



Aston St. Mary's Newsletter

Our value this half term is Service

www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk

20th July 2022

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

As we reach the end of the summer term, we are so very grateful that the children have had their first full academic year in school for three years – and what a busy year it has been! There have been many offsite visits including: West Stow Anglo Saxon Village, Duxford Imperial War Museum, The Natural History Museum, Paradise Wildlife Park, Knebworth Park and many more. Whole School events have also resumed, such as Maths Week, Christmas Around The World Day, World Book Day, Jubilee Day and Sports Day. Events such as these have greatly enriched learning across the school. Any opportunity to visit classes is always a pleasure as the children are always so absorbed in and excited about their learning. Just last week, Year Three could be found applying their knowledge of structures as they worked co-operatively in groups to design and make sturdy bridges using paper straws which they later tested for strength and durability using toy cars. Shackadell enjoyed a final reading session with their Year Six buddies and Puddlebridge Class could be found producing their own abstract art using a range of media in our beautiful school grounds. Children at Aston St Mary's really do love to learn and are lucky to be so well supported at home as well as in school; this home school partnership really does ensure that they make the best possible progress. Thank you for all your support.

Without a doubt, everyone now deserves a well-needed break in order to recharge the batteries ready for the next academic year. We hope that the sun will shine (but not quite as brightly as this week!) and that time can be enjoyed, at home or away, with family and friends.

Today we are saying goodbye to our Year Six children and also to Aidan in Year Four. We wish them every success and happiness as they embark upon the next stage of their education at secondary school or middle school. Whilst it is always sad to say goodbye, we know that Aston children are always well-prepared and ready to take this big and important step. We are sure that you would wish to join us in sending them off with our love and prayers. Ademide, Anouska, Astrid, Benji, Charlie, Danny, Elizabeth, Ella, Ellie, Favian, Finlay, Hanna, Isabelle, Nathan, Oscar, Poppy, Stanley, Tabi and Aidan, we will miss you greatly. You will always be an important part of our Aston family and we hope that you will keep in touch.

We wish everyone a great summer break.

We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on **Monday 5th September.**

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



Merit Certificates were awarded to:

Isabelle

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Nyah who has passed her Grade 1 clarinet exam with merit.

We are so proud of you.



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 Angela:

‘When we pray, we often wonder how our prayers will be answered. As we pray for Ukraine- sometimes specifically, sometimes in a vague ‘help them God’ way – we may never know the answers to our prayers.

A recent BBC report by Orla Guerin (just after one of our Night Prayer Zooms 22nd June) is of a group of volunteers rescuing civilians remaining in a bombed town in east Ukraine. The volunteer group had been going backwards and forwards trying to get civilians out in their bulletproof van and time was running out. They had gone to a home to collect a mother, son and injured father, who had just a short time to gather their belongings and flee.

This group have a ‘ritual’ of stopping just before entering a dangerous town to pray in a circle beside the road.

One of the group says: ‘*some of us are believers and others not, but we do this together before we go in.*’

On this particular day, with Orla and the TV crew with them, they do the same, they stop to pray. 250 metres ahead of them a Russian shell explodes. They feel the blast in the van - as seen on TV. Orla reports: ‘*Without their pause for prayer we would’ve been further along the road driving into the path of the explosion*’ ...

It is encouragement to keep praying in small ways for small things as well as bigger issues and being specific too.

Cinderella & Rockerfella

Wow! What a show!

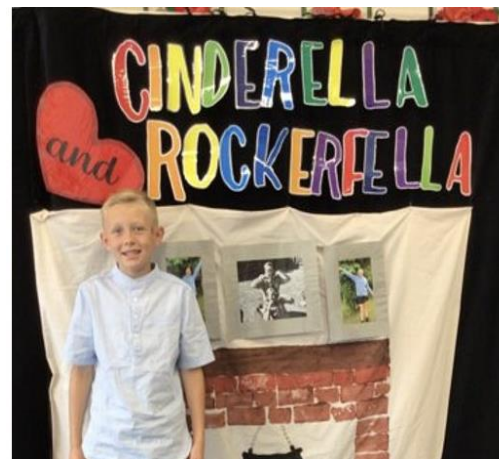
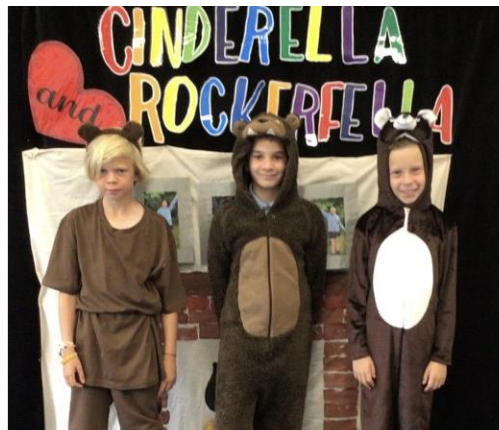
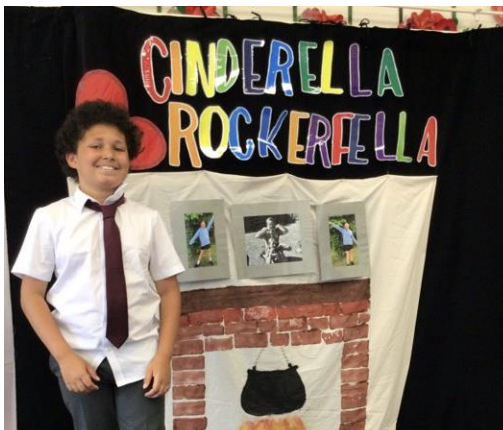
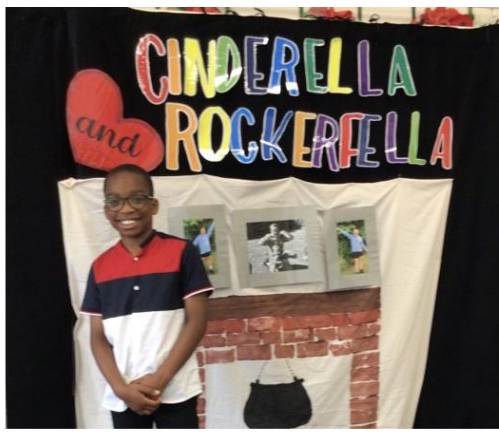
We simply could not be prouder of the children for their fantastic performances – we might be a small school, but we certainly have plenty of talent. As one parent commented *'It was wonderful to see so many happy faces together in one room'*. It really did mean a lot to be back together for our first whole school performance since 2019. Thank you to everyone who attended any of the performances and also for your very generous donations at the end of the shows. It total, we raised in incredible

£423.94.

This money will be used to fund our next performance and to further enhance music provision within the school.

We hope that you enjoy the wonderful photos of the cast on the pages that follow.







Goodbye Year Six!



Today, we say goodbye and good luck to our wonderful Year Six children. They are heading off to seven different schools in September; whilst we are very sad to see them go, we know that they all have exciting times ahead. They really have been a wonderful cohort throughout their time at Aston St. Mary's and we are immensely proud of them for everything that they have achieved and, most of all, for being the respectful, responsible, and caring young people that they are. Please keep in touch Year Six! In true Aston tradition, they enjoyed a leavers' treat last week. This included crazy golf, a meal at Prezzo and even a McFlurry!





Shackadell's Conservation Shop

Friday 15th July
2022

Shackadell class were thrilled to be able to make and sell items in their conservation shop on Friday 15th July. Thanks for everyone's kind donations; we have already raised £111.50 (and counting) for the conservation projects supported by Paradise Wildlife Park!



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HERTFORDSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

HERTFORD STATION OPEN DAY

3RD SEPT 2022
12PM - 4PM

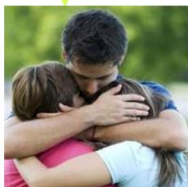
WORKING TO PROTECT. ACTING TO SAVE.
www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/fire

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, Hydeau Way, Stevenage, SG2 9GG

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



Please like us on Facebook for further
updates @familiesfeelsafe

Families Feeling Safe Protective Behaviours Services has been funded through HCC to provide Families Feeling Safe programmes across Hertfordshire. We deliver Protective Behaviours
training for professionals and provide programmes and workshops to children and their families. www.familiesfeelsafe.co.uk E-mail: enquiries@familiesfeelsafe.co.uk

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

For eligibility and to book your FREE place please
email:
enquiries@familiesfeelsafe.co.uk

Tel: 07748 332606

Course No: LSD7



ADD-vance

The ADHD and Autism Trust

Website: www.add-vance.org
Email: herts@add-vance.org
Phone: 01727 833963



FREE ONLINE AUTISM 2022 WORKSHOPS FOR PARENTS/CARERS

We are again delighted to offer our full programme of workshops, funded by Hertfordshire County Council. These interactive workshops will be delivered via Zoom and can be accessed via a PC, laptop, tablet or smartphone. For more details and to book your FREE ticket, please see <http://add-vance.eventbrite.com/> or visit our [website](http://www.add-vance.org).

Date	Time	Topic
Wednesday 14 th September	10 – 11.30 am	Diagnosing ADHD and/or Autism
Monday 19 th September	10 – 11.30 am	Understanding Autism
Wednesday 21 st September	10 – 11.30 am	Caring for Your Child (and Yourself)
Thursday 22 nd September	10 – 11.30 am	Tips & Tools for Sleep
Thursday 22 nd September	7 – 8.30 pm	Tips & Tools to Build Self-Esteem
Monday 26 th September	10 – 11.30 am	Working in Partnership with School
Wednesday 28 th September	10 – 11.30 am	Tips & Tools to Support Communication
Thursday 29 th September	7 – 8.30 pm	Understanding ADHD
Monday 3 rd October	10 – 11.30 am	Applying for an EHCP
Tuesday 4 th October	10 – 11.30 am	Understanding PDA
Wednesday 5 th October	10 – 11.30 am	Tips & Tools for Toileting
Thursday 6 th October	7 – 8.30 pm	Tips & Tools to Support Emotional Literacy
Monday 10 th October	10 – 11.30 am	Preparing for an EHCP Annual Review
Wednesday 12 th October	10 – 11.30 am	Understanding ADHD in Girls
Thursday 13 th October	7 – 8.30 pm	Tips & Tools to Support Learning
Monday 17 th October	7 – 8.30 pm	Support for Dads
Wednesday 19 th October	10 – 11.30 am	Understanding Autism in Girls
Thursday 20 th October	10 – 11.30 am	Tips & Tools to Manage Everyday Change
		HALF TERM
Monday 31 st October	10 – 11.30 am	Understanding Self Harm
Wednesday 2 nd November	10 – 11.30 am	Supporting Siblings
Thursday 3 rd November	7 – 8.30 pm	Understanding Challenging Behaviour
Friday 4 th November	10 – 11.30 am	Tips & Tools to Manage Anger
Monday 7 th November	10 – 11.30 am	Supporting Transition into Primary School
Wednesday 9 th November	7 – 8.30 pm	Understanding Sensory Differences
Friday 11 th November	10 – 11.30 am	Tips & Tools to Manage Sensory Differences
Monday 14 th November	10 – 11.30 am	Supporting Transition into Secondary School
Wednesday 16 th November	10 – 11.30 am	Tips & Tools to Support Puberty
Thursday 17 th November	7 – 8.30 pm	Understanding Anxiety
Friday 18 th November	10 – 11.30 am	Tips & Tools to Manage Anxiety
Monday 21 st November	10 – 11.30 am	Tips & Tools for Positive Behaviour
Wednesday 23 rd November	10 – 11.30 am	Preparing for Adulthood 14+
Wednesday 23 rd November	7 – 8.30 pm	Understanding Neurodiverse Teens
Monday 28 th November	10 – 11.30 am	Tips & Tools to Teach Social Skills
Wednesday 30 th November	10 – 11.30 am	Thinking About College
Thursday 1 st December	10 – 11.30 am	Thinking About University

"I feel so much
better prepared
for the future"

"I finally
understand my
child"

"I have some
great new ideas
to try at home"

ADD-vance will only use your data for the administration of the workshops and anonymised reporting to funders.
We will not pass your personal information on to any third parties.
Please note you may be contacted by our funders, Hertfordshire County Council, for feedback following the workshops.



ADD-vance

The ADD-vance ADHD and Autism Trust
Passionate about Understanding, Embracing and Celebrating Neurodiversity

FREE Introductory 6-Week Courses for Parent/Carers

Understanding ADHD and Autism

This interactive course is designed for parent/carers of children aged 5 to 14 yrs with a diagnosis or suspected diagnosis of ADHD and/or Autism (or 4 and already in reception).

Every course is bespoke to the needs of each group. Learning outcomes include:

- Understanding ADHD, Autism and related conditions
- Building your child's self-esteem
- Understanding anxiety and anger triggers
- Reducing meltdowns and other behaviours which challenge
- Developing positive behaviour strategies
- Working collaboratively with school
- Knowing your rights and how to advocate for your child
- Reducing your own stress levels
- Managing the needs of siblings
- Improving communication as a family
- Connecting with other families and sharing experiences
- Signposting to useful resources and local support networks.

Courses will be delivered online via Zoom and in person with a maximum of 14 participants. They will run as a series of 2-hour sessions over six weeks.

The online sessions can be accessed free via a PC, laptop, tablet or smartphone. Joining instructions will be provided beforehand and the first session will provide an opportunity to practice using the technology. The sessions are designed to be interactive and participants will be expected to attend every session with video/audio. Earphones are recommended if you have children in the same room with you. **The online sessions will not be recorded so attendance at all 6 sessions is essential.**

Wednesdays	14 th September to 19 th October	10 am to 12 pm	Parents/Carers of Girls Leavesden Green Community Hub, Watford
Wednesdays	14 th September to 19 th October	7 – 9 pm	Online
Fridays	16 th September to 21 st October	10 am – 12 pm	Quaker Meeting Room, Hitchin

For more information and to book your FREE place please visit our course page on [eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com).

These courses are funded by Hertfordshire County Council and are open to residents of Hertfordshire only



Registered Charity No: 115 8968
Helpdesk: 01727 833963 Email: herts@add-vance.org Web: www.add-vance.org

NHS
Hertfordshire Community
NHS Trust

Parent / Carer Motor Development Information Sessions

Places are now available to book on our SummerTerm 2022
information sessions for parents and carers

Supporting your child's motor skills development

When do children develop particular motor skills, such as riding a bicycle or using a pen? How can you help your child to develop these skills? What can you do if your child is struggling with a skill?

This session is for parents or carers of children aged between 4-8 years old who would like to understand more about their child's motor development and how to support this. The session will share information about the typical ages when children develop different motor skills. It will explain how to breakdown an activity such as pulling on a jumper into simple steps to help your child complete this independently. You will also get advice on activities and simple things you can do at home to support your child's motor development.

BOOK YOUR PLACE:

- Wednesday 20th April 10:00 – 11:00
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/302926209447>
- Thursday 19th May 10:00 – 11:00
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/302939218357>
- Tuesday 14th June 10:00 – 11:00
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/302953180117>
- Tuesday 5th July 10:00 – 11:00
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/306472085257>
- Thursday 18th August 10:00 – 11:00
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/308476408187>

Children & Young
People's Therapies
Service

Contact us
Telephone:
01923 470680 Option 2

Email:
hct.cyptherapies@nhs.net

Twitter: @CypHCT

We are also offering parent information sessions on understanding sensory preferences and supporting self-regulation. To find out dates of these and other training opportunities please visit our CYP Therapies – Occupational Therapy Service webpage
<https://www.hct.nhs.uk/our-services/childrens-occupational-therapy/>

healthier communities
through outstanding services

www.hct.nhs.uk