



Aston St. Mary's Newsletter

Our value this half term is Generosity

www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk

26th November 2021

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

Diary Dates

Monday 29th November: Occasional Day – SCHOOL CLOSED

Tuesday 30th November: Peartree and Orchard visit to Rye Meads Nature Reserve

Wednesday 1st December: Christmas Decoration Day (children can wear Christmas jumpers/outfits)

Tuesday 7th December: Christmas Around the World Day

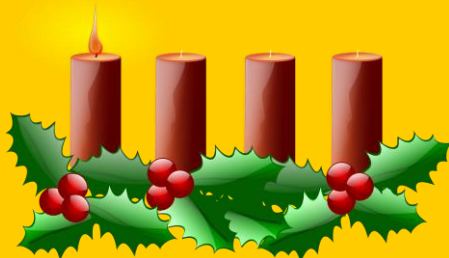
Wednesday 15th December: Christmas Dinner

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



Reminder: School is closed on Monday 29th November

What a busy week we had in school last week! On Monday, Haffydown class visited West Stow Anglo-Saxon village. Their class page shares highlights of their trip as well as some lovely photos. The next day, we were honoured to welcome Bishop Michael Beasley to Aston St. Mary's – we hope you will enjoy finding out all about his visit later in this newsletter. We ended the week with a non-uniform day to raise money for Children in Need; thank you for your many generous donations.

Next week, sees the beginning of our Christmas celebrations in school with Decoration Day on Wednesday. On this day, the children can come to school wearing Christmas jumpers or festive outfits and they will enjoy getting their classrooms ready for the Christmas period. Shackadell class are now busy rehearsing for their Christmas nativity which will be recorded later in the term for families to enjoy. Please make sure to take note of the rest of the dates for the remainder of term.

As we begin our extended weekend with our occasional day on Monday, we hope that our whole school community enjoy the well-deserved extra day off. It has certainly been a very busy term so far and, as a school, we have faced many challenges - mainly due to staff and children needing to isolate. We are proud of how everyone has pulled together to ensure that our children continue to engage in exciting new learning opportunities every day.

We wish everyone a relaxing long weekend.

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:

Toby, Isabel, Jack, James, Jasmine, Ethan, Muctarr, Poppy-Belle, Alfie, Joshua, Isabelle, Tabi, Poppy F, Blake, Joel, Anouska, Charlie, Nathan, Ted, Kyra, Louie, Nikita, Finn, Jack F, Ethan H, Ali, Connor, Willow and Lily.



Shining Stars were awarded to:

Theo, Tabi, Ollie




A Thought from Reverend Jenny:

As World War II ended Harold Macmillan (the future UK Prime Minister) was serving in Italy. On VE Day he was in Assisi. He noted in his diary that 'with all his power of EVIL, his strength and his boasting, Hitler lasted just 12 years.' By contrast 'St Francis did not seem to have much power, but, here in this lovely place one realises the immense strength and permanence of GOODNESS – a rather comforting thought'...


Archbishop Desmond Tutu wrote this prayer song to music by John Bell of the Iona Community:

*'GOODNESS is stronger than evil;
Love is stronger than hate;
Light is stronger than darkness;
Life is stronger than death;
Victory is ours through Him who loves us.*

Notices



A BIG Thank you!



We are very grateful to Oliver's dad (Shackadell class) who is an electrician and has kindly offered to fix some of our lights for us. Thank you also to Keeley's dad (Orchard) who is setting up our new storage trolley for our 24 brand new chrome books.



Christmas Raffle Tickets

Please look out for our Christmas Raffle tickets and sell as many as you can – this is our only fundraiser at the moment.

These will be sent home in your child's book bag.



Christmas Decoration Day Wednesday 1st December

Children can come to school in Christmas outfits for a fun-filled day of art and craft activities to decorate our school for Christmas.



Thank you for your generous donations to Children in Need. We raised over £160 towards the national appeal – a fantastic amount from our small school!



Bishop Michael Beasley visits Aston St. Mary's

On Tuesday 16th November Bishop Michael Beasley, the Bishop of Hertford came to visit our school. We had asked Bishop Michael if he would like to come and bless our Forest School, which he was thrilled to do, and we had a wonderful service outside together.

It was a really special time together where we were able to come with thanksgiving for our amazing Forest School area and to praise God for the beautiful nature that we love to explore. Children from each class were able to share some of their favourite things that they have done in Forest School:

"I loved learning about the Gruffalo story in forest school." Georgia (Shackadell)

"I love forest school because it helps children to be in the great outdoors. My favourite time was when we got sticks and made a campfire and had some s'mores. God made this world and I hope we can all be in it and look after it." Ellie (Danes)



Some of our Year Six children shared some readings from the Bible about nature and God's love for his creation. Here is some of what they said:

The world around us is so beautiful, and when we look into the heavens at night, even more so. The psalmist knew this and wrote,

"The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork" (Psalm 19:1).

The beauty of the world is God's idea, and the whole creation gives Him glory...even if we don't realise it.



Genesis Chapter 1

Then God said, "Hello land!" and there - splashing up through the oceans - came cliffs, mountains, sandy beaches. "You're good," God said. And they were.

"Hello trees!" God said, "Hello grass and flowers!" And everything everywhere burst into life. He made buds bud; shoots shoot; flowers flower. "You're good," God said. And they were.

"Hello birds!" God said. And with a fluttering and flapping and chirping and singing, birds filled the skies. "Hello fish!" God said. And with a darting and dashing and wriggling and splashing, fish filled the seas! "you're good," God said. And they were.

Then God said, "Hello animals!" And everyone came out to play. The earth was filled with noisy noises - growling and gobbling and snapping and snorting and happy skerfuffling. "You're good," God said. And they were.

God saw all that he had made and he loved them. And they were lovely because he loved them. But God saved the best for last. From the beginning, God had a shining dream in his heart. He would make people to share his Forever Happiness. They would be his children, and the world would be their perfect home.

(Taken from 'The Jesus storybook Bible')



Bishop Michael spoke to us about our lovely forest school and shared his thoughts on God's wonderful creation. He blessed our Forest School after we all sang a song together.

We ended our service with beautiful prayers lead by Demi and Nathan. We look forward to lots more learning opportunities in our Forest school!

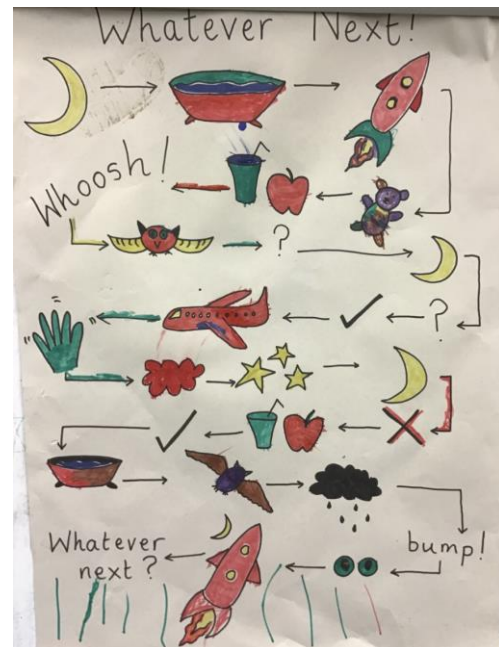


Class News

Shackadell Class



Shackadell's learning this week has been out of this world! We have been enjoying books and stories all about space. We enjoyed the story 'Whatever Next!' by Jill Murphy. We were able to use a story map to retell the story to each other. We have also had lots of fun with 'Aliens Love Underpants!' by Claire Freedman. Our learning journey is taking us to non-fiction books about space and learning about astronauts and planets. We have been having so much fun!



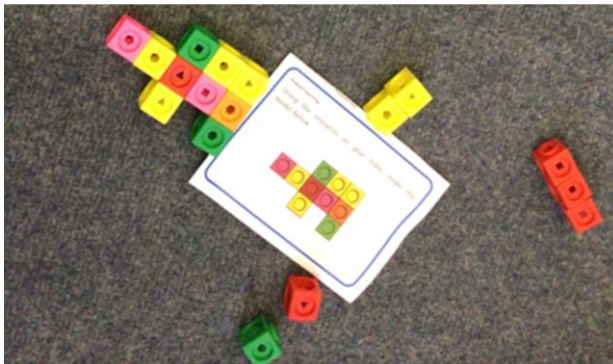
Class News

Peartree Class

In PSHE, we are looking at our health and wellbeing in our 'Aiming High' topic.

We have been learning about 'Growth Mindset' and having a positive attitude to learning. The children have been roleplaying different scenarios and had to decide whether or not they were positive attitudes to learning.

They were then presented with a variety of challenges, ranging in difficulty, and were encouraged to 'have a go' at them all.



It was lovely to see the perseverance and resilience the children showed to solve the challenges and the amazing teamwork displayed.

In Peartree Class, we all have a positive attitude to learning and know that if we find something difficult it doesn't mean we give up it just means we can't do it yet, **BUT we will get there in the end.**

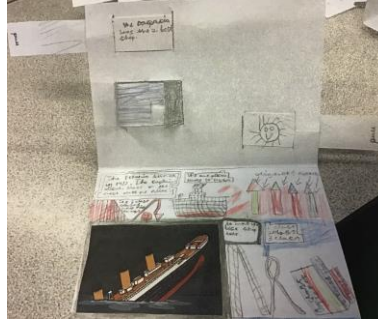
Well done Peartree! 😊

Class News

Orchard Class

So much creative thinking and learning has been taking place in Orchard recently!

At the end of last term, we finished off our much-loved Titanic topic with our D&T Day. We investigated different pop-up mechanisms such as leavers, sliders and folds. We made our own pop-up pages based around our learning of the Titanic. The children were all experts at explaining how their mechanisms work. These included lift the flap folds, pivots, and springs! Look at the detail that has gone into this one.



Maths Week ended with a bang as we applied our understanding of complements to 100 by mixing these rather gruesome potions! The children used the syringes to measure multiples of ten. For example, 30 ml of slug slime + 60 ml of unicorn horn + 10ml of rat's tail = 100 ml! Our number bonds proved to come in super handy. As you can see, we had great fun measuring, mixing and making our potions!



In art this term, we are focusing on observational drawings. Last week we explored the use of line, shape and texture whilst drawing our favourite autumn leaves. We had to observe very closely to make these detailed sketches. This week, we will be thinking about adding colour.



Class News

Haffydown Class



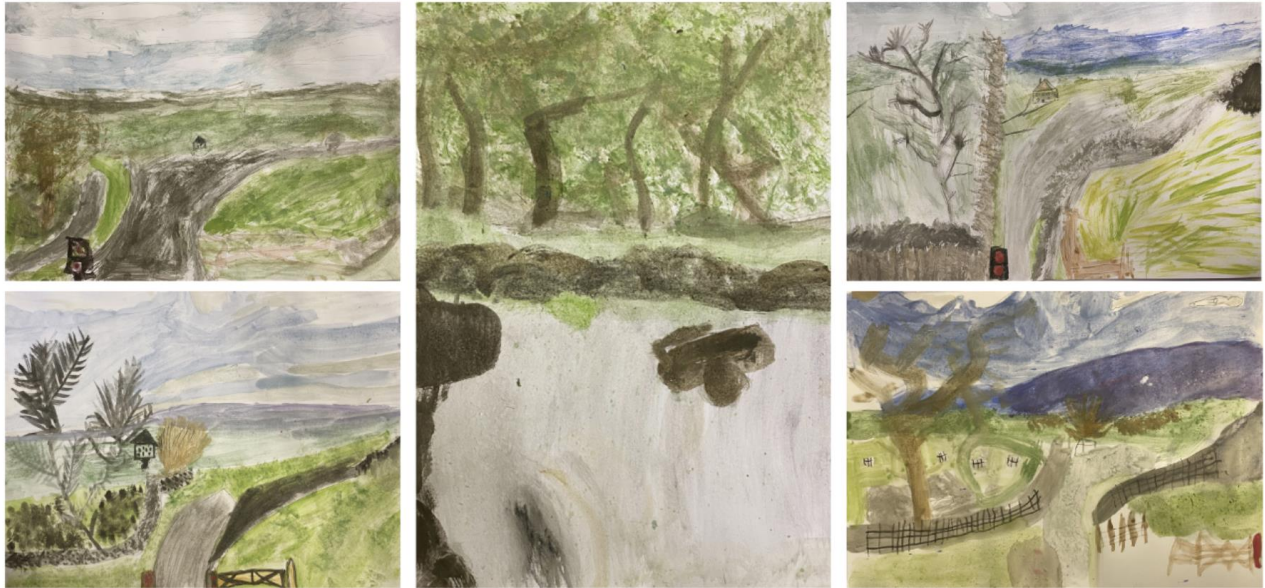
Last Monday, Haffydown enjoyed visit to West Stow Anglo-Saxon village. This supported our historical learning and enabled us to learn from experts, handle artefacts and explore the recreation of an Anglo-Saxon village. First, we visited the museum; we were very impressed by the interest the children showed in all of the exhibits. Next, we enjoyed exploring the replica handling box. In groups, we found out about different artefacts and then shared our findings with the class. After lunch, we explored the buildings within the village. These included: the hall, the weaving house, the sunken house and several more. We were able to go inside all of the buildings and imagine what it may have been like to live in Anglo-Saxon times. Our day ended with a question-and-answer session – our children were praised for their excellent prior knowledge and the thoughtful questions that they asked. Haffydown had a brilliant day and learnt so much! Well done Haffydown; we were very proud of all of you!



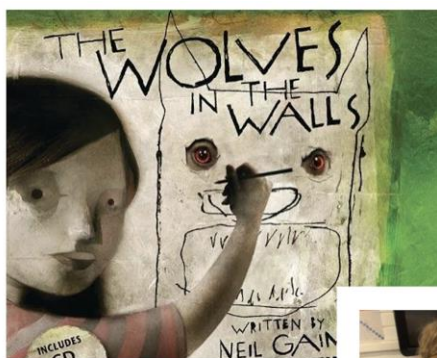
Class News

Puddlebridge Class

Recently, in Puddlebridge Class, we enjoyed a whole day of Art. We started off by learning about the life and works of Paul Cézanne. We were particularly inspired by his landscape paintings, which we produced copies of before painting our own landscape watercolour paintings from images of Devonshire. We loved looking at the diverse landscape in this part of the country as we have read all about it in our class text, 'Letters from the Lighthouse' by Emma Carroll. This project also linked closely with our topic 'Brave and Beautiful Britain' where we have started learning about the key geographical features of the Great Britain.



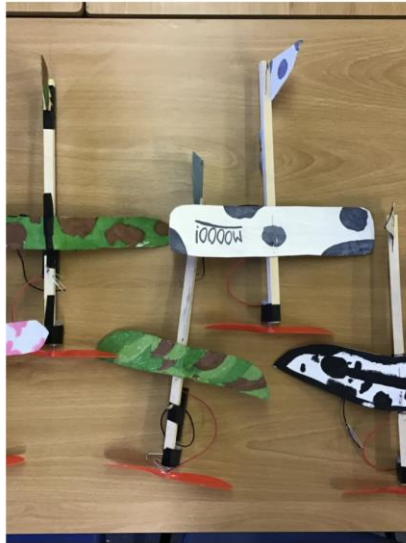
In English, we have loved reading 'The Wolves in the Walls' by Neil Gaiman. It is an exciting and slightly strange story about a family who have wolves living in the walls of their house! As we were reading, we paused to make predictions about what might happen next. We worked in small groups to create a series of freeze frames to show our predictions.



Class News

Danes Class

We enjoyed designing and making our own Second World War planes. We had lots of ideas about how the wings and tail should look having visited Duxford Imperial War Museum and seen lots of planes. We were able to apply our scientific learning about electrical circuits in order to ensure the propellor spun in the right direction to propel the plane – they all flew really well when suspended from a string. We discovered the importance of finding the centre of gravity in order that our planes balanced horizontally. The size of the tail also proved to be a key factor in whether or not the planes flew successfully. If the tail was too small, the plane was not able to maintain its circular flight path.



In English, we have been reading extracts from The Diary of Anne Frank. We have been fascinated to learn about her life in the Secret Annexe. We have considered how events outside the annexe affected the lives of those in hiding as well as considering how Anne's diary was almost like a friend to her. This was Astrid's response to one of the diary extracts.

In this extract, Anne is feeling sad, yet she tries to stay positive; when she mentions about good times and how her and her family would joke and tease, it shows she is smiling in the face of adversity. Anne also mentions that she feels deserted and melancholy as she cannot see the light of the frosty mornings.

She thinks about how very little news about the Jews had reached them and how Mr Dussel tells her about grotesque stories that reach her brain and never disappear, she feels guilty when she finds herself laughing and ^{at this time} She doesn't feel she should ~~when she is alone~~.

Parent and Carer Support Online Courses Spring Term 2022



TALKING FAMILIES

Our FREE 6 week course for parents and carers of children aged 0-12 will cover

- Managing challenging behaviour with consistency.
- Encouraging positive behaviour.
- Building your child's self esteem.
- Setting and maintaining boundaries.
- Responding to tantrums and difficult feelings in children.
- Developing a strong parent/child relationship now and for the future.



Wednesdays 8.00-9.30pm

5th Jan – 9th Feb

Course 475

Tuesdays 9.45-11.15am

22nd Feb – 29th Mar

Course 476

Tuesdays 8.00-9.30pm

22nd Feb – 29th Mar

Course 477

TALKING TEENS

Our FREE 6 week course for parents and carers of children aged 12-19 will cover

- The Teen Brain: the physical and emotional changes taking place during the teenage years and why their behaviour changes.
- The link between behaviour and communicating difficult feelings.
- How to maintain your relationship with good communication.
- Understanding risk taking behaviour around drugs, alcohol and gang culture.
- How to negotiate and reduce conflict.



Wednesdays 7.45-9.15pm

5th Jan – 9th Feb

Course 478

Mondays 7.45-9.15pm

21st Feb – 28th Mar

Course 479

Pre-booking essential

To check eligibility and book a place, please contact
Supporting Links on:

07512 709556

bookings@supportinglinks.co.uk

Quoting the Course ID

TALKING DADS

Dads play an important role in a child's life. This **FREE** course will help you be the Dad you want to be. Over 6 weekly sessions, fathers and male carers of children aged 0-19 will be supported to:



Dads,
Step-Dads,
Stay at
home Dads,
Working
Dads...

- Increase confidence in your parenting.
- Develop your dad/child relationship, now and for the future.
- Improve listening and communication skills.
- Develop strategies for dealing with anger and conflict.
- Learn how to enforce boundaries.

Thursdays 7.45-9.15pm

6th Jan – 10th Feb

Course 480

Wednesdays 7.45-9.15pm

23rd Feb – 30th Mar

Course 481

TALKING ADDITIONAL NEEDS

(previously Understanding Behaviour
in your child with Additional Needs)



Diagnosis
not
essential

A free 6 week course for parents and carers of children aged 2-19 years with a recognised additional need. We will help you to:

- Understand your child's behaviour.
- Find strategies that really work.
- Understand conflict: why it happens and how to handle it.
- Manage anger effectively.
- Motivate, encourage and support your child.
- Manage different needs within your family.

Thursdays 8.00-9.30pm

6th Jan – 10th Feb

Course 473

Wednesdays 8.00-9.30pm

23rd Feb – 30th Mar

Course 474



Sessions will be run over Zoom so you will need access to a device such as a phone, tablet or computer with a webcam and microphone. We will help you get set up if you haven't used Zoom before. No special skills are needed.

Courses are open to parents and carers living in Hertfordshire

Pre-booking essential

**To check eligibility and book a place, please contact
Supporting Links on:**

07512 709556 or bookings@supportinglinks.co.uk

Quoting the Course ID

www.supportinglinks.co.uk



These courses are provided free to parents by
Hertfordshire County Council

Page 2 of 2



www.canparent.org.uk

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Wizard
presents



MEET
ASTRID
LINDGREN'S

Pippi LONGSTOCKING

STORYTELLING PERFORMANCE
BY SOFIE MILLER

Inspired

Saturday 11th December
Stevenage Central Library at 10.30am
Hitchin Library at 2.30pm

Tickets £7.00 Adult £5.00 Child
Available in library and online

MEETPIPPILONGSTOCKING.CO.UK



ASTRID
LINDGREN
Contract

Embassy of Sweden
London