



Danes Class Information

Spring Term 2023

<https://www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk/danes-2/>



It was lovely to welcome the children back to school after the Christmas break; we hope that you have all enjoyed the festivities and time together with your families and friends. We hope that your child is looking forward to the term ahead – we certainly have lots of exciting learning opportunities planned for the coming weeks. This letter provides further details about our curriculum coverage for the term ahead.

This term is a very busy and important term. It is the final term in which to prepare Year Six as fully as possible for their tests in May; they will be working very hard and will benefit greatly from any additional support that can be offered at home. Maximum effort from the children (supported by both teachers and parents) during this period as well as good attendance can have a significant impact upon the results achieved.

Should you wish to speak to me about your child or their learning, please catch me on the playground before or after school or, alternatively, make an appointment via the school office.

Mrs Branagan

Home Learning

The arrangements for home learning in Danes class are changing slightly this term. Our aims are to:

- ensure that the Year 6 children are prepared as fully as possible for their tests in May
- to establish good routines before their move to secondary school.

By setting different homework tasks on different days and asking for work to be handed in at different times, we hope that the children will get used to planning their time carefully and organising themselves to have the appropriate tasks completed by different deadlines.

The table outlines the new arrangements for weekly homework.

Subject	Day Set	Due In
English	Monday	Friday
Maths	Friday	Thursday
Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling (Year 6 only)	Thursday	Tuesday
Times Tables Rock Stars	Weekly sessions (total 20 minutes) are set to keep skills sharp.	
Reading and Spelling	Daily practise to continue	

Home Learning projects will continue to be set half-terminly (see separate sheet) – these are optional for Year 6 this term to allow for the additional demands outlined above. We have been so impressed by the range of work produced by the children last term and are looking forward to seeing what they produce next!

Key Stage 2 Tests

Year 6 children will be taking their SATs tests between **Tuesday 9th May – Friday 12th May.**

Tests include: Reading, Maths (Arithmetic and Reasoning), Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling.

Further information to be shared at a meeting for Year 6 parents at 3:20pm on Thursday 19th January.

PE: PE will continue to take place on **Mondays and Fridays**. We will also continue with our daily mile, so it is important that trainers are in school every day.



Water Bottles

It is essential that all children bring a named water bottle into school each day and take it home to be washed daily. They keep these next to their table for use throughout the day.



Spring Term Curriculum

Our theme this term is '**Everybody's Earth**' which includes an understanding of the Earth's resources, how these can be conserved and also trade with other countries. This links well with our science topic '**Earth in Space**'. These themes will include work across many areas of the curriculum with a particular focus on **geographical and scientific** knowledge and skills. We will also be linking our learning in **Art, DT and MfL** (French) with these themes.

Later in the term, we will move onto a history topic called '**Thomas Clarkson and the Transatlantic Slave Trade**'. Thomas Clarkson was a leading campaigner against the slave trade and has local links – in fact, there is a memorial to him just a few miles from school at Wadesmill.

English: We will begin the term by focussing on Mystery and Suspense writing inspired by the books 'The Watertower' and 'Boy in the Tower'.

Maths: Our learning will include securing arithmetic skills, algebra, fractions, decimals and percentages, ratio and proportion, 2D and 3D shape and angles.

Science: Earth in Space then Properties and Changes of Materials

History: Thomas Clarkson and the Transatlantic Slave Trade

Geography: Everybody's Earth

RE: How far would a Sikh go for his/her religion? What did Jesus do to save human beings?

Art: Abstract art inspired by the work of Peter Thorpe

DT: Moon Buggies/Mars Rovers

Music: Journey into Space. Composers: Prokofiev, Beethoven

PSHE: Safety First then Drugs Education

MfL: The Planets then The Weekend

Computing: Blogging and text Adventures

PE: Gymnastics, Dance and Orienteering



Spring Term Dates

Thursday 19th January:
SATs Meeting for Year 6 parents at 3:20pm

Thursday 2nd February:
Bayfordbury Visit 5pm-7pm

Saturday 4th February:
Herts Cross Country Championships (St Albans)

Thursday 2nd March:
World Book Day and K'nex Challenge

Monday 13th March and Thursday 16th March:
Parent Teacher Consultations

Friday 17th March:
Mother's Day Service

Visit to Bayfordbury Observatory
We are very excited about our visit to **Bayfordbury Observatory on the evening of Thursday 2nd February. Details about this visit have already been provided.** Please ensure that your child arrives promptly so that we can get the most out of our session.

