



Aston St. Mary's Newsletter

Our value this half term is **Thankfulness**

www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk

4th November 2022

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

Diary Dates

Monday 7th November: PGL assembly at 9:00am. Year Five and Six parents are invited to join us.

Friday 11th November: Remembrance Day Service 10:45am
PTFA Bake-off

Thursday 17th November: School photographer (individuals and family groups)

Friday 18th November: Children in Need

Friday 18th November: Quiz Night

Tuesday 22nd November: Happy Bag
Clothing Collection

Friday 25th November: Non-uniform day – donation for bottle 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.

Thursday 5th January 2023: Children return
to school

Sunday 15th January 2023: Deadline for
primary school applications.



It has been lovely to have the children back in school this week after the half term break. We hope that everyone was able to enjoy a well-deserved break. Years Five and Six in particular will have needed plenty of rest after their residential trip the week before. They really did have an amazing time and it has been wonderful to hear the stories they have to tell of their adventures. You can find out more on the class pages as well as on the school website. We are looking forward to assembly on Monday morning when they will share some of their experiences with us.

Our whole school value this half term is **'Thankfulness'** which leads us nicely towards the Christmas period when we have so much to be thankful for. Next week, as a nation, we celebrate Remembrance Day; a reminder to us of how important it is to show our gratitude and remember those who gave so much. We hope that you may be able to join us in church for our service of Remembrance next Friday – further details are included in the notices.

We certainly have a busy and exciting few weeks ahead; please make sure to check the dates list of all the upcoming events. In particular, please be reminded that we have our **occasional day on Monday 28th November – school will be closed on this day.**



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:

Tilly, Ellis, Nathaniel,
Gabriella, Connor,
Ethan R, Isadora,
Muctarr, Jadon, Jack,
Jayne, Orla, Leo F,
Bertie, Flynn, Hayden,
Toby and Azariah



Shining Stars were
awarded to:

Molly



A Thought from Reverend Jenny:

Many people share the hope expressed by the late Queen during Covid: 'We *will* meet again'. Hope lies in God whose love is stronger than death – hope which stretches beyond this life into all eternity.

'Jesus comes *from* the Father and brings the fullness of God with him; *all* of it. Jesus *goes to* the Father and he takes his friends with him; *all* of them, (*which includes us*) across the threshold and through the door, into glory.'
(Bishop Paul Bayes former Bishop of Hertford and Liverpool)

'Christian hope means certain expectation of something not yet seen. Christ rose from the dead and offers life to *all*, abundant life now and life with God in eternity'...'We can *all* share in the Queen's hope which in life and in death inspired her servant leadership.'
(Archbishop of Canterbury at Queen's funeral)

Notices



Over the coming weeks, we will be encouraging the children to show excellent table manners when eating their lunch. If children have a school lunch, this will include using a knife and a fork correctly. Our expectation is that children can enjoy their lunch whilst sitting properly on their chair and without food being dropped on either the floor or the table. You will have received a letter from Mrs Winwood with further information and advice before the half term break. Any support that you are able to give your child at home will help them to secure these important life skills.



On Friday 18th November, we will be raising money for the BBC Children in Need appeal. The theme this year is '**Be SPOTacular**' so we would like to invite children to come to school either in something spotty or in their pyjamas (or even both!). Please bring a donation into school on the day to support this important fund-raising event.

Thank you

Primary School Applications

Parents wishing to apply for a primary school place for their child to start in **September 2023** can apply now.

The deadline for applications is:

15th January 2023

Notices

Admissions Consultation

Please be aware our governors are currently consulting on our admissions policy. Further details can be found on our admissions page on our school website.

Aston St Mary's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School is consulting on the proposed admissions arrangements for the school year 2024/25 and is seeking responses from parent/carers, schools, community groups and any other interested parties.

The proposed changes are related to the catchment area due to the forecasted expansion of housing within the civil parish of Aston. Current addresses will not be affected. These changes are needed because the governors want the school to continue to be a village school serving the local community.

The consultation period runs from 31st October to 11th December 2022. Please send your comments regarding the proposals to the Julie Winwood at:

admin@astonmarys.herts.sch.uk

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

We are delighted to have welcomed Ava back into school this week. She has made a remarkable recovery and it is really lovely to see her smiling face around school. We know that the children in Haffydown have been particularly excited to see her.

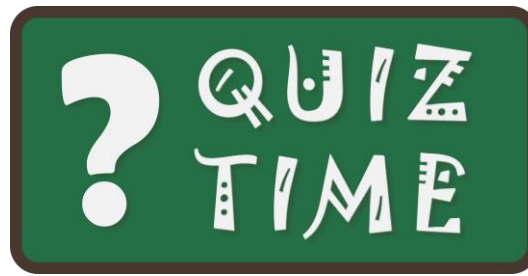


Good LUCK!

We are sure you would wish to join with us in wishing Connie (Mrs Carter's daughter) the very best of luck on her return to Marriotts School this week. This is a big step for her after a full year of intensive treatment.

Notices

Quiz Night – Friday 18th November



We are very excited to be able to run a quiz night again this year.

This is a fun evening where teams compete in tables of up to eight people (adults only). Tables are limited due to space in the school hall. If you would like to join us, please email:

closed@astonmarys.herts.sch.uk

Remembrance Service

You are invited to join us at St. Mary's Church for a service of Remembrance on **Friday 11th November at 10:45am**

The church will be open from 10:00am for tea and coffee.

Parking will be available on the centre field from 9:45am.

All welcome.



Poppy Appeal

Year Six children will continue to sell poppies and other merchandise on the playground before and after school until next Friday – or until stocks run out.

Items are priced at between 50p and £1.50.

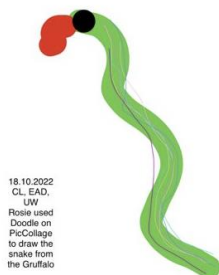
Class News

Shackadell Class

We have had an amazing time learning about Autumn towards the end of this half term. We went on an Autumn walk with our parents and collected lots of Autumnal objects. We have been reading the book 'Leaf man' by Lois Ehlert. We used lots of Autumn leaves to make our own leaf men and really enjoyed giving them their own characters. We have also been reading the Gruffalo and retelling the story using props. We made houses for the different characters from the Gruffalo. We love learning about the seasons!



PIC-COLLAGE



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Class News

Peartree Class

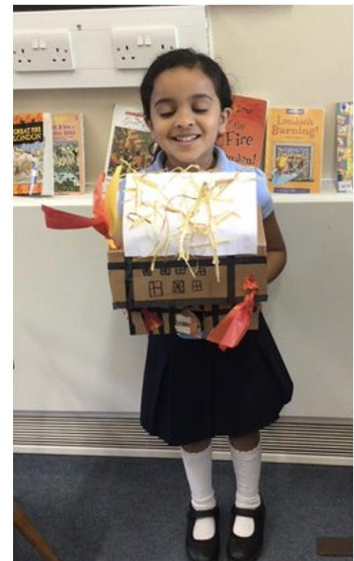
Welcome back after a well-deserved half term.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce Miss Lewis. She will be working in Peartree class up until Christmas and I know you will make her very welcome.

We finally finished our history topic of the Great Fire of London which I know the children have thoroughly enjoyed. We ended by making our own Tudor houses which we designed and made by ourselves. We then placed them to recreate a street scene and we could see some of the reasons why the fire spread so quickly.

Our focus this half term is geography; we will be learning about the different types of houses in our local area. We have already looked at an arial map of Aston and zoomed into look at our school. We then went outside with our maps and located different places on them.

We are looking forward to another action packed half term.

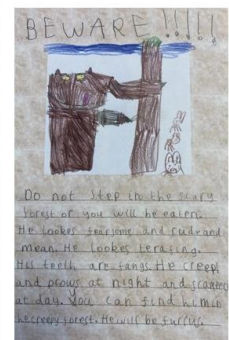
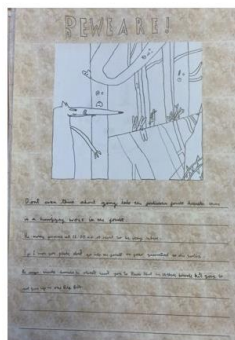


Class News

Haffydown Class

In English, we have finished our topic about traditional tales. We focused on Little Red Riding Hood and the different adaptations of the story. The children had the opportunity to plan and write a beware poster for the wolf; it was wonderful to see such descriptive writing and their own interpretation of the wolf. We are now reading 'The Secret of Black Rock'. The children have really been enjoying the book and have produced some fantastic writing already.

In history, we are coming to the end of the topic of Anglo-Saxons. Since the trip to West Stow all the children have been engaging well in their learning which we can see in all their amazing home learning!



Class News

Years Five and Six

What a fantastic week we had at PGL the week before the half term break! We set off on Monday 17th October and returned to school on Friday 21st October.



Our accommodation was lovely, the children shared warm and cosy ensuite bedrooms in groups of three or four, and we enjoyed three hot meals a day in the PGL dining room.



Our week of outdoor activities began with a five-mile hike. It was a glorious autumn day, and we enjoyed some spectacular views. The children enjoyed the many games and stories that were told along the way – it really was a fabulous start to our week.



Class News

Years Five and Six

The rest of the week was spent experiencing a range of new, exciting, and often quite challenging activities. The children learnt to work as a team and encouraged each other to keep on trying. There were so many very, very proud moments! Activities included buggy building (very muddy!) and raft building (very wet!) as well as archery and rifle shooting.



The sensory trail taught children to use their other senses and to give and listen to precise instructions as they tackled an obstacle course blindfolded! In the tunnel trail, they played games whilst crawling through a series of connected tunnels. Orienteering and survivor were fun too – in survivor, the children made shelters and lit fires using a flint. All this in the torrential rain!



For many children, the most memorable and challenging activities of all were those which involved conquering their fear of heights. They had several opportunities including: swinging on the mighty giant swing, jumping the terrifying trapeze, climbing the colossal Jacobs Ladder and descending from the heights of the abseiling tower. Our children are simply amazing!



Handling anger in your primary aged child with ASD or ADHD

Funded by HCC and FREE, this six session CANparent Quality Award evidence-based course is for parents living in Hertfordshire and parenting children from 2 to 11 years.

Facilitated by Lesley and Francine who are trained, qualified and experienced facilitators and parents too, with 20+ years personal and professional experience.



"I feel empowered by the tools we were shown on this course and was at a real loss as to how to help my families anger and didn't know what to do. Others judged our family but not judged at all here. Emotional intelligence makes so much more sense now and I love the gentle but firm ideas we learnt each week."

This course will enable you and your family to:

- ✓ Gain understanding of Autism and ADHD and how behaviours can be affected
- ✓ Attain awareness of a child's sensory world and the affect on behaviour
- ✓ Understand how anger and other emotions live in your family
- ✓ Increase your understanding of triggers that cause angry outbursts
- ✓ Learn healthy anger management strategies for children and parents to reduce angry outbursts
- ✓ Discover creative ways to support children to 'let go' of anger safely
- ✓ Gain effective empathic communication techniques to reduce angry outbursts
- ✓ Meet and share experiences with other parents



Funded by Hertfordshire County Council

Where: Online via Zoom

When: Thursday mornings 9.30-11.30am
January 5th, 12th, 19th, 28th
February 3rd, 10th

Only 12 free places available. Places must be booked by emailing bookings@familiesinfocus.co.uk

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A Complete Guide to Parenting Children with ALL Special Educational Need

This course is free for all parents living in Hertfordshire and caring for a primary aged child inclusive of those awaiting diagnosis or with a diagnosis of Special Education Needs, Autism, ADHD & associated needs.

Lesley and Francine are parents, experienced and qualified trainers too.



Topics include:

- ✓ Gain greater understanding and answer the question 'Why does my child do that?'
- ✓ Learn a range of strategies and solutions, to better manage behaviours that challenge
- ✓ Gain more understanding of anger triggers and strategies to reduce angry meltdowns
- ✓ Learn how to support siblings living with a sister/brother with additional needs / challenging behaviours
- ✓ Learn communication techniques to reduce 'emotional traffic jams' and improve your child's emotional regulation
- ✓ Learn techniques to manage stress, conflict and so much more

"I would highly recommend all parents of children with Autism go on this course - you'll be amazed how much you learn, and it's great that both Lesley and Francine are parents too, so really do understand."



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Where: Online via Zoom

When: Tuesday evenings 6.30-8.30pm
January 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st
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March 7th, 14th, 21st

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January 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th
February 6th

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