



Aston St. Mary's Newsletter

Our value this half term is Justice

www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk

29th April 2022

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

Diary Dates

Monday 9th – Thursday 12th May:

Year Six SATs assessments

Monday 16th-Friday 20th May: Year

Six Bikeability Training

Friday 20th May: Sports Day

Book Fair – further details to follow

Thursday 26th May: Open Morning

Friday 27th May: Jubilee Celebrations
in school

Monday 30th May – Friday 3rd June:

Half Term break

Wednesday 8th June: Danes and
Puddlebridge Classes to Whipsnade
Zoo

Wednesday 15th June: Danes and
Puddlebridge Classes K'nex Challenge

Monday 20th June: SCHOOL CLOSED
(Jubilee Day holiday)

Tuesday 28th June: Year Six to
Hertfordshire Schools Food and
Farming Day

Tuesday 12th July: Summer
production (1:30pm and 6:00pm)

Wednesday 13th July: Summer
production (6:00pm)

Thursday 14th July: Children visit new
classes and Year Six visit secondary
schools

Friday 15th July: Reward Day

Wednesday 20th July: Leavers'
Service.

Term ends at 1:00pm.

**ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE
AND ADDITIONAL DATES WILL BE
ADDED**

What a wonderful start to the summer term! Helped by the (mostly) sunny weather, the children have been enjoying plenty of time outdoors during breaktimes and lunchtimes as well as to support their learning.

Our value this half term is 'Justice'; we have begun to explore what this means in our daily worship. Last week, we looked at how it is too easy to complain 'It's not fair!' and follow this with 'I'; the story we shared involved two brothers who instead complained 'It's not fair!' when thinking of each other and each wanting less for himself. We are always impressed by our children's desire to see justice both within school and also in the wider world; this is frequently demonstrated as global issues and events are discussed not only in daily worship but also across many areas of the curriculum including: English, history, geography, science, PSHE and RE.

As you will see from the dates list, we have an exciting term ahead with lots going on. Please keep checking the diary dates because further dates will be added as plans are finalised and all are subject to change. We are particularly looking forward to the many 'whole school' events as these have not been possible for the last two years. As a small school, these events are particularly important to us as we really do enjoy being one happy Aston 'family'. Already this term, it has been wonderful to see our youngest children in Shackadell class able to enjoy reading with their Year Six buddies again each Friday morning.

We wish everyone a happy and relaxing (and hopefully sunny) bank holiday weekend and we look forward to seeing the children in school again on Tuesday.

ACADEMIC YEAR 2021/2022

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

ACADEMIC YEAR 2022/2023

AUTUMN TERM

Monday 5th September 2022 to Wednesday 21st December 2022

HALF TERM Break - Monday 24th October 2022 to Friday 28th October 2022

Occasional Day (School Closed) - Monday 28th November 2022

SPRING TERM

Thursday 5th January 2023 to Friday 31st March 2023

HALF TERM Break - Monday 13th February 2023 to Friday 17th February 2023

SUMMER TERM

Tuesday 18th April 2023 to Wednesday 19 July 2023

HALF TERM Break - Monday 29th May 2023 to Friday 2nd June 2023

INSET DAYS – SCHOOL CLOSED

Thursday 1st September 2022 and Friday 2nd September 2022

Monday 17th April 2023

Thursday 20th July 2023 and Friday 21st July 2023

School Meals

To order school meals, please log onto your School Gateway account via the website or the app.

**DINNER MONEY
FEES £2.90 per meal**



Merits were awarded to:

George, Keely, Darcie,
Ethan, Ava, Orlagh, Bertie,
Niamh, Charlie A., Aidan S,
Tate, Tilly, Harry B, Liam



Shining Stars were awarded to:

Finn



A Thought from Reverend Jenny

Doubting Thomas reminds us things can be true even when they are hard to believe...

Whatever next? Have you heard the latest one?
You know that fellow, the man we saw die,
people are saying – can you imagine –
now he is Lord of the earth and sky.
I bet they're going to have to change their tune!
You might as well say
that a man could reach the moon –
you might as well say that Rome will crumble,
say the Empire's had its day!
Might as well say I can talk to my editor
when he's a thousand miles away.

Whatever next? People are suggestible,
They'll swallow anything however indigestible.
Well, anyway we are not so gullible,
whatever will it be – next?
(Reporter's Song from One Friday).

The world surprises scientists on a regular basis. Quantum physics shows us the world is less predictable than most people suppose. 'There's red shifting and dark matter and uncertainty and particle movement ... The primary essence of reality is energy flow...however hard or solid things seem!'... (Rob Bell)

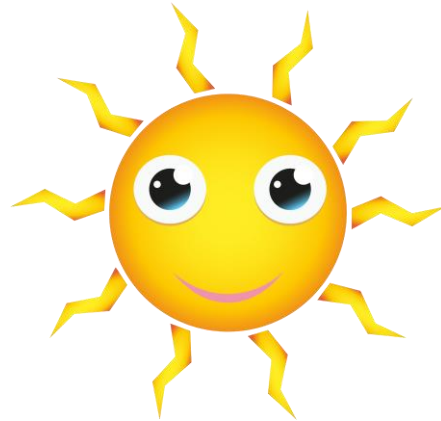
'I do not seek to understand in order that I may believe, but I believe in order to understand.'
St Anselm

Notices

Water Bottles



Please make sure that your child brings their water bottle to school containing fresh water each day. Please note, these should contain **water only** as it hydrates without providing extra calories or risking harm to teeth.



As the warmer weather approaches (hopefully!), we would like to remind you to that sun cream should be applied before school. Should this need to be reapplied in school, your child will need to do so themselves. Children are not allowed to share sun cream. Also, please ensure that your child has a sun hat for sunny days.

Supporting your Child with Maths at Home

We were delighted that feedback from the parents who attended our recent maths evening suggested that they found it both useful and informative. It was a fun, interactive session where we played a range of simple games which could easily be played at home to support mathematical development and number fluency.

The session was run by our Herts for Learning Maths adviser, Charlie Harber. Thank you to Charlie for such an engaging session and to all those who attended for your participation and support.



Notices



The Queen's Platinum Jubilee



On Friday 27th May, we will be celebrating the Queen's 70th Platinum Jubilee here in school. Planning and preparations are already underway and more specific details of this exciting event will be sent out nearer the time.

We were wondering if any children's grandparents, great grandparents or other relatives would like to join our celebrations and pop into classes for a short time on this day. It would be lovely if they were able to share any of their own stories, photographs, or memories of the Queen's Coronation or even just to talk about how life has changed since the 1950's in general.

If you have any family members who would be interested, please speak to me on the playground or round at the Orchard classroom door. Alternatively, you could leave a message for me with the office, and I will get back to you.

Miss Keen



Class News

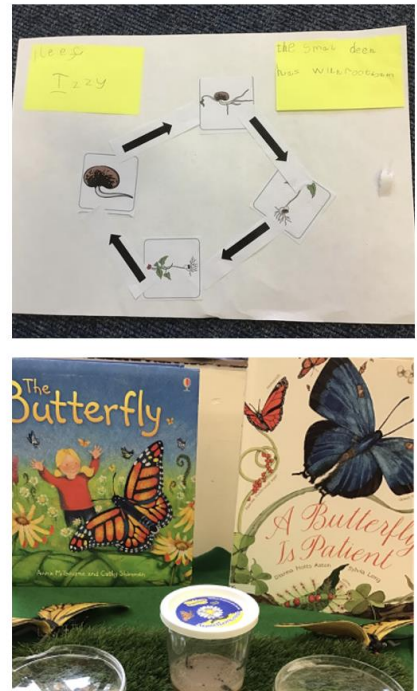
Shackadell Class

Our new topic this half term is 'Growing'. This week we've got some new, special arrivals in our classroom...meet our new class caterpillars!

We are excited to observe the changes in our caterpillars over the next few weeks as they turn into beautiful butterflies!

We have also been learning and retelling the story of 'Jack and the Beanstalk' and have planted our very own 'magic beans'. We will observe these each day to watch them grow and record the changes we see in our bean diaries!

In maths, we have also been using our 'magic beans' to help us with our addition sums!



Class News

Peartree Class

Here we go again with another action packed half term. You will all have received the termly newsletter sent home on Monday detailing what is happening throughout the term. If you have any questions, please drop a message on Seesaw.



In science, we have planted our broad bean seeds and are going to observe the changes they make over time. We are also investigating what a bean needs to grow into a healthy plant. We decided to plant some extra bean seeds and change one thing that happens to it. One will have no soil; one will have no water and one will have no light. We made our predictions about what we thought would happen



Our DT topic started last week where we had to evaluate some existing products (dips!)

We used plain bread sticks to sample several dips and had to describe the look and texture, the smell and finally the best part the taste. There was raita, tzatziki, hummus, non-spicy salsa, guacamole and thousand island. We also talked about where they originated from and found it on a map which helped our locational knowledge skills for geography.

Next, we will be evaluating some dippers before moving onto learning about eating a healthy and balanced diet. We will then use this knowledge to help us design and make our own healthy dip with accompanying dippers.



queet



rescue

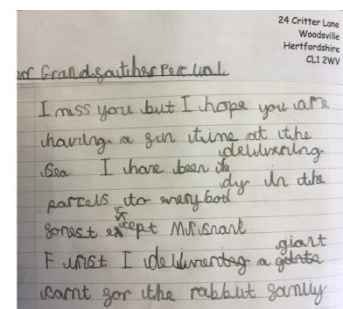
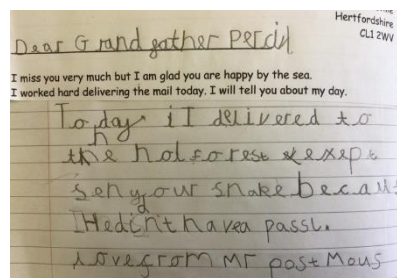
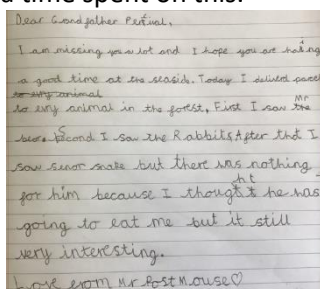
heent



white

In phonics, we have been encouraging the children to look for digraphs (two letters that make one sound) and trigraphs (three letters that make one sound) in words to help them with decoding unfamiliar words. We have introduced them to our 'alien' words (all have a picture of an alien on them) to help them practice this decoding skill. The children look for the different sounds in a word and then they blend them together to read the word. I will be putting some examples onto Seesaw for the children to practise at home.

The children are all learning cursive script and being encouraged to use it in all writing. They really enjoy this and are trying so hard. I am loving all of the home practice that is being sent in. Thank you all for the extra time spent on this.



Class News

Orchard Class

Welcome back for our final term this year. The summer term is always packed full of fun events. I am so pleased now life is back to "normal" that the children will get to experience all the fun that the summer term at Aston brings! Please look in book bags for the class termly newsletter which was sent home on Monday.

In English this week, we have been reading 'The Day The Crayons Quit'. This hilarious and cleverly written story contains a series of persuasive letters written by Duncan's frustrated crayons. We had great fun exploring their different emotions through role play. Can you guess how the crayons are feeling in the freeze frames below?



During our maths lessons, we have been looking at fractions. We can now identify halves, thirds and quarters of shapes. The pictures show our Cuisenaire walls that we built to demonstrate this understanding. Next in the sequence, we are learning to find fractions of amounts.

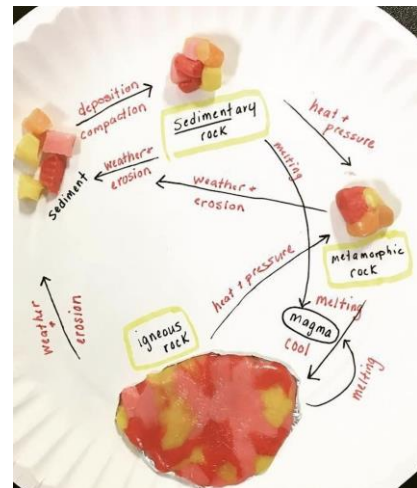


Class News

Haffydown Class

In English, we have started a new book, *Mini Rabbit Not Lost*. We have been rewriting the story to publish our own version and have been working on our vocabulary choices. As the rabbit is travelling through many dangerous places, Year 3 acted out and used powerful verbs with prepositions to create an image of the exact moment in the reader's mind. They clambered up hills, rowed across unforgiving seas and bounded through forests – quite an adventure!

In Science, we have started our new topic on rocks and soils. We have been exploring the three different types of natural rocks, igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary and how they are formed. We had fun using starbursts to create the rock cycle. This showed how rocks are made and can become another type of rock through compaction and cementation, weathering and erosion, and melting.



Just before Easter, Haffydown made hot cross buns with a twist. We based our final products on our market research, where we discovered the different textures, smells, taste and appearance that we found appealing. We also attempted different shapes with salt dough. Year 3 soon discovered that salt dough was easier to mould than the hot cross bun dough. Their final results were yummy and you can see from their faces their favourite part of the day was eating their creations.

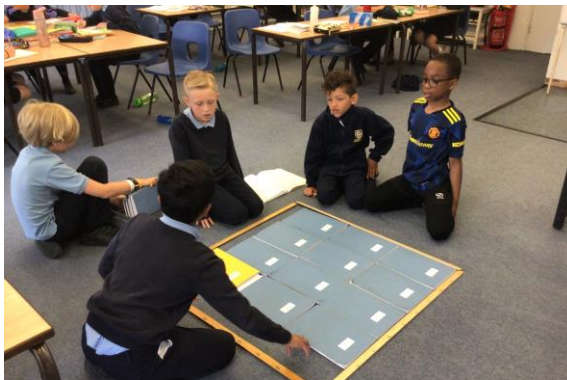


Class News

Puddlebridge Class

We are so excited to be back in school for the Summer Term!

In English, we have been reading *Cloud Tea Monkeys* by Elspeth Graham and Mal Peet. Our work has focused heavily on how writing impacts the reader, so we have been working hard to include as much detail in our writing as possible. We also revised the use of inverted commas to record dialogue in a narrative. In order to prepare for our writing, we took part in a short drama activity to get our ideas flowing!



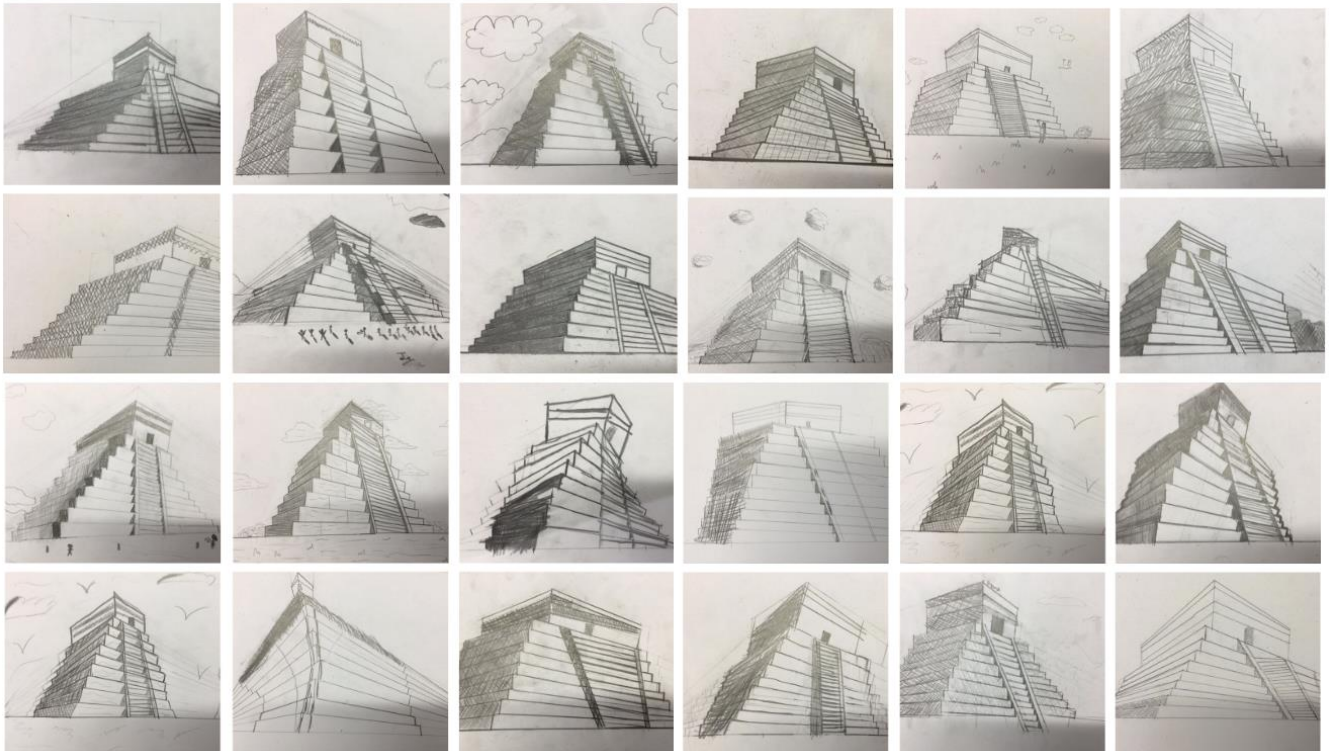
In Maths, we have been exploring area and perimeter. In this photo, you can see a group of us predicting and then testing how many Maths books would fit into a square meter.

In Science, Year 4 have started a new topic about Living Things and Their Habitats. We explored our school environment to find out what is living here. We took time to sketch the different species of plants and animals accurately, making careful observations.



Class News

Danes Class



Danes class have made an excellent start to the new term; we are already enjoying our new history topic about the Mayan civilization. In art, we have been focussing on perspective drawing; we began with one point perspective and then moved on to using two vanishing points. Our final piece was to draw a Mayan temple – the results were extremely impressive and clearly demonstrated the progress made through the sequence of lessons.

In science, we are learning about the human circulatory system. We began by learning about the heart and drew some amazing, labelled diagrams. Next, we learnt what is meant by 'double circulation' as oxygenated blood is pumped to the body and de-oxygenated blood to the lungs.

We are loving our learning in English which is inspired by 'Arthur Spiderwick's Field guide to the Fantastical World Around You'. During this unit, we will be writing for many different purposes including: a warning poster, a free-verse poem, a diary entry, a live-action news report, a character description and an explanation. On Monday this week, we read about the malicious, mischievous Boggart. We thought about the chaos that he could cause in our classroom and shared our ideas using freeze frames. The children then produced some fantastic writing in role as a boggart!





Bringing up confident children for parents of children with SEN (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: Monday, 6th June to 11th July 2022

Time: 7.00pm - 9.00pm

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

We build better family lives together



Find us on Facebook @FamilyLivesHertsandBeds

www.familylives.org.uk



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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: Wednesday, 8th June to 13th July 2022

Time: 9.30am 11.30am

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

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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: Tuesday, 7th June to 12th July 2022

Time: 7.00pm to 9.00pm

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

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Supporting families for a brighter future



Grace's Space is a monthly Saturday club for
Children aged 3-14 who have a diagnosis of Autism and their families.
We meet on the first Saturday of the month from the Autumn term in October until July.

Providing Family sessions for children under 9 and sessions for children aged 9-14.

Family session 1 for under 9s 10-11.30am
Family session 2 for under 9s 12.30pm-2pm
Young people's session for 9-14s 2.30pm-4pm

Attendance is by registration only!

For more information or to register for a trial session please contact us:

Email: graces_space@live.co.uk
www.facebook.com/gracesspace1

Embracing the Difference!

Grace Community Church Hall · Hydean Way · Stevenage · SG2 9XJ

May parent and carer workshops



**Supporting Children with ASD/ADHD:
Bereavement and Loss**

Tuesday 3rd May 2022, 1:00pm to 2:30pm

**Supporting Children with ASD/ADHD: Girls
and Women**

Wednesday 18th May 2022, 1:00pm to 2:30pm

Our popular free online workshops are returning in May. We'd like to invite any parents, carers and anyone looking to support children and young people with additional needs.

book your place
now via our
website

Angels
AUTISM & ADHD SUPPORT



WELCOME!
Spring 2022

**Hertfordshire Fire
& Rescue**

**To our first edition of
the Schools Stay Safe
Newsletter.**

**We have selected
some helpful safety
messages to help to
keep you and your
family safe this
Spring!**

Did you know?

what3words is an easy way to identify precise locations. Every 3m square in the World has been given a unique combination of three words: a what3words address. Now you can find, share and navigate to precise locations using three simple words.

The emergency services can use what3words to locate you if you are in trouble, but they can only do this if you have the app



what3words

East Herts & Broxbourne

Quarterly Schools Newsletter

Hertfordshire Fire & Rescue Service



Have you got working Smoke Detectors?

Please check you have working smoke detectors at home. You should have a smoke detector on every floor in your home, preferably in the hallways and close to bedrooms where possible. Check your detectors work once a week by pushing the button in the middle. Don't forget to change the battery once a year – pick a date that is memorable such as your birthday or Christmas so that you remember!

If you do not have smoke detectors at home, Herts Fire and Rescue will carry out a safe and well check for you. They will fit smoke detectors for you for free.

*Please ring: **0300 123 4046** to book today!*

- ***It won't cost you a penny and it could save your life.***
- ***All visits are agreed by appointment only at a time to suit you.***
- ***Only uniformed staff will visit and will always carry an ID card.***



CO/Gas Safe

- Carbon monoxide is a colourless, odourless, and tasteless flammable gas that is slightly less dense than air.
- Unsafe gas appliances can cause gas leaks, fires, explosions and carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. Ensure you know where to turn your gas off at the mains. It is usually situated close to your gas meter.

Ensure there is adequate ventilation in any rooms where gas appliances are situated.

Arrange for a Gas Safe registered engineer to check it over annually and repair/replace if necessary.

Contact a Qualified Gas Safe Engineer if you notice any of the following signs around your boiler:

Increased condensation

Floppy yellow flame

Sooty stain in or around your appliance

Consider fitting a CO₂ detector in your home. It should be placed by the main source of Carbon Monoxide in your property such as next to the open fireplace or heating system (combi boiler).



BE SCHOOL SAFE!

The Governing body and the head teacher are responsible for the day-to-day running of the school and the management of all the systems, including fire safety.

FIRE SAFETY ADVICE FOR SCHOOLS

1. The estimated cost of a school fire in the UK is £2.8 million
2. 75% of school fires are the result of arson.
3. Children in the age group 10-16 are responsible for 50% of all deliberately set school fires.
4. Pupils and ex pupils are generally responsible for deliberately set school fires
5. Each year HFRS attends around 180 calls to fires in or around school premises.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO REDUCE THE RISK

Good housekeeping is the key to reducing the risk of arson at your school. HFRS can work with you to assess the risk, where necessary, and can recommend actions you can take to reduce it. Things to look out for include

1. Litter
2. Graffiti
3. Minor and major break-ins
4. Minor arson incidents

The schools arson audit covers the following areas:

- Entry onto premises
- Entry into buildings
- Opportunity to start a fire
- Scope to start a fire

WORKING TO PROTECT. ACTING TO SAVE.