



# Aston St. Mary's Newsletter

Our value this half term is Service

[www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk](http://www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk)

8<sup>th</sup> July 2022

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

## Diary Dates

### **Week beginning 11<sup>th</sup> July:**

Annual reports and class allocations to be sent to parents

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July:** Year Six Leavers' afternoon trip

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July:** Summer production (1:30pm and 6:00pm)

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July:** Summer production (6:00pm)

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July:** Children visit new classes and Year Six visit secondary schools

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July:** Reward Day

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July:** Leavers' Service. Term ends at 1:00pm.

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September:** Children return to school

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



With just a week and a half until the summer break, we have certainly been having a busy time in school. Last week, Shackadell and Peartree classes enjoyed a day at Paradise Park – they returned tired but happy and with lots to say about their adventures - and Year Six enjoyed a Food and Farming Day at Redbourn County Showground. You can find out more on the class pages. This week, Orchard and Haffydown visited Knebworth Park – the sun shone, and a great day was had by all. Offsite visits are a key part of our curriculum at Aston St. Mary's so we are delighted that these are now fully back up and running and that all classes have been out in recent weeks.

As you are already aware, there are now a number of positive cases of Covid across the school. Should your child test positive, the guidance now states that children can return to school after three days provided that they feel well.

Page three of this newsletter contains important information about annual reports, staffing and our class structure for the next academic year – please read this carefully.

We are really looking forward to our performances of Cinderella and Rockerfella next week – it really does promise to be a great show and it is extra special as it will be our first whole school performance for three years. Thank you for all your support with learning lines, practising songs and providing costumes.

## ACADEMIC YEAR 2021/2022

### SUMMER TERM

Wednesday 20th April 2022 to Wednesday 20th July 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

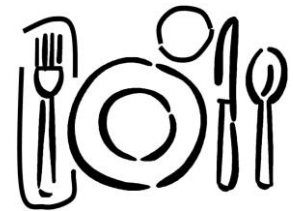
Thursday 20th July 2023 and Friday 21st July 2023

## 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



**Merit Certificates** were awarded to:

Darcie, Lucas, Niamh,  
Nathan, Anouska,  
Ted, Stanley,  
Maryam, Pixie,  
Joshua, Phoebe,  
Mia, Jadon



**Shining Stars** were awarded to:

Nathan

## A Thought from Reverend Jenny:

When a young man asks Jesus ‘*who is my neighbour?*’ Jesus doesn’t answer with a definition but tells a story, the parable of the Good Samaritan. For Jews of the time, the idea of a ‘good Samaritan’ was a contradiction, like speaking of a “good terrorist”. Samaritans were despised outsiders, foreigners and heretics in Jesus’ day, yet, in Jesus’ story, the Samaritan is the hero, the one who shows God’s mercy and compassion to the wounded man ... mercy and compassion the religious priest and Levite do not give.

Jesus reverses his hearer’s expectations about priests, Levites and Samaritans. The parable shocks his audience and challenges their ideas... as happens when Jesus heals ten lepers and the only one who returns to thank him and praise God is a Samaritan!

Listening to Jesus challenges OUR expectations and values too. Most of us have people we find difficulty to see as our neighbour.

Reflecting honestly on this parable tells us a great deal about the kind of people we are... the kind of neighbour we are...

*When I needed a neighbour were YOU there?  
And the Creed and the colour and the name won’t  
matter, were YOU there?* (Sydney Carter hymn)

# Notices

## Staffing Update



At the end of this term, we will sadly be saying goodbye to Miss Lucy Keen, Miss Megan Wynne and Miss Lauren Elliott.

Miss Keen has taught at Aston for eight years having begun her teaching career with us in 2014. We wish her every happiness and success as she explores new opportunities.

Miss Wynne joined us at the beginning of this year and has now secured a teaching post nearer to her home. Miss Elliott, who has trained with us this year, will also be moving on to pastures new.

We would like to wish all three of these wonderful teachers the very best of luck for the future and to say thank you for all your hard work and dedication at Aston St. Mary's. We know all three will be greatly missed!



In September, we will be welcoming some new members to our team. We are delighted that Miss Charley Preston, who trained in Danes class this year, will be joining us as a class teacher. Mrs Julie Wranosky and Miss Jenny Maddock (Ella's mum) will both be joining us as part-time teaching assistants. Finally, Miss Emma Hughes (Oliver's mum) will be working a few hours one day a week in the office as an admin assistant. We will introduce them in our newsletter in September and we know that you will all make them feel very welcome.

## Class Structure 2022-2023

As you are aware, as a small school, we have to adjust our class structure to accommodate the differing cohort sizes. This year, for the first time (due to additional Covid catch-up funding) we have had six classes with children up to and including Year Three being taught in small, single age classes.

Due to budgeting restraints, we have to return to five classes in September. These will be structured as follows:

**Shackadell:** Reception

**Peartree:** Year One and Year Two

**Haffydown:** Year Two and Year Three

**Puddlebridge:** Year Four and Year Five

**Danes:** Year Five and Year Six

Early next week, you will receive your child's annual report (see below) as well as information about their class allocation and teacher.

## Annual Reports 2021-2022

Please look out for your child's annual report next week. We have changed the structure of these slightly this year following feedback from parents and in consultation with other local schools. We hope that you will find them useful and informative. Please make sure that you sign and return the parent/child comment slip as soon as possible after receiving the report.

If, due to family circumstances, you require an additional copy of the report, please make sure that your child's teacher is aware.

Should you wish to arrange a follow-up meeting with your child's teacher, please speak to the teacher directly to arrange a suitable time.

# Notices

Summer Reading Challenge 2022



Presented by The Reading Agency.  
Delivered in partnership with libraries.

The Summer Reading Challenge, presented by The Reading Agency and funded by Arts Council England, encourages children aged 4 to 11 to set themselves a reading challenge to help prevent the summer reading 'dip'.

Each year the Summer Reading Challenge has a different theme. For 2022, The Reading Agency is partnering with **Science Museum Group** for **Gadgeteers**, a science and innovation themed Challenge that will spark children's curiosity about the world around them.

With resources and activities from the Science Museum Group, the Challenge focuses on inspiring children to see the science and innovation behind everyday objects, showing that reading and science are for everyone.

The Challenge will launch in libraries in England and Wales on Saturday 9 July. Children can also join in the fun online on the official Challenge website.

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

## **Book Token Competition**

Please nominate our school for a chance to win a £1000 book token. The form only takes a minute or so to complete and every nomination will improve our chances! Click the link below:



<https://www.nationalbooktokens.com/schools#win-1000-for-your-schools-library---form>

## **Stevenage Festival**

Last Wednesday, Mrs Crowley took the orchestra and choir to the Stevenage Festival to perform. We travelled on the bus, had a picnic and an ice cream then rehearsed in the afternoon. In the evening, the orchestra performed beautifully and the choir sang with a number of other Stevenage Primary Schools. We were so proud of our children who behaved impeccably.

We are looking forward to performing again next term.





# Class News

## Shackadell Class

Last week, Shackadell class went on a trip to Paradise Wildlife Park. We had such an amazing time finding all of the animals and learning about the different species. It has been a fantastic way to consolidate a lot of our learning over the year. We particularly enjoyed seeing the lions and the dinosaurs! This week we have been recounting our journey through the park and by creating animal fact files. We have also started to create some wonderful animal pictures which we will be selling next week to raise funds for the conservation work that Paradise Park does in both the UK and around the world. Keep an eye out for information on our fundraiser!





# Class News

## Peartree Class

We thought you may like to see some of the exciting things we saw and did on our summer term class trip to Paradise Wildlife Park. We had so much fun! We saw lots of animals including the gibbons. What a lot of cheeky monkeys there were! We took a ride through Jurassic World and narrowly missed an encounter with a T-Rex! We had a lot of fun playing in all the parks, even Mrs Baker went down the rainbow slide! We listened to a talk all about the camels, watched a bird show and saw the lazy sleepy lions. What a great end to an action-packed year one.





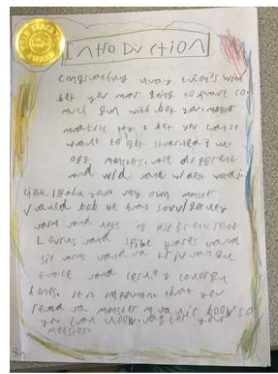
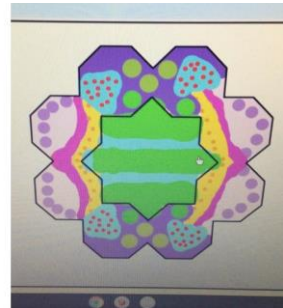
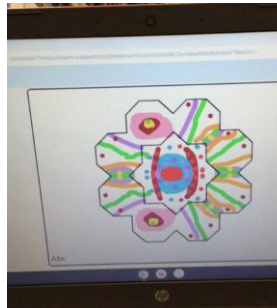
# Class News

## Orchard Class

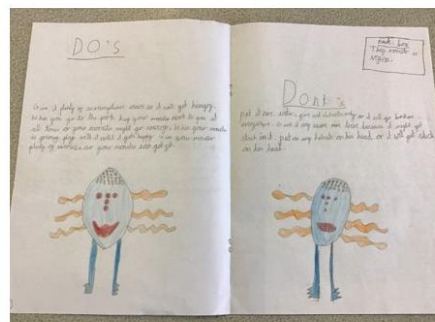
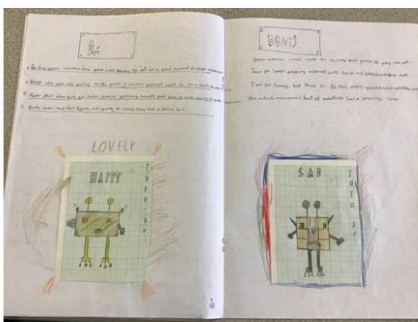


We have been exploring shape and pattern in our maths lessons. Firstly, we revised our understanding of 2d and 3d shape features and then used this in context to describe, complete and create our own repeating patterns.

At the end of the week, we linked our maths to computing and RE by creating these beautiful Rangoli patterns. Can you spot the repeating designs and use of symmetry?



During our English lessons, we have been reading the explanation text "Monsters- An Owner's Guide" by Jonathan Emmett and Mark Oliver. This hilarious text had us all in stitches as we learnt the "dos" and "don'ts" of taking care of your own monster. We worked on our use of conjunctions to extend and explain our ideas. We created our own fabulous monsters and used expanded noun phrases to describe them. Next, we used our skills to write our own user's guides for our monsters.



We thought about using commands and the tone of voice suitable for the reader. Last of all, we published our guides using detailed diagrams, contents pages, check lists and other details to make them look realistic and easy for our user to read. I think you will agree that they look and sound very professional indeed!

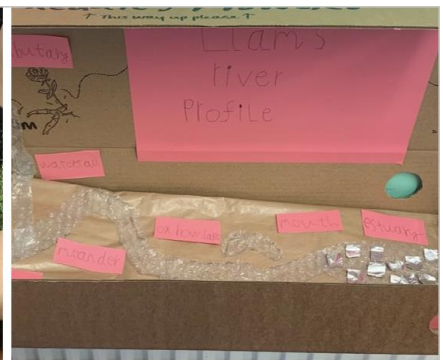
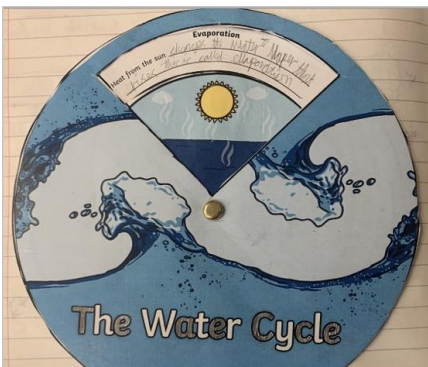
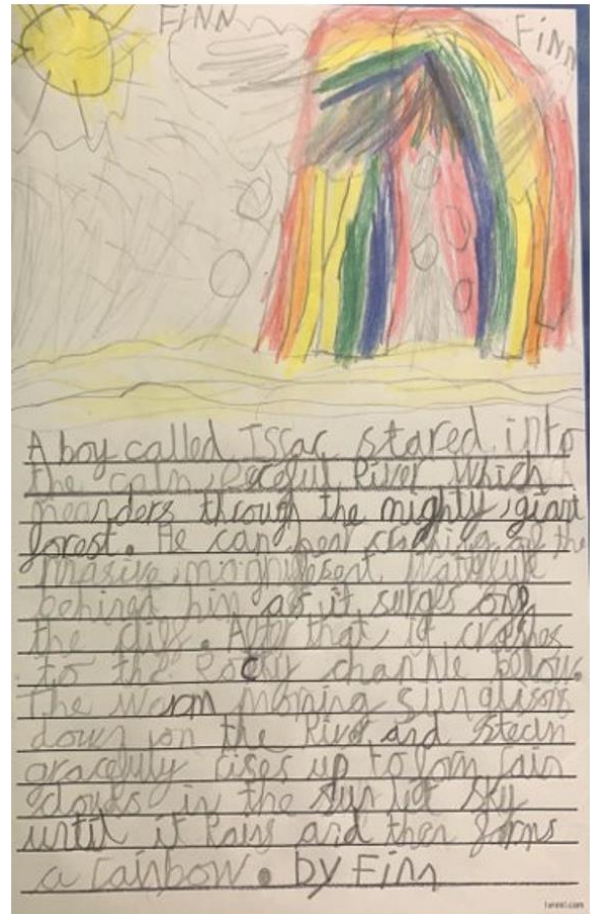


# Class News

## Haffydown Class

Haffydown have been using *The Rhythm of the Rain* by Grahame Baker-Smith as inspiration for a setting description. Our task was to use powerful vocabulary to describe a serene river and forest scene. We were blown away with their imaginative and descriptive pieces! We have now begun looking at the water cycle, which links to our English and Geography topic. This has helped us begin writing explanation pieces, as we build our understanding of the process and become more comfortable with technical vocabulary – including the terms evaporation, condensation and precipitation.

In Geography, we have continued our topic on rivers. Haffydown have continued to impress me with their understanding and memory of the different parts of a river. We have had amazing homework brought in! Recently, we have been conducting experiments to see how fast and slow currents link to erosion and deposition to create meanders and ox-bow lakes.





# Class News

## Puddlebridge Class

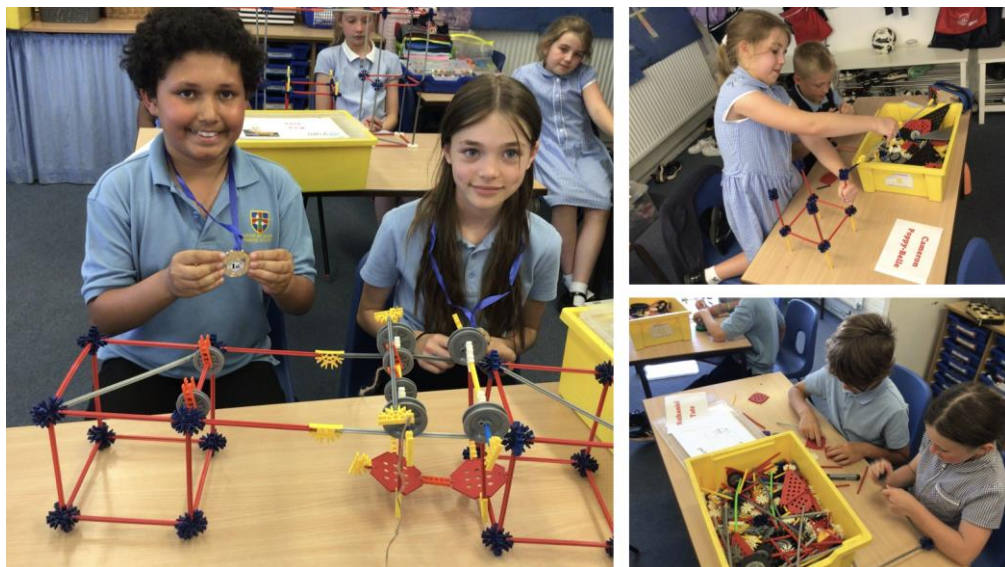


In Design Technology, we have had lots of fun designing and making cushions. In this textiles project, we got to experiment with different hand sewing techniques and we learned how to use a sewing machine.

We have also recently enjoyed a trip to Whipsnade Zoo with Danes Class where we got to take part in some fantastic workshops, as well as see lots of interesting animals. Year 4 took part in the 'Investigating Endangered Animals' workshop where we learnt how animals are being affected by things like loss of habitats, illegal poaching and climate change. This has supported our learning in Science.



We also had a fantastic time taking part in the K'Nex Challenge, where we got to be engineers for the afternoon. We were set the challenge of designing a bridge using the equipment provided and were scored on our communication, teamwork and final design. Congratulations to Jessica and Sebastian who were the winners from Puddlebridge Class!





# Class News

## Danes Class

What a busy and exciting term Danes class are having! Early in June, we enjoyed a day at Whipsnade Zoo with Puddlebridge class. This supported our learning in science about classification and in geography about the Chiltern Hills. We really did have a wonderful time.



In design and technology, we designed and made cushions. It was important to think of a simple but effective design and to ensure that our cushion would be durable. We are so proud of our cushions, and we love using them on our chairs in the classroom.

Please visit our class page on our website for lots more photos of our learning:

<https://www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk/danes-2/>

In science, Years Five and Six have been learning about micro-organisms and how sometimes these are helpful, and others are harmful. We enjoyed applying our knowledge to design our own microbes using plasticine. We wrote about their features and effects.



Last week, Year Six were invited to attend a Food and Farming Day at Redbourn Showground. We learnt so much about the production of food (and tasted some samples), watched a sheep show and enjoyed a tractor ride.



# Families Feeling Safe

Supporting families with Protective Behaviours

**STEVENAGE**  
starting  
**SEPTEMBER 2022**

**A FREE course for Mums,  
Dads, Step-Parents and  
Carers**



**Wednesday mornings**  
**9.30am—11.30am**

**21, 28 Sept, 5, 12, 19 Oct, 2, 9, 16 & 23  
Nov 2022**

**At**

**The Oak Suite, Peartree Spring Primary  
School, Hydean Way, Stevenage, SG2 9GG**

**Stevenage - DSPL Area 2**

**DSPL** | Delivering Special  
Provision Locally  
*Achieving quality outcomes*



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**Are you looking for some strategies and new ideas  
to help improve family life? This course can help  
you to**

- ♦ Understand the links between Feelings, Thoughts and Behaviour
- ♦ Understand what may be influencing your child's behaviour
- ♦ Respond to a range of feelings e.g. stress, anger, anxiety and worries
- ♦ Improve communication to build better relationships
- ♦ Build on your own and your child's strengths
- ♦ Learn strategies to help you and your family feel safe and have problem-solving skills for life

**"I wish I had done the course sooner"**

**Places are for families living in Hertfordshire and  
there are eligibility criteria**

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email:**

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**Tel: 07748 332606**

**Course No: L5D7**

