



Aston St. Mary's Newsletter

Our value this half term is Friendship

www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk

14th October 2022

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

Diary Dates

Monday 17th – Friday 21st October:

Years Five and Six PGL Residential

Thursday 20th October: PTFA Uniform pop-up shop

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

Monday 31st October: Deadline for Secondary School applications (Year Six)

Friday 4th November: Rainbow non-uniform day (PTFA)

Friday 11th November: Remembrance Day Service

PTFA Bake-off

Friday 18th November: Children in Need

Friday 18th November: Quiz Night

Tuesday 22nd November: Happy Bag Clothing Collection

Friday 25th November: Non-uniform day – donations of chocolate for tombola (PTFA)

Monday 28th November: Occasional Day – SCHOOL CLOSED

Thursday 1st December: Christmas Decoration Day

Sunday 4th December: PTFA Christmas Fayre 12-3pm

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.

How wonderful it was to be able to come together in church this morning to celebrate our Harvest Festival. For our youngest children, this was their very first visit to church as part of our Aston St. Mary's family and, for our Year Six pupils, it was their first opportunity to lead the prayers. We were very proud of them all. It was lovely too to see all the parents and carers who were able to join us. Thank you to everyone who donated harvest gifts.

Since our last newsletter, Haffydown class has enjoyed a visit to West Stow Anglo-Saxon Village and Danes and Puddlebridge classes have visited the British Museum. You can find out more about these visits, as well as seeing some photos, on the class pages. Children gain so much from offsite visits; we are delighted to be able to offer such a rich and varied range of experiences across the school.

Next week, Years Five and Six are off for a week of fun, friendship and adventure at PGL. We'll keep our fingers crossed for dry weather and look forward to hearing all about their time away on their return. It will certainly seem quiet in school without them and, for those of you with children on the trip, it will probably be a quiet week at home too! Thank you to all the families involved for enabling your children to go on the trip – we are sure that they really will have a fantastic time.

We enjoyed the opportunity to meet with parents at the consultation evenings this week and we hope that you found these discussions useful and informative. Thank you for all that you do to support your child's learning at home; it is by working together in this way that we can ensure the best possible outcomes for each and every child.

Have a wonderful weekend.



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:

Orla, Eli, Ollie, Sophia, Aariv, Vaaris, Amelie, Ethan O., Ethan H, Lily-Anne, Nyah, Poppy-Belle, Aiden, Isla, Finley, Leon, LJ, Rosie, Cameron, Archie



Shining Stars were awarded to:

Isadora, Joel

A Thought from Reverend Jenny:

'The pattern for many leaders is to be exalted in life and forgotten after death. The pattern for all who serve God – famous or obscure, respected or ignored – is that death is the gate to glory.' (Justin Welby in the Queen's funeral address).

St Francis, who we remember tomorrow, wasn't famous and respected in his own lifetime. He met misunderstanding and opposition from both his family and the Church in his choice to take following Jesus' example of loving God and his neighbour seriously. Giving away all his possessions, Francis lived simply, in poverty, willingly embracing the hardship of hunger, cold and sickness, devoting his whole life to caring for the poor and sick, preaching God's love for all creation in word and deed. Others quickly joined him in his tough way of life, 'Brothers' (Franciscans) and 'Sisters' (Poor Clares). By 1219 there were 5,000 Franciscan Brothers across Europe who, like monks, took three demanding vows of Poverty, Chastity, and Obedience.

Like Jesus, Francis chose humility over worldly position, privilege and pomp. He was ordained a deacon but never became a priest in the church. He willingly stepped down as Leader of the Franciscan Order, before the end of his life, to make way for a new leader. His Christ-like life of humble service made a deep impression, in his own day and since. When he visited Rome, the pope, in his jewels and splendid robes, knelt down in front of the assembled gathering of cardinals, guards and officials to kiss Francis' bare and dirty feet. Francis' whole way of life spoke of Jesus – he's reputed to have said 'preach the gospel everywhere, use words if you have to'.

"Humility does not mean thinking less of yourself than of other people, nor does it mean having a low opinion of your own gifts. It means freedom from thinking about yourself at all"

(William Temple, former Archbishop of Canterbury)

Notices

Deadline for Secondary School Applications

Is your child currently in Year Six?

Please be reminded that the deadline for applications for secondary school places for September 2023 is

Monday 31st October.



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



We would like to wish the children in Years Five and Six a fantastic week away next week. They will be staying at Marchants Hill PGL centre in Surrey. During the week they will enjoy lots of new and exciting challenges including:



Raft Building
Giant Swing
Abseiling
Archery
Rifle Shooting
Orienteering
Trapeze



And lots more...

Please check the school website for updates about the fun they are having during the week that they are away.

<https://www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk/classes/danes/pgl-marchants-hill-17th-21st-october-2022/>

Thank You!



We would like to thank everyone for their generous harvest gifts. Donations will be shared between two local charities – Feed Up Warm Up and The Food Shed. It is wonderful to see our current value of 'Friendship' being extended to others in our wider community in this way. Thank you to everyone who donated to these important causes.

School Uniform Reminder

Please be reminded that:

- Children should wear black shoes (not trainers)
- Hair accessories should be small and discrete in school colours (black, white or navy blue)
- No jewellery should be worn except plain stud earrings. Watches are also allowed.
- Nail varnish should not be worn.

Please make sure that all items of uniform and coats are clearly named.

Thank you for your support.



OUR HOUSES

At Aston, we are excited to announce that we have revamped our house system. The four houses have been named after beautiful cathedrals from across England.

Throughout their time at Aston, children will learn interesting facts about each one and their importance within the Christian faith. It also provides an excellent opportunity to strengthen their locational knowledge of England.

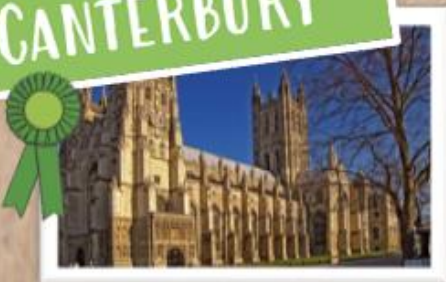
ST PAUL'S



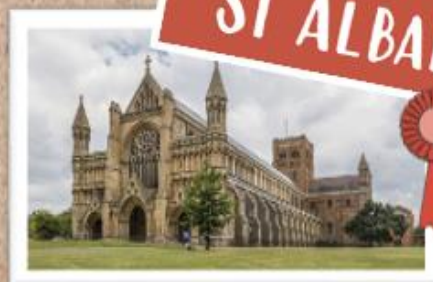
COVENTRY



CANTERBURY



ST ALBANS



Children can earn house points by exhibiting good behaviour, excellent behaviour, and taking part in house events.

Class News

Shackadell Class

This week Shackadell class have been focusing on colour. We have read the book 'Mixed' by Aree Chung and explored which colours mix together to make new colours. We have used paint and food colouring to explore colour. We also spent time searching for a variety of leaves to explore the colours of Autumn. We then created our own Autumnal pictures. We have had a lot of fun doing all of these activities!



Class News

Peartree Class

We have been having lots of fun in Peartree.

We have been learning about how the people in 1666 tried to put out the 'Great Fire' in London. They didn't have the fire brigade so had to use a bucket chain, fire hooks and even gunpowder to help stop the fire. We acted out the bucket chain and using a fire hook.



We enjoyed learning about how a bucket chain and fire hooks were used in the Great Fire of London.



In RE, we learned why we celebrate Harvest Festival and what happens to the food that people donate. We are delighted that we are able to go to church again to celebrate.

In science this week, we became 'science detectives' and we had to use our senses to solve clues. We had to taste, touch, hear, see and smell different things and identify which one we needed. It was great fun. We even tasted pickled gherkin!



Class News

Haffydown Class

Haffydown had the opportunity to visit West Stow Anglo-Saxon village as part their history topic. To begin the day, the children explored the Anglo-Saxon village and discovered the different types of long houses. Each long house had different artefacts to show the Anglo-Saxon way of life, including animal skins and farming tools. Our guide, Stephanie, also showed us how different plants can be used to eat, but also in medicine and to dye clothes. In the afternoon, the children visited the museum and handled different artefacts that gave more information as to how the Anglo-Saxons lived. The trip was fantastic, and we hope it will help embed the children's learning about the Anglo-Saxons. Since the trip, some of the children have created their own long houses which have a fantastic addition to the classroom!



Class News

Haffydown Class



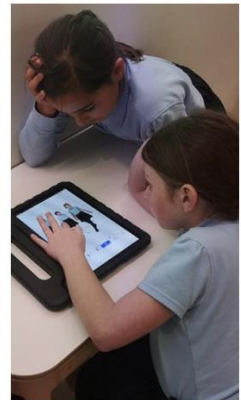
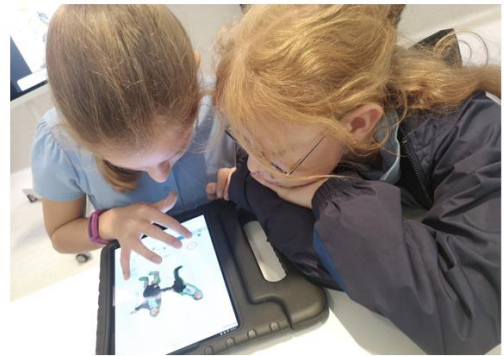
Class News

Danes and Puddlebridge Classes

On Friday 7th October, Puddlebridge and Danes classes visited the British Museum to support and enrich their learning in History. We had a fantastic day and were so very proud of the children; they were impeccably behaved throughout the day and showed a keen interest in their learning. We visited the Ancient Egyptian galleries as well as enjoying a workshop session called 'Decoding Ancient Egyptian Tomb Paintings'.



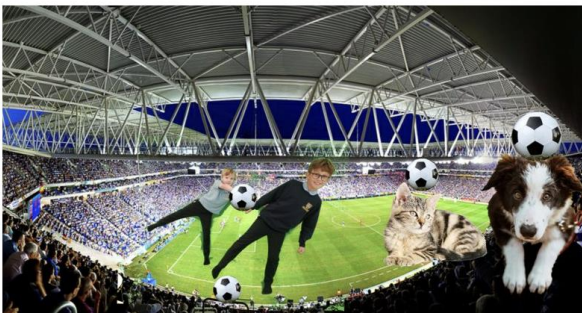
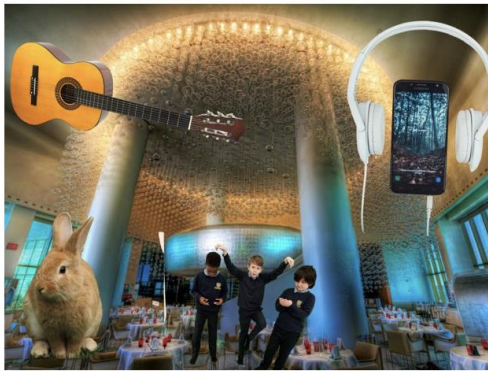
During the workshop session, we studied three paintings from the tomb of Nebamun. We learnt about ancient Egyptian beliefs about the afterlife and that the paintings included family, food, hobbies and the natural environment. Working in groups, the children then used green screen technology to create their own digital collages reflecting their own interests, hobbies and favourite places.



Class News

Danes and Puddlebridge Classes

Here are some of our finished digital collages. Can you work out what our favourite pastimes are? You might also be able to identify some food that we enjoy as well as things that are important to us.





SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

FOOTBALL FUN

Facebook/Instagram: @senfootballfun

WhatsApp: 07415 777624

Fridays 4:15 - 5:15pm £5 per session, Barnwell Leisure Centre

