 50% or 80% water?
- Taking a step forward uses - 30, 100 or 200 muscles?
- A single blood cell takes  $\frac{1}{2}$ , 1 or 4 minutes to make a complete circuit of the body?
- An adult has 158, 206 or 278 bones in their body?
- A finger nail takes 3, 4 or 6 months to grow from base to tip?



## FASCINATING FACTS... ...ABOUT US



Humans and giraffes have the same number of bones in their necks.

You can't tickle yourself.

You can't keep your eyes open when you sneeze.

Overnight while you sleep you grow nearly 1 cm, but you shrink again next day.

The length from your wrist to your elbow is the same as the length of your foot.

In 30 minutes an average person gives off enough heat to bring over 2 litres of water to the boil.

# Supporting Your Child's Self-esteem Workshop



## Who is this workshop for?

Parents of children aged 5-11 wanting to learn information and strategies on how to support their child's self-esteem

## What will be covered?

- What is self-esteem?
- What causes self-esteem?
- How does it affect us?
- Tips to build self-esteem
- Additional resources



## What will I learn?

- What self-esteem is and how it affects us
- Practical strategies to increase self-esteem
  - How to challenge thoughts
- Step-by-step plans to increase confidence

## Dates

All workshops are via MS Teams



Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2021

6pm – 7.30pm

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/supporting-your-childs-self-esteem-tickets-190947558287>



# Supporting Your Child's Emotional Wellbeing



## Who is this workshop for?

Parents of children aged 5-11 wanting to learn information and strategies on how to support their child's emotional wellbeing and support their child to emotionally regulate.

## What will be covered?

- What are emotions and why do we have them?
- The Fight, Flight and Freeze Response
- Recognising, Labelling and Normalising Emotions
- General Emotional Regulation Strategies
- Specific Emotional Regulation Tips for Anger, Anxiety and Feelings of Sadness
- Additional resources



## What will I learn?

- How our brains are linked with emotion and how thoughts, feelings and behaviours interact
- Strategies to support your child to recognise, label and regulate emotions and maintain general wellbeing
- How to support your child to effectively problem solve and manage their thoughts

## Dates

All workshops are via MS Teams



Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2021

10am – 12pm

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/supporting-your-childs-emotional-wellbeing-and-ability-to-self-regulate-tickets-186956360507>





Autism | ADHD  
Neurodiverse Conditions

# *Starting* SPACE

FRIDAY 12TH NOVEMBER 2021  
10AM - 11.30AM

**Do you have a child aged between 0-6 with additional needs?**

We would like to invite you to meet our family support worker for an informal introduction into Navigating the SEND world and how SPACE can offer guidance & support to you and your family

*Open to parent/carers pre and post diagnosis*

Unit 7, Arlington Business Park, Whittle Way, Stevenage, SG1 2BE