



Aston St. Mary's Newsletter

Our value this half term is Friendship

www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk

23rd September 2022

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

Diary Dates

Tuesday 27th September: Haffydown visit to West Stow Anglo-Saxon Village

Friday 30th September: PTFA MacMillan Coffee afternoon after school.

Wednesday 5th October: Year Six School Nurse visit

Wednesday 5th October and Thursday 6th October: Shackadell and Year Six Buddy Assembly at 2:45pm

Friday 7th October: Danes and Puddlebridge visit to The British Museum

Monday 10th October and Thursday 13th October: Parent Teacher Consultation evenings

Friday 14th October: Harvest Festival

Monday 17th – Friday 21st October: Years Five and Six PGL Residential

Monday 24th – Friday 28th October: Half Term Break

Friday 4th November: Non-uniform (PTFA)

Friday 11th November: Remembrance Day Service

Friday 18th November: Children in Need

Friday 18th November: Quiz Night

Friday 25th November: Non-uniform (PTFA)

Monday 28th November: Occasional Day – SCHOOL CLOSED

Thursday 1st December: Christmas Decoration Day

Wednesday 14th December: Christmas Dinner

Thursday 15th December: Christmas Parties

Friday 16th December: Reward Day

Tuesday 20th December: Christmas Services at 9:45am and 1:45pm

Wednesday 21st December: Term finishes at 1:00pm.

As we reach the end of our third week back in school, it is wonderful to see the children so settled and happy in their new classes. We would like to extend a particularly warm welcome to our new children in Shackadell class and also to their families. Our value this half term is 'Friendship'; the beginning of a new school year provides our school community with many opportunities to both reignite old friendships and to establish new ones. It has been particularly special to observe the relationships being built between our oldest children in Year Six and our youngest children in Reception via our buddy system. We also have welcomed three new members of staff on to our team – please see later in this newsletter for their introductions and do introduce yourself should you see them around school.

You will see from the list of diary dates that we have an exciting and busy term ahead. Please look out for further information about specific events as they approach.

As some of you will remember, before Covid parents/carers were invited to join us for our celebration assembly at 9am on Tuesday mornings if their child was due to receive an award. From next Tuesday (27th September), we would like to welcome you once more – if your child is due to receive an award, they will bring home an invitation note in their book bag.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to working with you over the year ahead.

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:

Harry H
Joel
Alfie



Shining Stars were
awarded to:

Lucas
Phoebie
Isla
Amelie
James
Keely
Kyra

A Thought from Reverend Jenny:

In today's world many people feel nameless and faceless...yet each and every person is known and beloved by God.

'We are not grains of sand upon the shore
buffeted by sea and storm,
we are individuals loved by God,
more intimately than we could ever know.

Though from a distance
we seem insignificant and frail,
the creating breath that formed us
now lives in and sustains us.

Thank you, Saving God,
made known to us in Jesus Christ,
not only by his words
but through his sacrificial life.

May our lives reflect
not only his love
but your glory
and the whole earth sing your praises.

Amen
(John Birch)

Sending our love and prayers to Ava (Haffydown Class)



You may already be aware that Ava, twin of Austin, is in the Royal Brompton Hospital.

Ava's mum, Krystina, has kindly sent an update to share with you all.

Ava was taken ill at home on Monday 12th September. She is critical but stable on a life support machine. Her heart is dilated and in heart failure. More tests are being carried out, with a plan in place this week to see if the function of the heart has improved at all and to make a plan about whether she is able to come off the ventilator. She is still fighting very hard.

Please keep Ava in your prayers.

An update on Connie from Mrs Carter (office manager)

On 30th August, Connie underwent an 11-hour operation to remove the tumour in her hip and pelvis. The surgeons and a large team of specialists were able to do this successfully; in place of the cancerous bone, a rather unique implant was inserted. Connie is recovering well and is learning to stand and shuffle (with one foot) to her wheelchair. It will be a few months before she is able to weight bear on her left side but seems to be adapting well.

The histology report shows that her chemotherapy and radiotherapy treatment was a huge success and alongside this impressive surgery we have every hope that Connie will make a full recovery.

Thank you all for your love and continued support - it has meant so much to us xxx



Mrs Carter's daughter Connie was a pupil at Aston St. Mary's before moving up to Marriotts School.

Notices

Remembering Queen Elizabeth II

We were deeply saddened by the recent passing of Queen Elizabeth II. On the morning following the announcement, our whole school worship focussed on remembrance. The children described Queen Elizabeth II as 'caring', 'glorious' and 'responsible'. Children then had the opportunity to write or draw their own thoughts and reflections – a touching tribute to a remarkable monarch.



Family Picnic – Saturday 17th September

It was wonderful to see so many families at our family picnic on Saturday. We would like to pass on our thanks to our hard-working PTFA for arranging this event. The music performances were a highlight of the afternoon – we were so very proud to have so many children perform, both individually and as part of our school choir.



Notices

Congratulations!

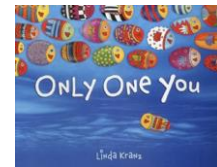
Congratulations to Isla who has passed her Grade 1 piano exam with merit.

We are so proud of you.



Friendship Rocks Display

It is lovely to see our display of Friendship Rocks has grown again! Each year, on class transition day in July, every child paints a rock inspired by the book 'Only One You' by Linda Kranz.



A Reminder

If your child has pierced ears, please ensure that only simple, plain studs are worn to school. Also, nail varnish should not be worn in school.



Year Six Sports Leaders

A group of volunteers from Year Six have recently been trained by Mr Nash to become Sports Leaders. They are now organizing games and activities for the younger children on the playground at lunchtimes. It really is lovely to see the children supporting each other and having so much fun. Well done Year Six; we are very proud of you!

Welcome to Our New Staff

Hello, my name is Charlotte Brazier, and I am so excited to have recently joined Aston School. You may recognise me as Jack from Haffydown's Mum. I also have a younger Son Reggie; I am sure you may have seen me regularly running after him on the playground. I used to attend Aston School myself and it is so wonderful that I am now working here. I am an assistant in Shackadell and I am really enjoying getting to know the children in the class and helping out. I have always lived in Stevenage and enjoy running as my hobby. I am running the Stevenage half marathon in November. I look forward to seeing you all and getting to know the newest parents to Aston School more.



Hello.

My name is Julie Wranosky and I am lucky to be starting as a Teaching Assistant at Aston. I have lived and worked in London, Texas and Welwyn Garden City and have 20 years teaching experience, mainly in early years. I have two grown up daughters, Hannah and Grace, and a 20-month-old grandson, George. I love spending time with my family and friends, walking in the woods, reading and attempting yoga! I am really looking forward to getting to know and work with you all at Aston and becoming part of the Aston family.

Hello everyone!

My name is Emma Hughes and I have joined Aston St Mary's as an Administration Assistant in the school office.

I have one son, Oliver who is in Peartree class, so you may have already seen me in and around the school. I am thoroughly enjoying my new role and look forward to assisting you and your children over the new academic year.

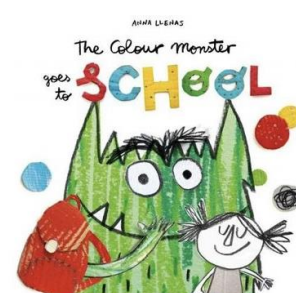
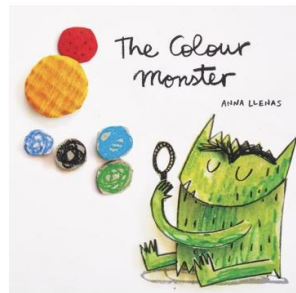


We would also like to welcome four members of staff to new roles within school. Miss Preston, having trained in Danes Class last year, is now Haffydown Class Teacher. Miss Houlding and Miss Jayamohan are now trainee teachers working in Shackadell and Puddlebridge classes respectively. With all their experience as teaching assistants, we know they will become fabulous teachers. Miss Elliott is now working as a teaching assistant across the school – we really are delighted to have her as a member of our staff team.

Class News

Shackadell Class

We are very happy to welcome our new children to Aston St Mary's School. It has been a busy two weeks and we have spent most of our time exploring the classroom, meeting new friends and getting to know our 'buddies' who have been looking after us very well. We have particularly enjoyed playing outside in our outdoor classroom and have already started learning phonics! We have been reading a story called 'The colour monster' by Anna Allen as. It has helped us to talk about our feelings.



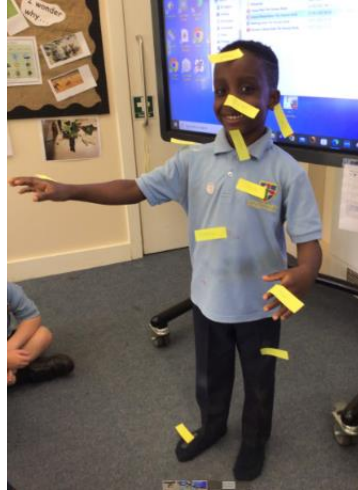
Class News

Peartree Class

Welcome back to school for a busy Autumn term.

The children are beginning to settle into the new Year One and Year Two routines and what a lot of work we have been doing!

In our science topic of 'Animals including Humans', we have been sorting animals into different groups based on different criteria (such as number of legs, scales or fur, land or sea). We have also looked at naming our body parts where we used Ellis as our model.



In RE, we are learning about the Creation story and sequenced the events of the seven days.



We have really enjoyed looking at traditional tales in our English lessons. We role-played being the annoyed villagers in the story of 'The Boy Who Cried Wolf'.



You can check these out on our Seesaw journals.

Class News

Haffydown Class

It has been a wonderful start to the year for Haffydown. The last couple of weeks have been an opportunity for the children to settle into new routines and get to know each other as a mixed class of Year Two and Three; it has been fantastic to see how well they have been getting along and becoming this year's Haffydown class.

To support this half term's value of 'Friendship', we created our classroom cross, and each child created a handprint that showed how we could be a good friend. It's now in centre place within our reflection zone.

We have started our history topic all about the Anglo Saxons and we are excited to visit West Stow Village next week, which will give us an opportunity to see history hands on!

We are excited to see the children's learning progress over the coming year.



Class News

Puddlebridge Class

We have had a fantastic start to the school year in Puddlebridge Class. We kicked off our 'Awesome Egyptians' topic by completing an 'Information Run' where we worked in teams to learn and memorise as much information about Ancient Egypt as possible. We then used an atlas to produce our own world maps and maps of Egypt. By looking at its proximity to the equator, we were able to conclude that it would have a hot and dry climate.



Our learning in English links closely with our History topic, as our work is currently based on the book 'The Egyptian Cinderella'. We are enjoying comparing this story to the alternative versions of Cinderella that we are more familiar with.

Our new reflection zone is looking wonderful, thanks to the addition of our cross. Each member of the class decorated their own square which, when put together, create a colourful cross which adds brightness and positivity to our classroom.



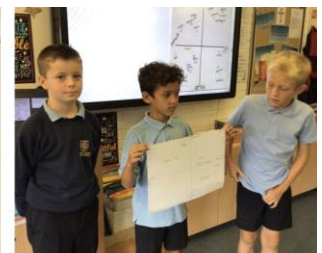
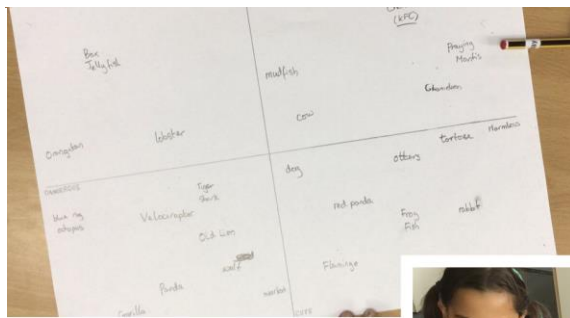
Class News

Danes Class



Danes Class have made a fantastic start to the new school year and are already making great progress in their learning. In history, our topic is 'The Awesome Egyptians' and we are very much looking forward to visiting The British Museum to support our learning early in October. We began our learning in English with a narrative unit based on the text 'Marcy and the Riddle of the Sphinx'. We have now moved on to the book 'Pig Heart Boy'; we have produced some excellent persuasive writing inspired by the text. In science, we are learning about forces – last week, we explored gravity and considered what life might be like without it!

We began our maths learning with 'A Week of Inspirational Maths'; this included learning all about how our brains work and how making mistakes helps our brains to grow. We completed some fun investigations and group challenges. Since then, we have focussed upon our understanding of place value working with some very large numbers.



Year Six are very much enjoying getting to know their buddies in Shackadell class. Last week, they shared their first reading session together. It was wonderful to see the children spending this special time together. Many children in Year Five are being fantastic lunchtime helpers as well as looking out for the younger children when they are playing on the field. Friendship is our school value this half term and it really does make us proud to see the children demonstrating our value so naturally.



AUTISM & ADHD SUPPORT
for parents/carers of children with
ADHD and/or on the Autistic Spectrum



About Angels' Workshops

Angels Support aims to support our members by delivering a broad range of topics to help parents and carers to better support their child or young person with autism/ADHD.

Some workshops will be delivered by Angels' team members and others will be delivered in conjunction with trusted partners. A member of Angels' staff will always be present regardless of who is delivering the workshop.

In workshops you will be asked to agree to a set of group rules and confirm your name to us (this can be done privately). We ask for your name to confirm your attendance but also to ensure the safety and confidentiality of all the members accessing the session.

Sessions do not have to be pre-booked, just come along if you can.

Where possible the slides of the presentation will be shared with attendees or members who couldn't make the session.

Sessions which are accessed via Zoom - You won't need the Zoom app or an account, you can access via the internet easily. There is no need to speak or have your cameras on if you prefer not to. There will be opportunities to ask questions at intervals in the presentations and at the end. You can ask your question anonymously by messaging a member of Angels staff, or ask your question openly via chat or by putting your hand up, whichever option you feel most comfortable with.

Assertiveness –

With Lorraine Jones

Workshop: Tuesday 11th October

10am-12pm Via Zoom

This workshop will be delivered by our facilitator Lorraine Jones, Angels' in-house counsellor who has a special interest in Autism and ADHD.

As parents and carers of children with SEND we may come into contact with professionals more frequently than parents/carers of neurotypical children. We may even have needs relating to SEND ourselves and find it hard to communicate effectively. Lorraine will focus on building assertiveness skills to help grow your confidence when dealing with professionals. This will help you make the most out of meetings regarding your child and giving you the best chance of getting your child's needs met.

This session is fun and interactive.



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Workshop with Lorraine Jones – Emotional Literacy

10am-12pm, Thursday 6th October 2022

Held at Greenside School, Shephall Green,
Stevenage, SG2 9XS

Lorraine Jones is Angels' in-house counsellor with a special interest in Autism and ADHD.

Emotional literacy is the ability to express our emotions and feelings using speech and other forms of communication. It's an important skill that children must develop from a young age to help establish a stable relationship with their own emotions.

In this session Lorraine will explore how we can support our children to develop their skills around emotional literacy. Lorraine will offer different ways you can work with your child to develop a self-awareness on how to manage their emotions.



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Money Advice Unit – Benefit Advice

10am-12pm, Thursday 22nd September 2022

Held at Greenside School, Shephall Green,
Stevenage, SG2 9XS

This workshop is being provided and will be delivered by Aimee Hopkinson of the Money Advice Unit.

If you are a parent/carer of a young person with ADHD and/or Autism, this session can help you to navigate the benefits system and understand what you and your child are entitled to. The money advice unit are a very personable service who are easy to talk to and have a huge amount of knowledge of the benefits system.



AUTISM & ADHD SUPPORT
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Workshop: Sensory Processing Differences

10am-12pm, Thursday 20th October 2022

Held at Greenside School, Shephall Green,
Stevenage, SG2 9XS

This workshop will be presented by Angels' Specialist Support Practitioners.

Many children with ADHD and Autism experience sensory processing differences. Sensory processing differences affect the way individuals experience their senses, sometimes too much and sometimes too little. This can make the world around them seem overwhelming but also this can mean the child or young person might be unsure where they are in the space around them.

This workshop aims to increase parents and carers understanding of sensory processing difficulties and provide practical ideas around how you can support your child.



NESSie & Angels Free Parent Online Workshops Autumn 2022 Supporting Children with ASD / ADHD

These free workshops are designed for parent/carers of children and young people awaiting assessment or displaying traits of ASD and/or ADHD. They are all delivered online via Zoom.

Workshop	Date and time
Girls and Women	Tuesday 27 th September 1.00 – 2.30pm
Emotionally Based School Avoidance	Wednesday 5 th October 7.30 – 9.00pm
Self Harm	Tuesday 18 th October 1.00 – 2.30pm
Puberty, Relationships and Staying Safe	Tuesday 8 th November 1.00 – 2.30pm
Autism, Sexuality and Gender Diversity	Tuesday 22 nd November 1.00 – 2.30pm
Emotionally Based School Avoidance	Tuesday 6 th December 1.00 – 2.30pm

These workshops are funded by Hertfordshire County Council and open to parents/carers living in Hertfordshire.

Places must be booked in advance. Please click on the relevant workshop or visit our website: <https://nessieind.com/workshops>



AUTISM & ADHD SUPPORT
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AUTISM & ADHD SUPPORT
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FIRST HALF AUTUMN TERM 2022 – PROGRAMME

	Virtual Meeting Via Zoom		Face to Face Meeting in Stevenage Virtual Evening Meeting via Zoom
Week Beginning 12th September	13th Sept – 10am - 12noon Workshop: Helping your child access Healthcare	14th Sept	15th Sept – 10am – 12noon - Stevenage Parent/Carer Support Group
Week Beginning 19th September	20th Sept – 10am - 12noon Parent/Carer Support Group	21st Sept	22nd Sept – 10am – 12noon - Stevenage Aimee Hopkinson – Money Advice Unit: Benefit advice 7:30pm – 8:30pm Evening Parent/Carer Support Group
Week Beginning 26th September	27th Sept – 10am - 12noon Workshop: Applying for an EHC needs assessment and Q & A	28th Sept	29th Sept – 10am – 12noon - Stevenage Parent/Carer Support Group
Week Beginning 3rd October	4th Oct – 10am - 12noon Parent/Carer Support Group	5th Oct	6th Oct – 10am – 12noon - Stevenage Workshop with Lorraine Jones – Emotional Literacy
Week Beginning 10th October	11th Oct – 10am - 12noon Workshop with Lorraine Jones – Assertiveness	12th Oct	13th Oct – 10am – 12noon – Stevenage Parent/Carer Support Group 7:30pm – 8:30pm Evening Parent/Carer Support Group
Week Beginning 17th October	18th Oct – 10am - 12noon Parent/Carer Support Group	19th Oct	20th Oct – 10am – 12noon - Stevenage Workshop: Sensory Processing differences
Half Term	Half Term	Half Term	Half Term



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SECOND HALF AUTUMN TERM 2022 – PROGRAMME

	Virtual Meeting Via Zoom		Face to Face Meeting in Stevenage Virtual Evening Meeting via Zoom
Week Beginning 31st October	1st Nov – 10am - 12noon Workshop: Understanding & responding to your Child's behaviour	2nd Nov	3rd Nov – 10am – 12noon – Stevenage Parent/Carer Support Group
Week Beginning 7th November	8th Nov – 10am - 12noon Parent/Carer Support Group	9th Nov	10th Nov – 10am – 12noon – Stevenage Tricia Cody & Katy Broxton – Specialist Advice and Support Service: Strategies to support with Festive Season changes 7:30pm – 8:30pm Evening Parent/Carer Support Group
Week Beginning 14th November	15th Nov – 10am - 12noon Tracy Noble & Dave Szczerba – Services for Young People: Post 16 provision	16th Nov	17th Nov – 10am – 12noon – Stevenage Parent/Carer Support Group
Week Beginning 21st November	22nd Nov – 10am - 12noon Parent/Carer Support Group	23rd Nov	24th Nov – 10am – 12noon – Stevenage Workshop – What makes a good EHCP and Annual Review
Week Beginning 28th November	29th Nov – 10am - 12noon Tony Plunkett & Debbie Robins – North Herts DSPL 1: Who they are and what they do	30th Nov	1st Dec – 10am – 12noon – Stevenage Parent/Carer Support Group
Week Beginning 5th December	6th Dec – 10am - 12noon Parent/Carer Support Group	7th Dec	8th Dec – 10am – 12noon – Stevenage Workshop with Lorraine Jones – Assertiveness 7:30pm – 8:30pm Evening Parent/Carer Support Group
Week Beginning 12th December	13th Dec – 10am - 12noon Workshop with Lorraine Jones – Emotional Literacy	14th Dec	15th Dec – 10am – 12noon – Stevenage Parent/Carer Support Group
Week Beginning 19th December	20th Dec – 10am - 12noon Parent/Carer Support Group	21st Dec	22nd Dec – 10am – 12noon – Stevenage NO MEETING
End of Term	End of Term	End of Term	End of Term