



Aston St. Mary's Newsletter

Our value this half term is Forgiveness

www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk

25th February 2022

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

Diary Dates

Thursday 3rd March: World Book Day. Dress as a favourite book character. Any donations towards the purchase of new books for class book corners welcome.

Wednesday 16th March: Danes and Puddlebridge visit to the Natural History Museum

Friday 18th March: Non-uniform for Comic Relief. Any donations via our Just Giving page please:
<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/rednoseday22-aston-st-marys-ch>

Monday 21st March and Thursday 24th March: Parents' Evening (face-to-face or online TBC)

Friday 25th March: Mothering Day service (church or online TBC)

Monday 28th March: Reward Day

Tuesday 29th March: Easter Breakfast

Friday 1st April: Easter Service (TBC) followed by egg rolling and egg decoration.

Friday 1st April: School finishes at 1pm

Wednesday 20th April: Children return to school.

We hope that everyone had an enjoyable half term break and stayed safe during the recent stormy weather. It was wonderful to welcome the children back to school on Monday. Attendance has been at almost 100% this week and we are delighted that we now only have minimal positive cases. Hopefully, with all remaining restrictions lifted, life in school (and out) can begin to get back to normal. We will, of course, continue to adjust and adapt our risk assessments following government advice.

Last half term, Danes and Puddlebridge classes had their visit to the Natural History Museum postponed due to the Covid outbreak; we are delighted that this trip has been able to be rescheduled for Wednesday 16th March.

As spring approaches, we hope to get the children back onto the school field during breaks and lunchtime. Please make sure that your child has a change of shoes in school in case it is damp underfoot. We are so fortunate to have such extensive and beautiful school grounds; it is always good to see the children enjoying their time outdoors.

Please check the date list carefully as we have a number of events approaching over the coming weeks. Please look out for further details in due course.



ACADEMIC YEAR 2021/2022

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



A Thought from Reverend Jenny

'Put out into the deep water and let your nets down for a catch,' Jesus tells an exhausted Peter (Luke 5:1-11).

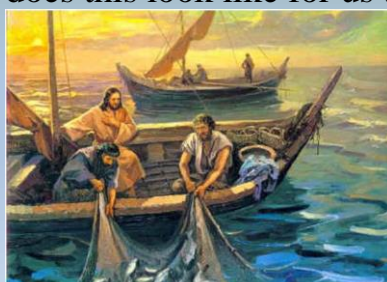
'Put out into the deep water and let your nets down for a catch,' Pope John Paul II tells the troubled Catholic Church at the start of the new millennium.

'Put out into the deep water and let your nets down for a catch,' the diocese of St Albans tells its weary clergy as we emerge from the pandemic.

Casting nets is exhausting and seems a waste of time yet Peter listens to Jesus. *And they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break...*

From that moment Peter is hooked on Jesus! Peter joins Jesus in his work of *'catching people'*, bringing people home to God.

What does this look like for us today?



Shining Stars were awarded to:

Stanley, Finlay,
Nathan, Poppy, Astrid,
Ellie, LJ, Alfie Muctaar,
James, Jack and Harry



Merits were awarded to:

Toby, Keely, Jack, Darcie, Jasmine,
Azariah, Finlay, Astrid, Favian, LJ,
Hanna, Tabi, Charlie, Nathan, Rosie,
Phoebie, Joshua, Aiden O, Lily-Anne,
Ted, Finn, Ademidun, Daniel, Ethan R,
Harry B, Liam and Jayden

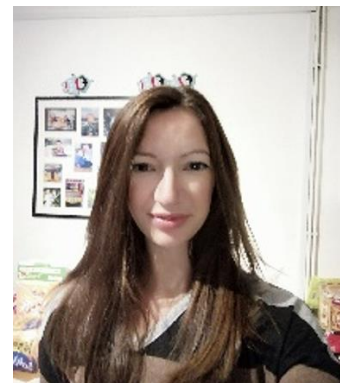
Notices

Welcome to Aston St. Mary's



Hello, my name is Miss Tyrrell, and I will be joining Aston St Mary's School for 5 weeks, as part of my teacher training experience. I have come from Heath Mount School and have been truly welcomed by pupils and staff. I am lucky enough to be working alongside Miss Keen in Orchard class this term. I studied Sports and Exercise Science at the University of Essex, and I am fluent in Welsh – Neis i gwrdd a chi! I am looking forward to working at your school and would like to thank you again for this opportunity.

Hello, my name is Mrs Helen Wren, and I am joining Aston St Mary's Shackadell class for 4 weeks whilst I complete my teacher training. I have a degree in psychology and used to work in the homelessness and family mediation sector until I took a break to have my family. Since having my 3 boys I have been working as a Teaching Assistant in Hertfordshire schools. I am very much looking forward to my time in this wonderful school and want to thank the children for being so welcoming.



TIMES TABLES ROCK STARS

ONCE AGAIN, **DANES AND PUDDLEBRIDGE** HAVE PROVED THEMSELVES TO BE TRUE 'TIMES TABLES ROCK STARS' IN A NATIONAL COMPETITION. THEY COMPETED ON FRIDAY 4TH FEBRUARY AND ACHIEVED AN IMPRESSIVE RESULT OF **14TH OUT OF 2,405 PRIMARY SCHOOLS** TAKING PART. WELL DONE TO EVERYONE INVOLVED. WE HOPE THE CHILDREN OF **HAFFYDOWN AND ORCHARD** CLASSES ARE BUSY PRACTICING THEIR SKILLS REGULARLY AT HOME AND IN SCHOOL ... THEY WILL BE OUR 'ROCK STARS' OF THE FUTURE!

Hertfordshire Cross Country Championships 2022



We are so proud of our Cross-Country team. They competed against schools from across Hertfordshire in St. Albans on Saturday 5th February. It was a tough course and there were lots of runners. All of the Aston team completed the course; they showed determination, resilience and sportsmanship.



Curriculum Enrichment

We are delighted that so many children are participating in our range of lunchtime and after school enrichment opportunities. This week, children in Key Stage One thoroughly enjoyed craft club after school on Monday and children in Shackadell class were the first to enjoy cookery club after school on Wednesday. It was wonderful to see the skill of such young children when chopping vegetables to make their own mini pitta bread pizzas. They looked delicious!



Multisports after school on Mondays is popular with children of all ages, as is football after school on Fridays. It is wonderful to see so many children participating in these popular clubs every week. Netball club is resuming next week; this will usually take place during lunchtime on a Wednesday for children in Key Stage Two (places are limited so priority will be given to Years Five and Six in the first instance).

We are very proud of our school orchestra which practises after school on Tuesdays; not many primary schools are able to offer this and, despite being a small school, we have children playing a range of instruments including violins, wind instruments, keyboard and percussion.

Breakfast Club

This runs every morning from 8:00am in the school hall. Please contact the office should you wish your child to attend. Whilst we have capacity to do so, children can attend either every day, on specified days each week or on an ad hoc basis. They enjoy toast and cereals for breakfast and then enjoy activities such as puzzles, games, building with lego etc.

Class News

Shackadell Class

To bring our topic of "people who help us" to an end, we had a special visit from our local fire-brigade. The children learnt lots of information about what is stored inside the fire engine, what they wear to protect themselves and found out the things fire fighters do other than putting out fires. They even put on their blue lights and siren for us as they left the school! The children thoroughly enjoyed their visit and learnt so much from this first-hand experience. Thanks for visiting us Blue Watch!

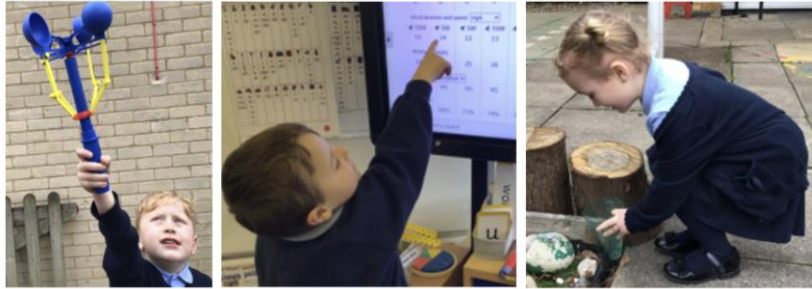


Class News

Peartree Class

Welcome back and we hope you had a lovely, restful half term break.

In geography, this half term we will be learning about the countries in the United Kingdom and taking a tour of some of its famous landmarks. We are also learning about the changes in weather throughout the year. We have watched video clips about different weather types in the UK and documented what we observed. We are all 'wonderful weather watchers' and have started a class weather diary.



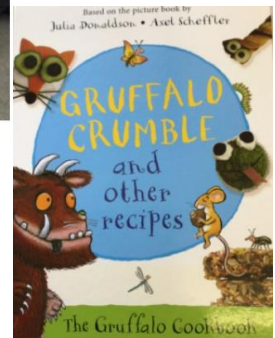
In science, we are continuing the unit on Everyday Materials and will be doing some very exciting investigations where we will be testing different materials and finding the ones most suitable for a given purpose.

In RE, we will be looking at why Easter is important to Christians and the sequence of events leading up to Easter Sunday. We watched the Easter story and then played 'Pass the Parcel!' Each layer contained a part of the story and layer by layer we had to retell the story together.

In the middle was a box of chocolate mini-eggs! We talked about eggs being symbolic of new life and that is why people receive chocolate eggs for Easter.



Our new book for English is Gruffalo Crumble by Julia Donaldson. We had a great lesson where we made Gruffalo tusks using fruit. They were yummy!



Class News

Orchard Class

Before half term, Orchard spent a whole day learning about the sculptor and environmentalist Andy Goldsworthy and exploring his outdoor sculptures. We learnt about how he uses natural materials and the environment to create his pieces. In groups, we created our own outdoor sculptures using natural materials such as wood, sticks, stones, leaves, pinecones and chalk. We also used string, ribbon and glue made from water and flour to attach our materials together. Once we had created our master pieces, we took our own photographs for our sketch books.



This half term in history, we will be learning about “Nurturing Nurses, in particular Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole. We will explore what makes them so significant and the impact they had.

In science, we will be learning about plants and investigating the process of germination. Please look out for the home learning grids in your child’s book bag which have been sent out this week.

Class News

Haffydown Class

At the end of last term, we finished learning about Dr Xargle's Book of Earth Hounds by writing informative pieces about aliens. We thoroughly enjoyed this book and we will miss wearing our alien antennas and glasses. We had some wonderfully informative pieces of writing.

Good morning, today we are going to learn about Martians. Martians have 5 short toes and 5 sucker fingers. They also have blue, silky ^{and} smooth skin with 3 round eyes, and 2 long leg and arms.

When it is breakfast, Martians eat ~~purple~~ juicy moonmelen and they think it is delicious. While they eat this juicy meat they relax hungrily on the cosy, bumpy moonrocks. They put their yummy food on hoverplates that hover above their legs.

When Martians travel, they go in hovermibels which hovers above earth. Hovermibels have a yellow round disk, a cosy, squishy chair, half a oval roof, a back seat, a small boot and lots of buttons.

Martians ^{believe that} ~~is~~ families are very special. They have brothers with blue skin, purple eyes and ~~into~~ sisters.

Good morning, today we are going to learn about Martians. Martians live on Mars. Mars is ~~scorching~~ hot beach weather always! Martians ~~despise~~ ^{adore} the ~~same~~ blue!

Only Martians eat brown, ~~mothwating~~ ^{mothy} Mars bars due to them being piky eaters. If you give them anything ~~else~~ ^{if you} they will just spit it out in ~~your~~ ^{your} face!

Martians have four wiggly, riggly arms, ~~two~~ one eye (which stars at you ~~for~~ ^{for} ages ~~before~~ ^{before} blinking!), eight legs and a little pincher to pinch you with (ouch!)

Martians play a game called "Ride it" so what they do is they try and ~~find~~ ^{find} a little pale asteroid jump on it and have ~~fun~~ ^{fun} riding it!

In Maths, we finished our learning about angles and this half term we have started perimeters. We enjoyed making some fences with linking cubes to lock our animals in and then work out the perimeter.

We finished our science topic, Animals including Humans, by looking at how our skeletal muscles work. We learnt about our triceps and biceps, and how they work together: one contracting as the other relaxes to move the arm. The children were keen to show off their muscles!

Class News

Puddlebridge Class

We have kicked off this half term by starting a new unit in English based around the poem *Hurt No Living Thing* by Christina Rossetti. In the poem, she describes a range of mini beasts in a way that makes them sound precious and fascinating. We worked in groups to find out about a range of different creatures and described them in a positive way in preparation for writing our own poetry.



Hurt no living thing

By Christina Rossetti

Hurt no living thing:
Ladybird, nor butterfly,
Nor moth with dusty wing,
Nor cricket chirping cheerily,
Nor grasshopper so light of leap,
Nor dancing gnat, nor beetle fat,
Nor harmless worms that creep.



In Maths, we are learning to convert different units of measure including length, mass, capacity, and time. We enjoyed guessing the mass of different objects and creating our own game of dominoes which requires the player to convert between the different units.



In PSHE, we are thinking about the VIPs in our lives and how we can show them that we love them. We worked together to think of words that we associate with loving relationships (left).

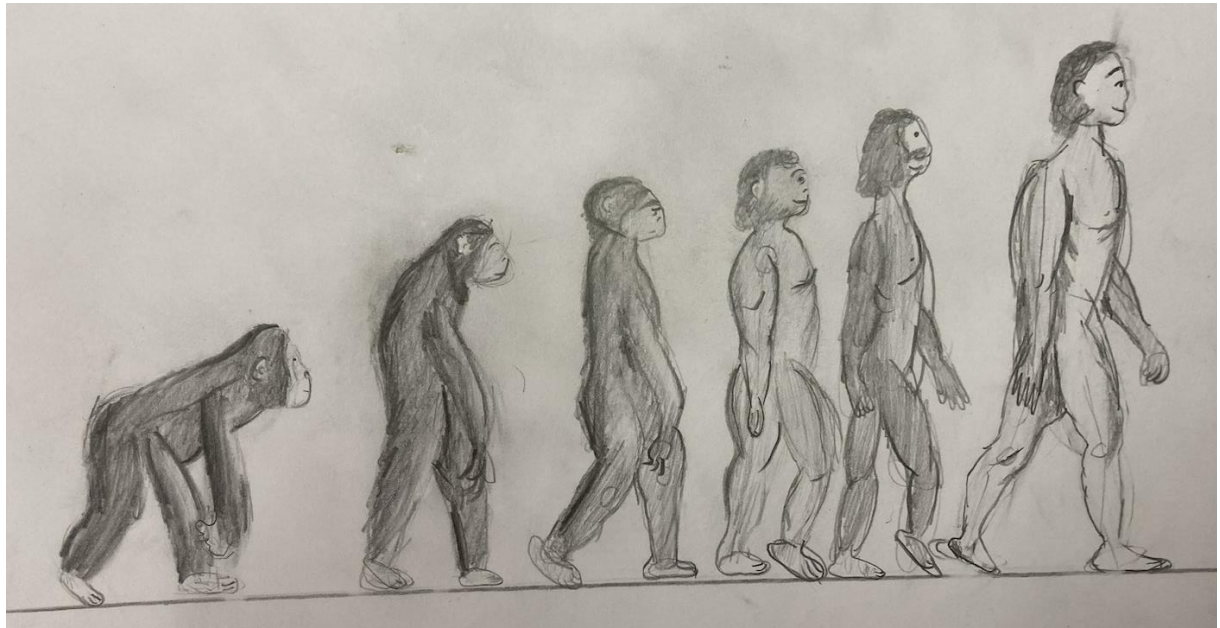
In Science, Year 4 thoroughly enjoyed making and testing cup telephones to explore our new topic: Sound.



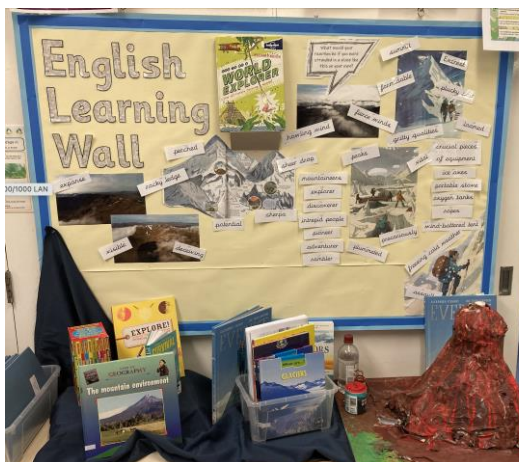
Class News

Danes Class

Last half term in art, Danes focussed on capturing movement when drawing the human form. We looked at how to draw figures in the correct proportion and then captured different poses showing balance and motion. We studied the pen and ink drawing 'Vitruvian Man' by Leonardo da Vinci before recreating this ourselves. Our final piece linked in with our learning in science as we drew the evolution of man according to scientific theory.



This half term is a particularly busy one for Year Six as they await their secondary school allocations and are working hard to prepare for their SATs assessments in May. Their commitment to learning, dedication and ambition is exceptional. They never cease to amaze me with their thirst and enthusiasm for learning. This is not only demonstrated in school, but also through their home learning; they are completing three home learning tasks every week and are always eager to receive feedback as to what they have done well and how they can improve further. Keep up the great work Year Six!



In English, we are focussing on explanation texts using the book 'How to be a World Explorer'. Once we have become mountaineering experts, we will be producing our own 'Mountaineers Guide' leaflets.

In maths, we are exploring our understanding of percentages. We investigated splitting a 'whole' into a number of percentages before calculating the value of each part and then checking these could be recombined to make the 'whole'.

