



Aston St. Mary's Newsletter

Our value this half term is Justice

www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk

27th May 2022



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

Diary Dates

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

Thursday 16th June: Class Photos

Friday 17th June: Sports Day 1pm-3pm

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 an exciting day we have had in school today! Our Jubilee celebrations started off with whole school worship – with every child having a Union Jack flag to wave. After this, the children spent the morning in their classes learning about life during the seventy-year reign of Queen Elizabeth II. Life has changed a lot during this time; the children explored some of these changes whilst developing their understanding of chronology. During the afternoon, we enjoyed our own Aston St. Mary's street party. This included performances of songs through the decades from each of the classes. Thank you for your donations of party food for the children to enjoy.

Last week, we were disappointed to have to postpone sports day – after beautiful weather all week, the rain arrived at just the wrong time! We have now rescheduled this for Friday 17th June.

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend our open morning yesterday; it was lovely to see children enjoying sharing their learning from the year and also enjoying exploring classes across the school. We are delighted that events such as these are able to happen again – they are such an important part of our school calendar.

We would like to wish all our families a happy and relaxing half term break.



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



A Thought from Reverend Jenny

Steve Turner ponders

If Jesus was thirty-one today

He'd be the fly in everyone's ointment-
the sort of controversial person who
stands no chance of eminence.

Communists would expel Him, capitalists
would exploit Him or have Him
smeared by people who know a thing or two about God.

Doctors would accuse Him of quackery,
soldiers would accuse Him of cowardice,
theologians would take Him aside and try
to persuade Him of His non-existence.

If Jesus was thirty-two today we'd have to
end it all. Heretic, fundamentalist, literalist,
puritan, pacifist, non-conformist, we'd take Him
away and quietly end the argument.

But the argument would rumble in the ground
at the end of three days and would break out
and walk around as though death was some bug,
saying 'I am the resurrection and the life...

No man cometh to the Father but by me'.

While the magicians researched new explanations
and the semanticists wondered exactly what
He meant by 'I' and 'No man' there would be those
who stand around amused, asking for something
called proof.



Merit Certificates

were awarded to:

Niamh, Azariah,
Flynn, Austin, Theo,
Vaaris, Aariv, Eli,
Willow, Harry B,
Astrid, Blake, Rosie,
Nyah



Shining Stars were
awarded to:

Eli, Alfie (x2), Blake,
Cameron, Max,
Nathaniel, Leon

Notices



Marathon Mayhem for Max and Connie

Helen Avis (Danes class teaching assistant) is, once again, going to be running the London Marathon. This time, she is running to raise funds to support both her son Max and also Connie (daughter of Caroline Carter, office manager).

Both Max and Connie are ex-pupils of ours and both are facing very different and difficult challenges in their young lives. You can read their stories on Helen's Just Giving page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/helen-avis-2>

Any donations to support these incredible young people would be greatly appreciated.



An impressive £156.45 was raised last week through the collection of Happy Bags. Thank you to everyone who donated bags of clothes to the collection and to the PTFA for organising.



PTFA Cake Sale – Friday 20th May

Despite Sports day being postponed due to the rainy weather, it was wonderful to see so many people enjoying the cake sale after school last Friday. Thank you to everyone who either provided the cakes or purchased them as well as to the wonderful PTFA for arranging this at short notice. £80 was raised – fantastic!

PTFA Treasure Hunt

In spite of the rain, nineteen families enjoyed the Treasure Hunt on Sunday 15th May. This event raised an amazing £200 for PTFA funds. Thank you to all those who were involved with the event.



In total, this means that our new PTFA have raised a staggering £436.45 in the last two weeks.

Notices

Welcome to our new PTFA committee

Thank you to all those who attended the coffee morning on Friday 29th April; it was great to see so many people able to join us and keen to offer their support to our school. A new committee was elected as follows:

Joint Chairs: Lara (Ted and Orla's mum) and Helen (Tilly's mum)

Joint Vice Chairs: Emily (Leo's mum) and Becky (Izzy's mum)

Treasurer: Emma (Oliver's mum)

Secretaries: Hannah (Pixie's mum) and Danielle (Jack's mum)

Thank to everyone involved – both the committee and other members – for making a real difference to our school. All money raised is used to enhance the opportunities and experiences that we are able to offer the children of Aston St. Mary's



5th June 2022
10am – 4pm
Celebrating the
journey of Life and
Fashion through the
last 7 decades in
St. Mary's Church
with Songs of Praise
at 4pm outside
Refreshments all day



Cinderella & **Rockerfella**

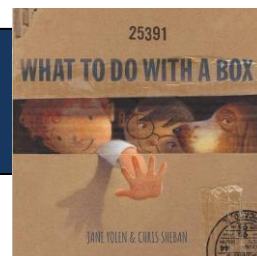
Children across the school are very excited about our summer performance of 'Cinderella Rockerfella'. As a small school, it is wonderful for the whole school to be able to perform together. Children in Years 6, 5 and 4 were allocated their parts this week. Haffydown, Orchard, Peartree and Shackadell classes will each perform in one of the songs. We are so excited to be able to perform as a school once more after Covid meant we could only arrange smaller performances involving only the older children for the past two years.

Performances will take place on 12th and 13th July. Please look out for further details next half term regarding costumes and tickets.





Class News



Shackadell Class

Shackadell class had an amazing time during our 'box week'. We read 'Not a box' by Antoinette Portis and 'What to do with a Box' by Jane Yolen and Chris Sheban as inspiration for the things you can make and do with a cardboard box. Our classroom was full of boxes and other materials so that our imaginations could run wild! We used a lot of our skills such as planning, designing, cutting, joining and decorating to make our creations. We all worked very hard and we're proud of our creations. We had an exhibition at the end of the week for our families.



Class News

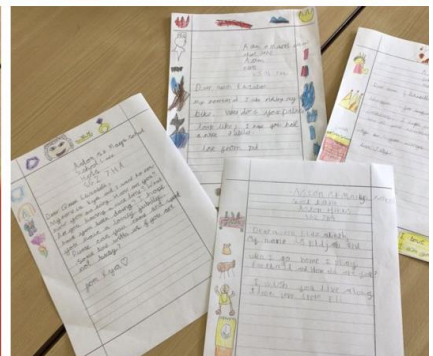
Peartree Class

It has been a really busy half term which has gone so quickly. In our English lessons, we finally completed our extended writing task and have produced our own books. We even had a drawing lesson from the author himself (YouTube).

Our bean plants, which we planted in week one, now are ready for us to take home. Unfortunately, three of our plants did not grow but Mrs Baker has given these children some flowers to plant in their garden which will come by late summer.

We have been doing some commemorative work this week in honour of the Queen's Jubilee. We sketched the Queen's portrait and are now painting them. We also have written a letter to the Queen which we are going to post.

Have a lovely half term break.



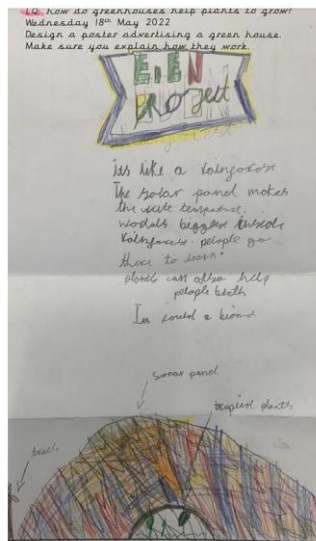
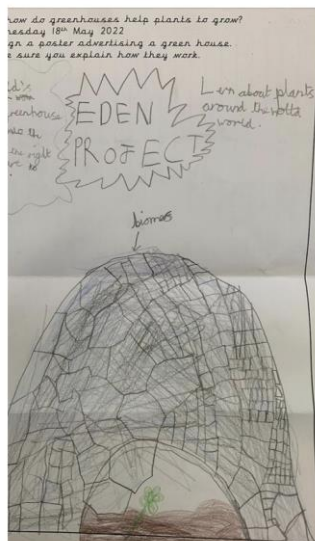
Class News

Orchard Class

We love looking at maps in Orchard! To start off our Hot and Cold Places Geography unit, we started by looking at the seven different continents and five world oceans in our atlases and on our globes. We love singing the continents song to help us remember this important sticky knowledge! You can sing along at home too! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K6DSMZ8b3LE> Over the next few weeks, we will be exploring how the climate can be different in the different countries and how this can affect the plants, animals and the way in which people live. I have been very impressed with the lovely hot and cold collages that children have been bringing in for their home learning as well as impressive research of different countries.



To finish off our science unit on plants, we designed these fabulous posters for The Eden Project. Orchard were very interested to find out about how these greenhouse biomes enable tropical plants to grow in the hot and humid conditions.



Class News

Haffydown Class

In English, we have started our new unit on playscripts. We have been comparing playscripts to narrative, especially how dialogue is represented. We began by reading *Alice in Wonderland*. Year Three followed the stage directions to perform The Mad Tea Party scene. We had some very convincing sleepy dormice! We have also turned a very funny poem, *ABC* by Spike Milligan, into a playscript to perform. We thought this poem was very clever.



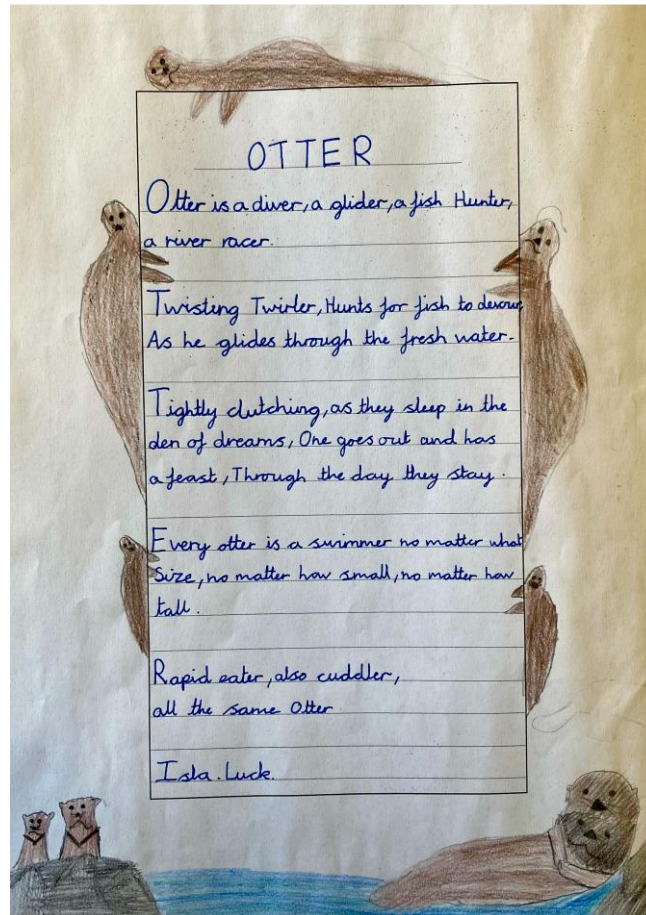
We have been multiplying multiples of ten this week. We started the unit by measuring human items so we could make them 10 times bigger - for a giant! We measured, cutlery, our feet and hands, strides, the classroom and cups of water. We discovered the giant's items, body and drinks would be very big! We continued our learning by multiplying multiples of ten by using our base ten equipment, place value sliders and findings base facts.

In science, we have continued our learning about rocks and soils. We learnt about fossil formation. We focused on trace fossils (footprints, trackways and coprolites) and body fossils (mould and cast). We then organised stages of the formation of a fossil and role played this. We had some roar-some dinosaurs. To reinforce this learning, we are making our own fossils.

Class News

Puddlebridge Class

Puddlebridge Class have recently finished our poetry unit based on 'The Lost Words'. We ended the unit by writing our own poetry inspired by the book, making sure we included alliteration, kennings, and metaphors to help the reader to visualise each British animal.



Year 4 have been working very hard in Science, observing different insects in order to further understand their characteristics. Just have a look at the impressive large-scale drawings they created as a group!



Class News

Danes Class



Last week, Year Six completed their Bikeability training. Their first morning was spent practising their skills on the school playground and then, after that, they were out on the roads each day in order to complete their Level 2 training. During the course, the children learnt: to start and stop with confidence; to pass stationary vehicles parked on a road; to understand signals, signs and road markings; to negotiate the road (including quiet junctions, crossroads and roundabouts) and to share the road with other vehicles. The children really enjoyed the training and are now well-prepared to keep themselves safe when riding their bikes.

Well done Year Six!

This week, we have begun our textiles project. We will be designing and making our own cushions. To practise our skills, we have made some Jubilee bunting. We are becoming experts on the sewing machine as well as sewing on buttons and using different embroidery stitches.



seatss@redbridge.gov.uk

**OVER 100
FREEBIES
TO BE
WON**



**REDBRIDGE
SEATSS**



Sat 11th June 2022

ONLINE FAMILY SEND EVENT

Discover our top pick of topics and speakers
Something for everyone
Connect, learn and share knowledge

**11TH JUNE 2022
9.30 AM - 2.30 PM
STAFF AVAILABLE TILL 3 PM**

ONLINE SESSIONS

£20 (+ BOOKING FEE)
GAINS YOU ACCESS TO OVER
15 LIVE SESSIONS COVERING A RANGE
OF SEND NEEDS FOR ALL AGES- YOU
CHOOSE THE SESSIONS THAT SUIT YOU
FOR ONE PRICE YOU CAN ATTEND AS MANY
OR AS FEW AS YOU LIKE

REGISTRATION:

**HTTPS://WWW.EVENTBRITE.CO.UK/E/292411
238887**

**OPEN TO
FAMILIES/CARERS ACROSS
THE UK**



KEYNOTE: MANDY GURNEY

Mandy from Millpond Children's Sleep Clinic, has over 30 years experience supporting families with Sleep issues, including those who have complex SEND.



SPECIFIC SEND SESSIONS

We will be offering live sessions linked to;
Autism, Speech and Language,
Dyslexia/Literacy, Sensory
impairments eg Visual and
Hearing impairment



PRACTICAL SESSIONS TO GIVE YOU IDEAS FOR HOME

We will be running sessions linked to;

- Handwriting /Fine motor skills
- Sign Language
- Transition
- How to lock down your Internet
- Anxiety
- Homework and study skills



Welcome and Keynote Speaker

9.30-10.30 am

Susan McMahon - Head of Service at SEaTSS, will introduce the day.

Liz Hunt- Head of Access and Inclusion in Redbridge, will open our Event, and welcome our keynote speaker.

Mandy Gurney - Millpond Children's Sleep Clinic will talk through practical strategies and ideas linked to sleep challenges faced by so many families who have children with complex SEND.

11.00-12.00

Full live presentations by the Team, and time for questions





To choose a session - join on the original link, and you will find the links to these rooms in the 'chat'. You can drop in into any rooms you are interested in - no limit.

Room 1	ADHD Supporting students at Secondary		This session will explore different aspects of ADHD and the challenges and opportunities a diagnosis can present.	11-18yrs
Room 2	Handwriting and fine motor skills Supporting Handwriting and Fine Motor needs Primary		This session will look at practical strategies to support Primary Students who can't, or are reluctant writers. We will look at physical ways to support and the use of ICT.	5-11 yrs
Room 3	Communication and language ideas for home Primary		This session will cover practical education strategies for families to support their primary children who have speech and language needs at home.	5-11yrs
Room 4	Anxiety/ School refusal		Is your child anxious about attending school or refusing to go to school? This session will look at identifying the signs of anxiety, understanding potential triggers and practical tips to support primary and secondary students.	5-18yrs
Room 5	How to support your child who is struggling with writing and spelling Primary		This session will provide useful suggestions to support your child with writing and spelling. We will focus on key elements to consider before starting a piece of writing and must-have resources when supporting children to express their ideas through writing.	5-11yrs
Room 6	Developing resilience and independence Secondary/ College		This session will explore what it means to be a resilient & independent learner. We will then explore strategies and ideas with you to help you support your child in developing resilience and independence skills for school and life beyond school.	11-18yrs

10.30-11.00 am Live mini sessions

Our Mini sessions are less formal- you can choose a session to drop into to ask some questions or simply learn a new skill. while grabbing a coffee.

To choose a session - join on the original link, and you will find the links to these rooms in the 'chat'. You can drop in into any rooms you are interested in - no limit.

Room A	DEAF TEAM My child is Deaf or has a Hearing Impairment- come and talk to the Deaf Support Team		In this room, you will meet our Deaf Support Team. Do you have a child with a hearing loss- got some questions? drop into the room for a chat
Room B	MAKATON Come and learn some simple Makaton signs		Fancy learning some simple Makaton signs- come and learn some every day signs to use with your child
Room C	INTERNET SAFETY How can I keep my child safe on the internet		In this session you will learn; 1.How to limit access to the Internet 2.How to prevent in app/ games purchases 3.How to make the most of your Internet at home to enable more than one person have safe access
Room D	EHCP Understanding your child's EHCP and getting prepared for the Annual Review		Do you understand your child's EHC Plan? Do you have questions? or would like to prepare for an Annual Review - drop into the room for advice and support

12.30-1.00pm Live mini sessions

Our Mini sessions are less formal- you can choose a session to drop into to ask some questions or simply learn a new skill while you have some lunch.



To choose a session - join on the original link, and you will find the links to these rooms in the 'chat'. You can drop in into any rooms you are interested in no limit.

Room 1	SELF CARE Self care for Parents and Carers		Caring for a child with SEND is challenging, isolating and sometimes Come and learn some basic self care techniques.
Room 2	VISUAL IMPAIRMENT My child has a Visual Impairment -come and talk to the team		In the room we have a QTVI and our specialist VI ICT technician. Come and have a chat with any questions you may have?
Room 3	BSL SIGN LANGUAGE Come and learn BSL sign language - taster session		Naomi, our CSW will be teaching anybody who drops into this room some simple BSL signs.
Room 4	ACC app's Taster session- Apps to help students communicate (ACC)		Nicola, our Specialist ICT Technician will be reviewing our favourite apps we use when supporting Students who have limited or no spoken language.

1.30-2.30

Full live presentations by the Team, and time for questions

To choose a session - join on the original link, and you will find the links to these rooms in the 'chat'.
You can drop in into any rooms you are interested in - no limit.

Room A	Can't write/ Won't Write-Secondary		This session will look at practical strategies to support Secondary Students who can't, or are reluctant writers. We will look at physical ways to support and the use of ICT	11-18yrs
Room B	Transition- Moving from Primary to Secondary		Planning a positive transition for your child with SEND - Is your child transitioning from year 6 to year 7? Are you feeling anxious about this transition? Come along for some top tips to support a positive transition for your child.	Students in Yr 5 and Yr 6
Room C	Homework and Study Skills Secondary		Experiencing difficulties in supporting your child with the revision and the retention of information during the exam period? In this session, you will learn about the various strategies you can implement as a parent to support your child with their exam revision.	11-18yrs
Room D	ADHD Supporting Primary students		This session will explore different aspects of ADHD and the challenges and opportunities a diagnosis can present. A primary focused workshop exploring understanding and managing ADHD with young children. The workshop will discuss the science of ADHD, strategies to support and how to assist children to understand and celebrate their 'superpowers'!	5-11 yrs
Room E	Autism Routine/ visuals and structure for home Primary		An informative and interactive session presented by a team of ASC specialists. Our aims are to signpost you to finding help and support and also to share strategies between school and home.	5-11yrs

To book a place - book through Eventbrite or click here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/seatss-families-send-conference-tickets-292411238887>

Every Parent/Carer attending the event will be given a **FREE** Information pack
There will be the opportunity to win free App's /Software/ Books and online resources throughout the day.

You will be sent one link- click on the link throughout the day, and you can choose which room you would like to join.
Choose as many as you would like.

**OVER 100
FREEBIES
TO BE
WON**

Come and experience SEaTSS training.

We will be running live sessions throughout the summer term

**FREE
TWINKL
LOG IN'S FOR
ALL
ATTENDING
ON THE DAY**

The presentations finish at 2.30 pm- but staff will be available till 3 pm for comments and queries.

Upcoming free online workshops

Supporting Children with ASD/ADHD: Relationships, Puberty and Staying Safe for Parents/Carers

Tuesday 7th June, 7:30pm to 9:30pm

Positively Supporting a Child with Self-Harming Behaviours workshop for Parents/Carers

Monday 20th June 2022, 1:30pm to 3:00pm

Positive Mental Health Support Training for professionals working in schools in DSPL5

Monday 20th June 2022, 6:30pm to 8:00pm

Supporting Children with ASD/ADHD: Autism, Sexuality and Gender Diversity for Parents/Carers

Tuesday 21st June 2022, 1:00pm to 2:30pm

Supporting Children & Young People who are Gender Questioning for Parents/Carers

Monday 4th July 2022, 6:30pm to 7:45pm

Supporting Children with ASD/ADHD: Emotionally Based School Avoidance for Parents/Carers

Tuesday 5th July 2022, 1:00pm to 2:30pm

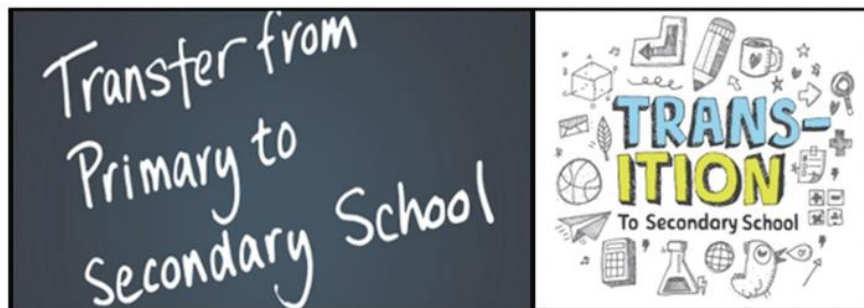
Supporting Children and Young People in the LGBTQ+ Community for Parents/Carers

Thursday 7th July 2022, 6:30pm to 8:00pm



nessieined.com

Is your child starting secondary school?



Stevenage - DSPL Area 2
DSPL | Delivering Special
Provision Locally
Achieving quality outcomes

Are you feeling anxious?

Do you have any concerns?

Would you like some advice?

Would you like to speak to other parents?

Transition workshop for parents or carers who live in DSPL2

Stevenage, Aston, Benington, Datchworth, Graveley, Knebworth or Walkern

You only need to attend one transition workshop

16th June at 9:30-11:00

The Oak Suite, Peartree Spring Primary School, SG2 9GG

Or

16th June at 1:00-2:30

Online Teams

To book a place email: d.hansen@peartreespring.herts.sch.uk

BOOKINGS CLOSE ON FRIDAY 10th JUNE