



Aston St. Mary's Newsletter

Our value this half term is Generosity

www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk

12th November 2021

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

Diary Dates

Monday 15th November: Haffydown class to West Stow Anglo-Saxon village

Friday 19th November: Children in Need – Non-uniform for a donation

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: 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

Thursday 6th January 2022: Children return to school

It is hard to believe that we are now in the final half term of 2021 and that it won't be long before our Christmas celebrations begin in school. It is therefore appropriate that our value is now generosity; this is something that we see demonstrated by our school community on a daily basis. Generosity does not always have to mean being generous with gifts or with money – friendship, time and love are regularly shared with generosity at Aston St. Mary's.

Remembrance Day was marked in school yesterday with a special assembly led remotely by Reverend Jenny; we also shared in a minute of silence at 11:00am. Children have learnt about the importance of Remembrance in their classes as well as making special badges which they will be able to keep forever. Thank you for your very generous donations to the poppy appeal.

Thank you also for your generosity last Friday when the children enjoyed coming into school in non-uniform – the PTFA now have a very impressive chocolate collection! This will help to raise valuable funds for the school.

We are delighted that, since returning from the half term break, the number of children and adults requiring PCR tests or testing positive is now significantly lower. It is good to have attendance levels back to normal across the school. Thank you for continuing to be vigilant and helping us to keep our whole school community safe.

We hope that you will enjoy finding out all about how the classes have got involved in Maths Week England this week later in this newsletter. We have been so impressed by the many maths themed costumes that the children are enjoying wearing today. They look fantastic!



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

Jubilee Day (School Closed) – Monday 20th 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:

Ademidun, Connor, Harry B, Gabriella, Ethan H, Ethan R, Brody, Daniel, Ali, Jayden, Charlie, Demi, Archie, Astrid, Lucas, Maryam, Vaaris and Aariv



Shining Stars were awarded to:

We are looking forward to our next shining star!

A Thought from Reverend Jenny:

I love the fact that All Saints Day and Bonfire Night are in the same week in November because saints are like fireworks...



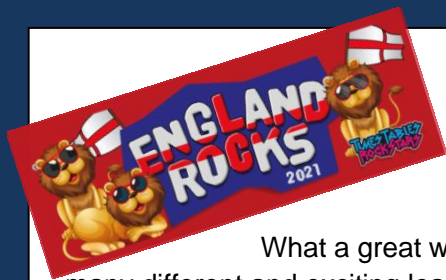
Like fireworks saints expend their life, their energy on others and spread God's light/love/goodness in the world.

Like fireworks saints come in all shapes and sizes. Some make more noise than others. Some are famous the world over – like St Francis, Peter, Paul, George or Patrick. Most saints live quiet unspectacular lives, serving others...they wouldn't dream of calling themselves saints! volunteers in our own communities... or aid workers in the developing world and in our inner cities, areas of deprivation...each helping to make life better for others.

Saints aren't perfect human beings...they just do their best to follow Jesus' way of love.

They don't have a gold ring or halo around their head, except in pictures and stained-glass windows! But, like fireworks, they chip away at the world's darkness and bring joy.

Notices



What a great week of maths learning! It has been wonderful to see so many different and exciting learning opportunities taking place across the school. Children have been exploring mathematics in the outside world, cracking codes, exploring mathematics through art, learning from experts about the maths in computer games and so much more.

Years 2 – 6 have also been competing in a national competition on Times Tables Rock Stars. Thousands of classes across England have taken part and we are very proud that Aston St. Mary's attained 17th position nationally.

Well done to every single child who took part – you are all stars!



THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO DONATED SO GENEROUSLY TO THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL 2021. IT HAS BEEN WONDERFUL TO SEE SO MANY CHILDREN WEARING THEIR POPPIES WITH PRIDE OVER THE LAST TWO WEEKS.



SOME CINQUAIN POEMS FOR REMEMBRANCE

BY YEAR SIX

Armies
Joined up by men
Out on the battlefield
Risky their lives in order to save
They fall

Hanna

Poppies
They always blow
In the crosses row on row
We are the dead, short days ago
We lived.

Benji

Soldiers
Injured and hurt
Where the poppies now grow
This is the soldier bold and brave
Soldiers

Charlie



Notices

Stevenage Music Centre –

Ukulele Family Music

Workshop

Get together with family and friends for an uplifting session of music-making.

About this event

Get together with family and friends for an uplifting session of music-making.

For ages 5+. No unaccompanied children.

No experience necessary. All instruments will be provided.

Tickets can be purchased at:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ukulele-family-music-workshop-tickets-185004993917>



A huge congratulations to Benji who is now WKO K1 Amateur Junior World Champion



'I have been training hard to become a world champion Thai boxer. I have now had twenty-one fights with sixteen wins. Thai boxing is now my life.'

Benji (Year Six)



Friday 19th November 2021

Please help us to raise money for Children in Need by coming to school in your own clothes for any donation towards this important fund-raising event.

Welcome to our newly elected parent governors

We recently informed parents and carers that we needed to appoint two parent governors.

We are delighted to say two parents have come forward and are duly elected on for a four-year term.

Our two parent governors are:

Joyce Asemota, mum of Joel in Danes and Joshua in Puddlebridge who will remain a parent governor.

Our new parent governor will be **Azubuike Onita**, father of Favian in Danes and Jayden in Haffydown.

Thank you to them both for agreeing to join the leadership of the school.



Class News

Shackadell Class



We have been doing lots of fun activities this week in Shackadell for maths week! We went on a treasure hunt looking for and counting gold coins, we used different measures to make our own playdoh and enjoyed learning to measure the length of lots of different things around our classroom using cubes.

During child-initiated learning, we were very excited to learn how to play lots of our new "Orchard Toys" maths board games! Thank you for everyone's kind donations of these - we've had so much fun learning how to play them!





Class News

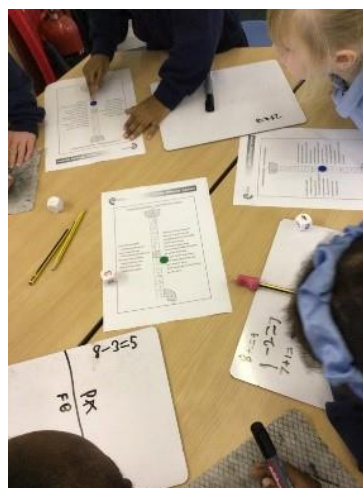


Peartree Class

We have been having such a fun time in our maths lessons this week. On Monday we all became maths detectives and had to solve several clues in order to catch the gingerbread thief.



On Tuesday, we played a version of an ancient maths puzzle game called Nim 7. We had to play in pairs and take it in turn to remove one or two items from a larger amount. The winner was the player who took the last item. On Wednesday, we played an 'Incy Wincy Spider' counting on and back game.



On Thursday, we all got 'Lost in the Forest' and had to solve some clues in order to find a telephone number to ring for help. On Friday, we all became secret agents and had to break the secret codes. What an exciting week!





Class News

Orchard Class



We have had lots of fun in maths this week taking part in Maths Week England!

We have been thinking about compliments to 100 this week. On Tuesday, we made paper chains. Each chain had to represent 100. Therefore, each link in the chain had to represent 10. We soon realised this meant each chain needed to have 10 links. We worked together using different coloured links to create representations to show compliments to 100.

For example:

$$50 + 30 + 20 = 100$$



On Thursday, we played bakery shops. We had to see which combinations of baked goods we could buy for £1. Knowledge of our number bonds came in very handy!



On Friday, we related this learning to capacity and measuring. We investigated how many different regroupings we could make using 100ml and three beakers.





Class News

Haffydown Class



This week, Year Three have enjoyed celebrating Maths Week.

We were very competitive on the field when playing Times Table games. We worked on our 2, 5, 10, 3, 4 and 8 Times Tables. We threw a ball around in groups and the first one to get through a whole set won. We then put our mental maths skills to the test. We used our learning of mental subtraction to work out some calculations before our partner ran the length of the field. Year Three were very tired after this!



On Tuesday, we embarked on a leaf hunt. The children had one minute to collect as many leaves as possible. Year Three grouped these leaves into their different colours. Then they produced a tally chart and bar chart to compare the number of leaves.



This week we also solved riddles. We solved mathematical calculations and used our code breaking skills to work out the answer to the riddle.

To round off the week, we made amazing Rangoli patterns. We had to use our knowledge of 2D shapes and symmetry. The patterns were bright, beautiful, and very interesting.





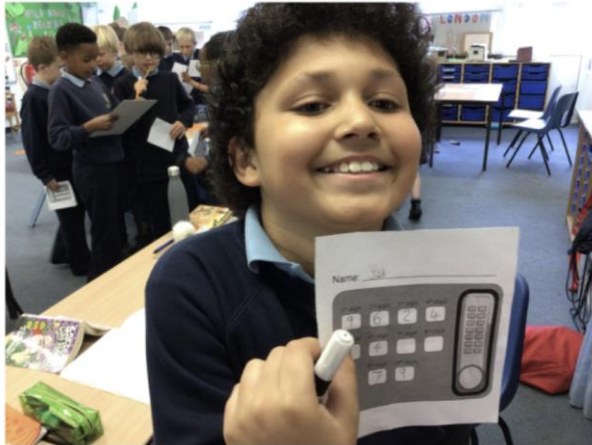
Class News



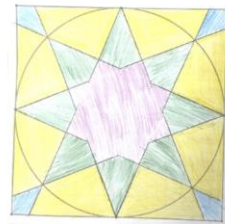
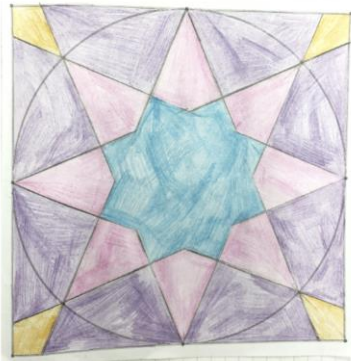
Puddlebridge Class

We have loved taking part in a range of Maths Week activities in Puddlebridge Class. All week, we have been working hard to gain as many points as possible for our class and school in the 'England Rocks' tournament on Times Table Rockstars. Lots of us have made outstanding progress as a result!

On Wednesday, we worked in small groups to complete an escape room. We were all so excited when we finally cracked the code in order to escape!



We have also created our own geometric designs inspired by Islamic decorative art. This activity allowed us to develop our ruler skills and our understanding of geometric patterns.



Have a look at our maths themed fancy dress!





Class News

Danes Class

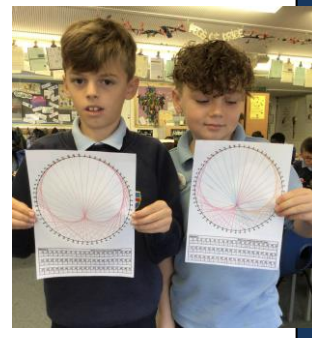


Danes class began their Maths week with some outdoor learning. First, they practised their estimation skills by searching for natural materials of given lengths. After that they applied their understand of ratio and proportion to estimate the heights of trees. This involved holding a 10cm strip of card and stepping further and further away from the tree until the card appeared to be the height of the tree. Finally, the children measured the circumference of tree trunks in order to estimate the age of different trees.



Later in the week, Danes attended two maths presentations which were delivered remotely. The aim was to inspire children about mathematics: to show some practical applications of Maths in a real-life context in a fun and engaging way, and to highlight some of the exciting careers options available. First, we learnt about the maths in computer games and then about how satnavs work. The children learnt that finding the quickest route relies upon a clever algorithm called Dijkstra's algorithm and they even got to have a go at applying it in a simple context.

Another highlight of the week was learning how to construct a cardioid using a mapping of $n \rightarrow 2n \pmod{60}$. Many children then chose to experiment with mapping to $3n$, $4n$ or $5n$ to construct different patterns.



We dressed up as mathematicians, rock stars and more!



Some of us were factor bugs!