



# Aston St. Mary's Newsletter

Our value this half term is **Forgiveness**

[www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk](http://www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk)

10<sup>th</sup> March 2023

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

## Diary Dates

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March:** Parent Teacher Consultations 3:30pm-5:20pm  
**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March:** Parent Teacher Consultations 3:30pm – 7:00pm  
**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March:** Mother's Day Service at church  
**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March:** Reward Day  
**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March:** Easter Breakfast  
**Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March:** Easter Service. Egg rolling and decoration competitions. Term finishes at 1:00pm.  
PTFA Easter Egg hunt after school  
**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April:** Children return to school for the summer term.  
**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April:** PTFA Non-uniform day – Coronation Hamper Donations  
**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April:** Choir to sing at The Royal Albert Hall  
**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May:** PTFA Non-uniform day. Coronation Jolly Jars and Rainbow Raffle Hamper Draw  
**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May:** School Closed – Coronation Bank Holiday  
**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May:** Year Six SATs assessments  
**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May – Sports Day**  
**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May – Open Morning**  
**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June – Years Five and Six First Aid Training**  
**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June – Year Six Bikeability Training**  
**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June:** Class photos  
**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July:** PTFA Summer Fete and BBQ  
**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July:** Whole School Summer Production.  
**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July:** Class Changeover Day and Secondary School Transition Day

Our value this half term is **forgiveness**, and it always makes us proud to see our children demonstrating our values in school. Last week, Shackadell children were able to articulate how to show someone that you are truly sorry; they understood that 'sorry' is not just a word that makes things better unless it is spoken with sincerity. Our children's depth of thought really does shine through, particularly during class and school worship, when they reflect upon our value through stories, music, prayer and discussion.

Since our last newsletter, lots has been happening in school. Haffydown Class have visited **Hertford Museum**, Shackadell Class have been to the **theatre** and Puddlebridge and Danes Classes have participated in the **K'NEX challenge**. To find out more, please have a look at the class pages. As you will see from the diary dates, more and more dates are being added for the rest of the academic year.

Just a quick reminder, please make sure that your child's **clothing is clearly labelled** with their name – this will ensure that items can be returned to them should they get mislaid.

We are looking forward to our **consultation evenings** next week; these provide a wonderful opportunity to share with you your child's achievements as well as discuss how we can work together to maximise your child's progress going forward.

In the meantime, we hope you have a happy and relaxing weekend and are able to enjoy some important family time.

## ACADEMIC YEAR 2022/2023

### SPRING TERM

Thursday 5th January 2023 to Friday 31st March 2023

### SUMMER TERM

Tuesday 18th April 2023 to Wednesday 19 July 2023

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May: SCHOOL CLOSED Coronation Day**

**HALF TERM Break** - Monday 29th May 2023 to Friday 2nd June 2023

### **INSET DAYS – SCHOOL CLOSED**

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 £3.25 per meal**



**Merit Certificates** were awarded to:

Nyah, Cameron, Aiden,  
Blake, Jessica, Rosie, Betsy,  
Finley, Archie, Tate, Jack C.,  
Hayden, Theo, Ethan O.,  
Darcie, Azariah, Niamh,  
Amelie, Ted, Ben, Ollie,  
Pixie, Maryam, Maisie, Cotis,  
Lily G, Daniel, Nathaniel



## A Thought from Reverend Jenny:

*‘Lent is like snowfall in the soul’* (Rev Mark Oakley). Lent can sometimes seem a blur of busyness in the lead-up to Easter but it’s intended to be six weeks of restorative, *inner* reflection *and* practical reaching *out* to others, giving time and money to those who need our help, following the example of Jesus. Lent invites us to look afresh at our lives, our attitudes and behaviours, and find new purpose, lightness and joy, in living in faith and love.

Giving up small things like alcohol, meat or chocolate, limiting TV watching or Social Media, cultivating a mindset of living more simply helps us live more fully and healthily, treating each day as the gift it is.

Consciously choosing kindness, gratitude, patience, hopefulness, compassion, generosity and forgiveness, unselfishly seeking the best for others, helps us care more deeply for them and for our planet.

Consciously deciding, day by day, to worry or complain, not to bear anger or grudges we learn to be our best selves and find fresh meaning and fulfilment in our situation.

‘The Lord God says: “Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter, when you see the naked, to clothe them?”’ (Isaiah 58:6-7)



**Shining Stars** were awarded to:

Isla, Finley, Isabel, James, Willow,  
Gabiella, Ella, Nikita, James, Kyra,  
Primrose, Brody, Ethan H., Harry B., Ray,  
Aria, Rosie, Sophie, Jessica, Betsy, Theo,  
Joel, Orla, Jack S., Darcie, Nyah, Isadora,  
Ted M., Georgia, Ethan O., Ellis, Tate,  
Lily-Anne, Finley, Jayne, Sophia, Phoebe,  
Isla

# Notices



For the coronation, the village will be holding the following events - no charges, just a donation:

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May - an evening of music in the village hall  
Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May (bank holiday) - afternoon tea and cakes in the village hall

Further details will be available on the noticeboards around the village and the village website.



## Aston's Got Talent



Wow! Aston certainly has got talent! Aston's Got Talent was a huge success and raised £580 for our school.

The performers were simply amazing - every single act was superb. It really does make us very proud to see so many children from across the school performing with such confidence and enthusiasm. They certainly did provide a tough challenge for the judges!

Thank you to everyone involved in making the evening such a success. In particular to our hard-working PTFA and also to the judges, to Mike on sound, the audience and, of course, the children themselves.

## Smarty Schoolwear

We have a new **local** school uniform provider; Smarty Schoolwear. You can now purchase Aston St Mary's uniform in store or order on line (click and collect available). We hope this new supplier will provide parents with an efficient, accessible, good quality, service.

**Book Bags and PE Bags will be available to purchase from the school office.**

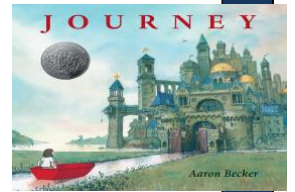
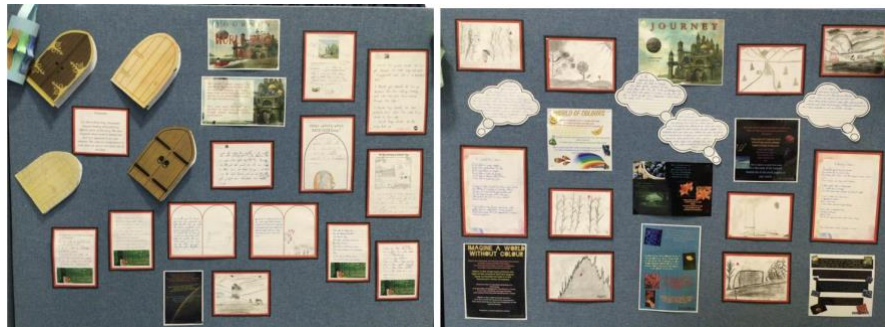
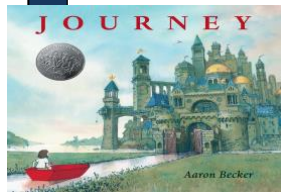
<https://www.smartyschoolwear.co.uk/primary-schools-c1/aston-st-marys-primary-school-c688>

Also, please don't forget our **PTFA sell sustainable uniform**. This eco-friendly approach supports the environment and our families. Further details can be found from the school office or from a member of our PTFA.



# World Book Day – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023

On World Book Day, the whole school enjoyed a day of learning based upon **'Journey'** by **Aaron Becker**. This is an exquisitely illustrated, wordless book, in which an ordinary girl draws a magic door on her bedroom wall. She escapes on an extraordinary journey of magic and adventure. Each class used the book as a stimulus for their own adventure – through spoken language, written words, and art. A whole school display of learning is now in the school hall for everyone to enjoy over the coming weeks.



Our **Book Swap** is proving to be very popular, since World Book Day children have been donating and choosing books on a daily basis. Please look out for the box on the school playground (or in the hall) – you are welcome to choose a book with you child whenever you wish and donations are always welcome.

Finally, don't forget that you child needs to spend their **World Book Day £1 Book Token** by 26<sup>th</sup> March.



# Class News

## Shackadell Class

What a busy time we have had in Shackadell class! We were really fortunate to be able to go on another school trip, this time to the Gordon Craig Theatre to see 'Tales from Acorn Wood' by Julia Donaldson. This was a fantastic trip for us as Julia Donaldson is one of our favourite authors and it also links to one of our curriculum ambitions - performing on a stage. Shackadell class of course behaved beautifully and were a real credit to our school.



We have also spent a lot of time reading books and learning all about fairy tales! We have been making puppets of the different characters in the story and also made wanted posters for some of the 'bad' characters such as the Big Bad Wolf, the Troll and the Fox. This week we have been learning about the Three Billy Goats Gruff.



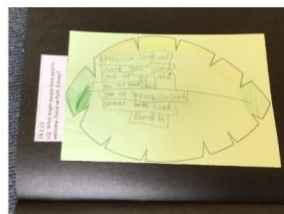
We were really excited to welcome Zara's Mummy in to talk to us about bridge building as she is an engineer. We loved learning all about this and building bridges for the Billy Goats.



# Class News

## Peartree Class

In RE we are learning about Palm Sunday and why Jesus was treated like a celebrity. We used palm leaves to write a message that the people might have said to Jesus when he visited Jerusalem. We then made a whole class picture of what we thought it might have looked like on Palm Sunday.



We finished our portraits of queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth I. We talked about facial features and positions, symmetry and shade and tone. They were very impressive.



For his homework, based on our geography and science topics about weather, Leo filmed a weather forecast about the four seasons. He was so professional that, when faced with distractions (like real reporters often are), he just kept on going. Please scan the QR code to enjoy his report.

Well done Weatherman Leo.



# Class News

## Haffydown Class

To kick start our new History topic about Alfred Russel Wallace, Haffydown visited Hertford Museum. Alfred Russel Wallace lived in Hertford and went to school there. He was most famous for his contributions to the theory of evolution.

We had a workshop where the children learnt key facts about his life and then got to look at examples of animals including an armadillo shell, a hummingbird and a hedgehog. The children then explored the museum and learnt more about the history of Hertford. To finish off the trip, the children had a chance to draw one of the beetles or butterflies that Alfred Russel Wallace collected on his travels. This activity also links in with our Art topic this half of term - Nature.

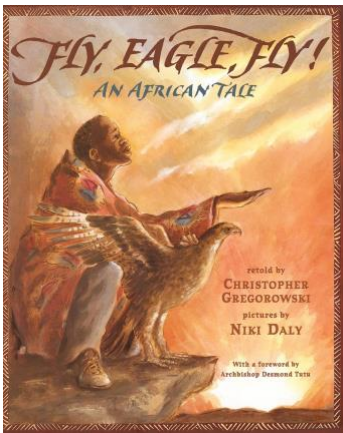
The children enjoyed the trip, and it has given good foundation to the rest of our learning about Alfred Russel Wallace.



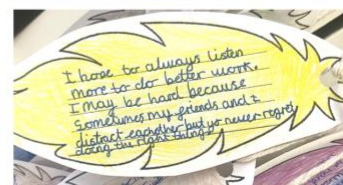
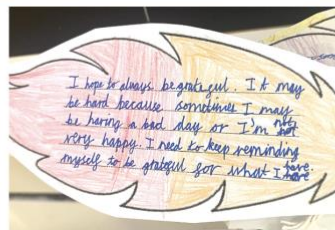
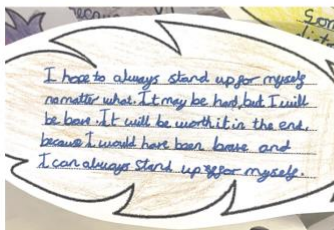
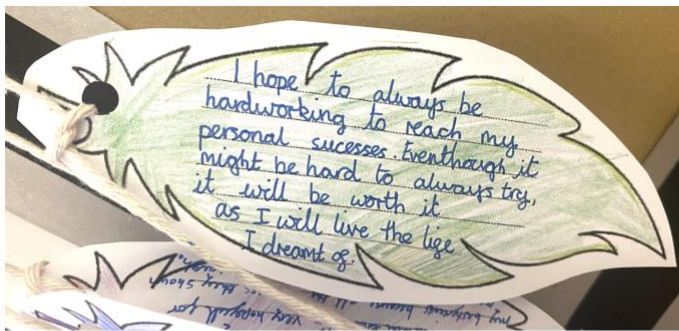


# Class News

## Puddlebridge Class



Over the past few weeks, we have been reading *Fly, Eagle, Fly!* in English. It is a retelling of an African parable about reaching your full potential. As part of our learning, we listened to a speech by Archbishop Desmond Tutu where he talks about the parable and inspires others to fly towards goodness and compassion. We wrote our own hopes for the future, focusing on the kinds of people we want to be. They are displayed in our classroom as part of a dreamcatcher.



Last week, we took part in the GoConstruct K'NEX Challenge. We were set the task of building a crane capable of lifting a load. Our models were then judged on their stability and design. We all worked so well in our pairs, but it was Liam and Willow who took first place in Puddlebridge Class.





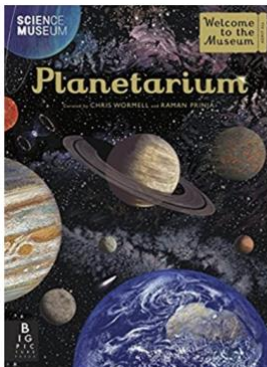
# Class News

## Danes Class

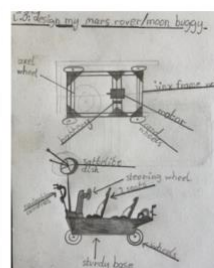
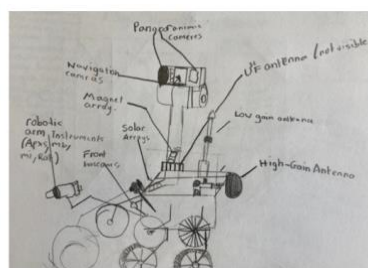
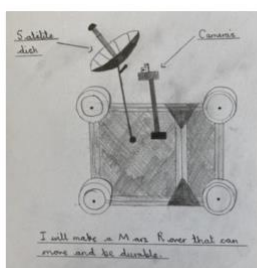
Last week, we enjoyed taking part in the GoConstruct K'NEX Challenge 2023. The children are set a construction task which they have an hour to complete with their partner. This year, the challenge was to construct a crane capable of lifting a load. The models were judged according to their stability and design features. Points were also awarded for teamwork, communication and problem solving. A photo of the winning design goes through to be judged against schools from across Hertfordshire and beyond. A particular well done goes to Muctarr and Ray who were the Danes Class winners.



In English, we have been enjoying the wonderful book *Planetarium* which supports our learning in Science. We have been focussing on the construction of complex sentences to convey detailed and complex information succinctly. Our final extended piece was a non-chronological report about an imaginary planet or moon.



We are very excited about our current Design and Technology project – we are designing and making Moon Buggies or Mars Rovers. These will be powered by an electrical motor. Our designs are simply amazing!



We loved our previous English unit too. Please scan to read some fantastic examples of our narrative writing inspired by 'Boy in the Tower'.