



Danes Class Information Autumn Term 2022

PGL

This exciting trip is rapidly approaching. We leave on Monday 17th October and return on Friday 21st October. Further details of the trip (kit lists etc.) will be shared at a meeting for parents (and children) on: **Thursday 15th September at 3:15pm (Danes classroom)**

Staffing

Mrs Branagan – Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday
Mrs Dean – Tuesday morning & Friday afternoon
Mrs Avis – supports in class every morning
Mrs Evans – teaches RE and French on Monday & Tuesday afternoons
Mrs Crowley – teaches music on Tuesday afternoon
Mr Nash – teaches PE on Monday and Friday afternoons

We hope that you and your family have had an enjoyable and relaxing summer break and that your child is looking forward to the new school year. We are delighted to welcome the children from Puddlebridge class into Danes class and also to welcome back those who were with us last year. Being the oldest children in the school, the children take on many responsibilities around the school. This includes helping at lunchtimes and Year Six supporting our youngest pupils by becoming 'Buddies' to the children in Shackadell class. Obviously, we work hard to ensure that all children maximise their academic progress; we prepare them as fully as possible for secondary transfer and our overall aim is that they leave Aston St. Mary's as confident and ambitious 'young adults' - children do a lot of growing up in their final years at primary school! This letter provides information about the term/year ahead. Please do not hesitate to speak to either myself or Mrs Avis should you have any further questions.

Mrs Branagan

Please see our class page on the school website for updates about our learning:
<https://www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk/danes-2/>

Year 6 Standard Assessment Tests

You are probably already aware that all Year 6 pupils are assessed via SATs during the summer term. Tests include Reading, Grammar, Spelling & Punctuation and Maths. Writing, Speaking & Listening and Science are assessed via teacher assessment. We will, of course, make sure that the children are fully prepared and given every opportunity to achieve their full potential. SATs will take place between:

Monday 8th May 2022 – Thursday 11th May 2022

Further information about the tests and expectations will be shared at a meeting for parents – date to follow.

Equipment

It is helpful for children to have a **small** pencil case containing pencils, a rubber and perhaps some coloured pencils. Other equipment, including blue pens, is provided by school.

Recorders

All children need to have their own recorder in school every Tuesday. These are available to purchase from the school office.



PE (including swimming)

PE lessons will take place on Mondays and Fridays. Please ensure appropriate kits are in school and items clearly labelled (this should include both shorts and long trousers). Trainers will be needed EVERY DAY for the 'Daily Mile'. Year 5 children will be swimming on Tuesdays.



Curriculum

In history this term, we will be studying '**The Awesome Egyptians**'. We will be learning all about life in Ancient Egypt as well as developing our geographical skills and finding out about the Egypt today. Our work will also include other curriculum areas.

English: Classic Fiction, Discussion and Persuasion, Journalistic Reports, Recounts and Poetry. We will be reading 'Pig Heart Boy' by Malorie Blackman as our class text.

In **Maths**, we have begun with 'A Week of Inspirational Maths' which includes some fun investigations and learning about our 'Maths Mindset'. Our areas of learning this term will include: place value, calculation strategies, properties of number and algebraic reasoning.

Our work in **Science** will cover Forces and Materials (properties and changes). The children will use their learning about forces when they design and make their Egyptian shaduf.

Design Technology: Egyptian Shadufs

Art: Pencil sketching – Egyptian Death Masks

French: Core vocabulary and phonetics

Computing: Coding, online safety and spreadsheets

RE: We will be thinking about the question: 'What does it mean if God is holy and loving?' After half term, we will be thinking about the question: 'Was Jesus a Messiah?'

PSHE: Digital Wellbeing, Puberty and Reproduction (Year 6)

Music: Exploring musical processes, harvest songs and Christmas music.

PE: Football, tag rugby, hockey and basketball. Gymnastics.



Homework

Maths and English homework will be set on **Seesaw*** every Monday and should be submitted by Monday morning the following week (commencing w/b 19th September).

Spellings should be practised daily in the spelling journal. Regular lessons will take place in school; children should practise words from these sessions and/or any personal spellings.

Times tables should now be secure allowing for rapid recall, application to division and decimals. Regular practise on **Times Tables Rock Stars** should be continued to keep skills sharp (little and often is the most effective approach).

Reading should also take place every day, with regular recording of this in reading records (to be signed by an adult).

Children are also required to complete one **homework project** each half term (see separate sheet for details). These will link to our topic and/or science.

Homework is designed to be part of our home/school agreement, where children and parents work together to reinforce concepts learnt in class. In Years 5 and 6, homework is also important preparation for the expectations of secondary school. Should your child experience any difficulties with their homework, please remind them that we are always happy to help them in school before the submission deadline.

Seesaw Login Home Learning Codes

*Your child's new login details for Seesaw are attached to this letter. Please **keep this safe** as your child will need to access Seesaw for their weekly English and maths homework.

Trip to The British Museum

To support our Ancient Egyptian theme, we will be visiting The British Museum in London on **Friday 7th October**. The children will take part in a workshop called 'Decoding Ancient Egyptian Tomb Paintings' as well as visiting the Egyptian galleries.



'Reading is to the Mind what Exercise is to the Body' - Joseph Addison

It is very important for all children to maintain regular reading throughout the year. In school, regular guided reading sessions will take place and the children will also have opportunities to read independently. It is important that your child has their **reading book in school each day** as well as taking it home to **read every evening**. Please support your child by encouraging them to read independently as well as reading with them regularly and discussing their reading. Reading record books should be signed regularly by an adult. Children should be reading as widely as possible choosing books from a range of different genres and authors.

We have recently purchased lots of new books for class book corners and also the library. Below are some suggested titles for Years 5 and 6 which are all available in school. All children should aim to **read at least one of these books**, in addition to any other books they choose to read, this term.

