



Aston St. Mary's Newsletter

Our value this half term is **Respect**

www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk

5th May 2023

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

Diary Dates

Monday 8th May: School Closed – Coronation Bank Holiday
Tuesday 9th May – Friday 12th May: Year Six SATs assessments
Friday 19th May – Sports Day (AM)
Thursday 25th May – Open Morning
Friday 26th May – Reserve Sports Day
Friday 9th June – Non-uniform day for SANDS charity
Thursday 15th June – Years Five and Six First Aid Training
Friday 16th June – Father's Day gifts (PTFA)
Monday 19th – Friday 23rd June – Year Six Bikeability Training
Thursday 23rd June: Shackadell Class to Paradise Wildlife Park
Thursday 29th June: Class photos
Saturday 1st July: PTFA Summer Fete and BBQ
Tuesday 4th July: Intervillage Sports
Wednesday 5th July: Danes and Puddlebridge Classes to Wicksteed Park
Thursday 6th July: Haffydown and Peartree Classes to Stanwick Lakes
Monday 10th July: Dress Rehearsal Year 6 Leavers' Treat (PM)
Tuesday 11th July: Whole School Summer Production (1:30pm and 6:00pm)
Wednesday 12th July: Whole School Summer Production (6pm)
Thursday 13th July: Class Changeover Day and Secondary School Transition Day
Friday 14th July: Reward Day
Wednesday 19th July: Leavers' Service (9:30am). Last Day of Term.



What an exciting day we are having in school today celebrating the **King's coronation**! The children look fabulous in their red, white and blue outfits and are enjoying a range of coronation related learning and activities. This afternoon, we will be hosting our very own coronation with children taking on the roles of King Charles and Queen Camilla, members of the royal family and other key figures.

Since the beginning of term, it has been wonderful to observe so many children displaying our new value – **Respect**. They are working hard in their house teams (St. Albans, St. Paul's, Coventry and Canterbury) in order to earn lots of **house points**. The weekly totals for each house team are displayed in our school hall as well as on the website and on page two of the newsletter.

On Sunday, our school choir made us very, very proud with their fantastic performance at **The Royal Albert Hall**. Please see page three for more information and photos of the event. **Thank you to Mrs Crowley** for leading the choir and organising this exciting opportunity.

The summer term is always a very busy term in school. Next week, **Year Six** have their **SATs assessments**. These are followed over the coming weeks by: **Year Two assessments**; **Year One phonic screening** and the **Year Four multiplication check**. Please check the date list carefully as there is lots else going on this term including sporting events, off site visits and our whole school summer production.

We wish you all a very happy **Bank Holiday weekend** in which we will witness a key event in British history. We will look forward to seeing the children back in school on Tuesday.



ACADEMIC YEAR 2022/2023

SUMMER TERM

Tuesday 18th April 2023 to Wednesday 19 July 2023

Monday 8th May: SCHOOL CLOSED Coronation Day

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

ACADEMIC YEAR 2023/2024

AUTUMN TERM

Monday 4th September 2023 to Tuesday 19th December 2023

HALF TERM Break – Monday 23rd October 2023-Friday 27th October 2023

Occasional Day: Monday 27th November 2023 – SCHOOL CLOSED

SPRING TERM

Thursday 4th January 2024 to Thursday 28th March 2024

HALF TERM BREAK - Monday 19th February 2024– Friday 23rd February 2024

SUMMER TERM

Tuesday 16th April 2024 to Friday 19th July 2024

Bank Holiday – Monday 6th May 2024 – SCHOOL CLOSED

HALF TERM Break – Monday 27th May 2024 – Friday 31st May 2024

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:

Poppy-Belle, Rosie, Harry H, Nikita, Joshua, Evie, Teddy, Jack, Amelie, Aariv, Theo, Orlagh, Flynn, Jack



Shining Stars were awarded to:

Cameron, Ella, Gabriella, Evie, Nikita

House Points

Canterbury



448

St. Paul's



370

St Albans



410

Coventry



454

A Thought from Reverend Jenny:

'Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could only do a little.' (Edmund Burke)

'Life is never so busy that there is no time to serve.' (anon)

Monarchy used to be all about them - their power and glory, pleasure and wellbeing. Monarchy today is about service, exemplified by our late Queen Elizabeth II who, for 70 years, dedicated herself to the service of her people, putting duty first.

Speaking immediately after his mother's death, King Charles made a life-long commitment to follow his mother's pattern 'of a service of loyalty, respect, and love', based on the example of Jesus, who 'came not to be served but to serve'.

Jesus invites each of us to follow him in living for others, seeking the wellbeing of the whole community, moving beyond self-interest to self-sacrifice. As King Charles prepares for his Coronation, we pray that God will strengthen, guide and equip him (and us) in this calling to care and serve.



Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for you: give us the will to be the servant of others as you were the servant of all, and gave up your life and died for us, but are alive and reign, now and forever.

Amen

Notices

Our School Choir Perform at The Royal Albert Hall

Sunday 30th April 2023

Wow! What a performance! On Sunday, our Year Four, Five and Six choir performed at the Hertfordshire Gala Concert at The Royal Albert Hall. This event last took place just before lockdown, but is usually staged every other year. The choir performed Jonathan Dove's Seaside Postcard, a large scale choral and orchestral composition that included three movements; the first movement depicted a calm sea, it then moved on to a 'wish you were here' theme, before concluding with everybody 'having a lovely time' at the seaside. The choir also enjoyed the concert finale, which began with an outstanding performance of 'From Now On' from the Greatest Showman, followed by John Miles' famous song 'Music'. It really was a very special occasion and an amazing experience for all involved.



Parking

We would like to remind parents and carers to be considerate about where they park at drop-off and pick-up. Recently, there have been some occasions when **residents' drives** have been blocked leaving them unable to leave or return home. Also, please remember that the **school car park** is for the use of **staff and school visitors only.**

Parking away from School Lane (e.g. at the village hall) and walking not only keeps our children safer but also provides fresh air and exercise.



Notices



GRAYLING
creating advantage

Mrs Winwood
Aston St Mary's Primary School
School Lane
Aston
Hertfordshire
SG2 7JHA

10 March 2023

Dear Mrs Winwood

An update on site and road naming ideas for the development of Land East of Gresley Way

I am writing this letter on behalf of Redrow, to provide you with an update on the ideas for site road names that pupils of Aston St Mary's Primary School shared, for the new development off Gresley Way.

As you may recall, in 2018, Leader of East Herts District Council, Councillor Linda Haysey asked students at your school to suggest names for the site, then known as Land East of Gresley Way, and its roads. As we noted to the children in November 2021, Redrow was very impressed with the students' suggestions and subsequently passed them on to the District Council, who make the final decision as to what street names are used in the local area.

We are very happy to let you know that the District Council has now granted Redrow permission to use a number of the children's ideas. Whilst we are conscious that some of the children who suggested these names have now left Aston St Mary's, we wanted to reach out to you in the first instance to share this news. The names that the children suggested back in 2018 and a site plan for Redrow's first housing phase which highlights the District Council's approved road names are attached for reference.

In recognition of the children's efforts and interest in this project, Redrow are pleased to provide a £200 book voucher as a thank-you for the children's successful road names. Redrow would be delighted for the school to use the voucher towards updating the reading material in the classroom reading corners or library area.

If you would like to find out more about Redrow's development, you can visit the project website here: www.redrowstevenage.co.uk or email us at: eos1@communitycomms.co.uk

Kind regards

Joe Cawley

Head of Engage
Grayling

School Council Update



We are delighted to have received a **£200 Book Voucher** from Redrow in recognition of the work of members of our School Council back in 2018. They worked with Mr Falder to suggest possible road names for the new development off Gresley Way.

We are constantly buying new books for classes and our school library so this voucher will enable us to purchase lots of new books for the children to enjoy.



Times Table Rockstars



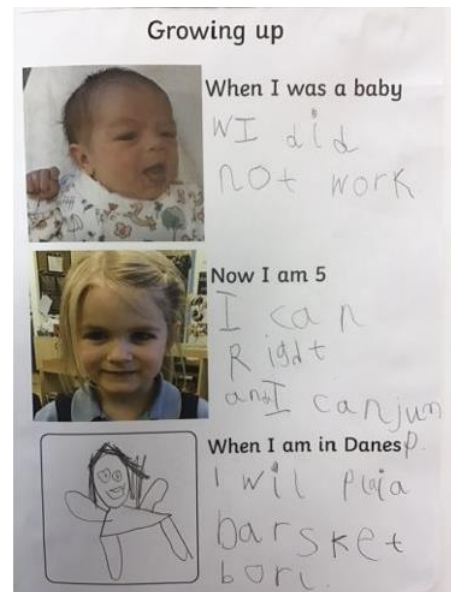
We are so impressed by the progress being made by many children in Year Two upwards in securing their recall of multiplication facts using **Times Tables Rockstars**. Children in **Year Four** will soon be taking their **multiplication check** – this is a government test for all pupils in Year Four. The expectation is that, by the end of Year Four, children are **fluent up to 12 x 12**. We now have many children achieving this level of fluency by the end of **Year Three** or even **Year Two** – **regular practise on TTRS really is the key to success**. We are very proud that Aston St. Mary's is currently ranked **third** in the top thirty nearby schools (one of the schools ahead of us is a secondary school!).

Keep up the great work – securing fluency really does impact positively upon learning across the maths curriculum.

Class News

Shackadell Class

This week, Shackadell have been learning about the human life cycle. The children have had great fun looking closely at themselves in the mirror to draw self-portraits. They have also written about different stages of their own life cycle and sequenced pictures. They had lots of fun matching the baby photos to each child and their teachers! They have also been role playing in the baby clinic, measuring and weighing their babies and making their own 'red books'.



Last Friday, the children were able to bring in a baby or teddy from home to apply this week's learning. We made sure to have feeding times, nap times, story times and even a tour of the school! We were so impressed by the beautiful sharing and kind words from all the children and everyone's 'can do' attitude when looking after their baby or pet. Some children used the iPads to take pictures of their babies and others made mobiles for their cots.



It has been such a good week of learning and the children have really displayed so many of our school values.

Class News

Peartree Class

We are now well into the first part of the summer term, and we have a lot of exciting things coming up.

We have enjoyed our DT lessons where we tasted and evaluated salads; we also planned, made and evaluated our own salads. We used several different techniques when preparing our salads.



The 'bridge' cut



Grating



The 'claw' slice



Mixing

We have also been learning about what plants need to grow and have planted our sunflower seeds.

We think that plants need soil, sunlight and water to grow into healthy plants. We have set up an experiment to test this by changing one thing with some other seeds. We are changing one thing to make it a fair test. We have planted one seed with no soil, one with no water and the last with no sunlight. Most of our plants that have all the things we think they need are beginning to grow already.



In English, we are looking at a new book by Julia Donaldson, which is based on a Chinese traditional tale. This is linked to our geography and art topics about China.



We look forward to sharing all the exciting work we will be doing over the next few weeks.

Class News

Haffydown Class

It has been a busy start to the summer term, and we hope the children are looking forward to their learning for the term ahead. As part of our DT, the children designed and created their own smoothie. We discussed the importance of balanced diet and how to include a variety of fruit and vegetables in their meals. For the research, we tried different smoothies. Once they had decided what to include in their smoothie, the children then prepared the fruit and vegetables. This was a great opportunity for them to practise their cutting skills with a knife. Finally, they tried their smoothies - they all looked delicious!



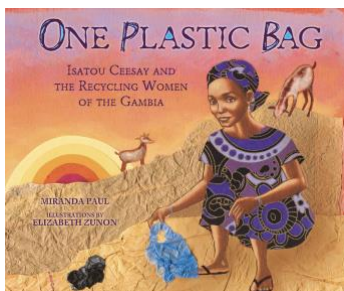
At the start of the term, we started a new book called Atlas of Adventures and we have explored a variety of different places around the world. Last week, the children wrote and performed a radio broadcast about different festivals. The festivals included: Holi festival in India, the Hot Air Balloon festival in Canada and Rio Carnival in Brazil. They should be very proud of their performance reading. You can scan the QR codes to listen to their broadcasts.



Year 4 have started our new Science unit, *Living Things and their Habitats*. We have learned about the seven life processes that all living things do (MRS NERG). We then learned how scientist classify living things by studying branching databases. After exploring our local environment, we created our own branching databases to classify the different minibeasts living on the school field.

Class News

Danes Class



In English, we have been writing persuasive speeches to encourage people to reduce their use of single-use plastic. We were inspired by the book 'One Plastic Bag' by Miranda Paul. This tells the inspiring story of Isatou Ceesay and the recycling women of The Gambia. We enjoyed learning all about The Gambia as well as reading the thought-provoking tale of ecological awareness and recycling. If you would like to hear some of our speeches, scan the QR codes below.



We have now completed our sequence of science lessons about the properties and changes of materials. We have learnt about reversible and irreversible changes – we were amazed to discover that dissolving a solute in a solvent can actually be reversible. To test this, we heated some salt solution over a candle; eventually the water evaporated, and the salt was left behind. Observing the irreversible, chemical reaction between vinegar and bicarbonate of soda was great fun! There were so many bubbles that the cup overflowed. The bubbles showed that a new material (carbon dioxide) had been produced meaning that we had observed an irreversible change.



In History, we are learning about Thomas Clarkson and the Transatlantic Slave Trade. We have been shocked to discover how enslaved people were treated and how they were traded for goods and shipped across the Atlantic Ocean in appalling conditions to work on plantations in the Americas. Thomas Clarkson was an abolitionist who devoted his life to ending the enslavement of human beings. There is a memorial to him not far from school – just a few miles away in the village of Wadesmill.



We would like to wish all of Year Six the very best of luck in their SATs assessments next week; they have worked incredibly hard throughout the year and have made excellent progress. This weekend it is important that they take a break and enjoy the coronation celebrations!

MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING

**1 DAY CHAMPION COURSE
FOR PARENTS & CARERS OF
8 TO 18-YEAR-OLDS
FREE TRAINING
09:30AM - 16:00PM**



WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

- AN UNDERSTANDING OF COMMON MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES AND HOW THEY CAN AFFECT YOUNG PEOPLE
- ABILITY TO SPOT SIGNS OF MENTAL ILL HEALTH IN YOUNG PEOPLE AND GUIDE THEM TO A PLACE OF SUPPORT
- KNOWLEDGE AND CONFIDENCE TO ADVOCATE FOR MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS
- SKILLS TO SUPPORT POSITIVE WELLBEING

COURSE STRUCTURE

SESSION 1- ABOUT, WHAT IS MENTAL HEALTH AND MENTAL ILL HEALTH, STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION, DEPRESSION AND SUICIDE.
SESSION 2 MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS: ANXIETY, SELF-HARM, EATING DISORDERS, PSYCHOSIS, RECOVERY, RESILIENCE

For further information please contact:
hweicbhv.schoolsmh@nhs.net

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING



**BOOKING LINKS
1 DAY CHAMPION COURSE FOR
PARENTS/CARERS
09:30AM - 16:00PM**

Dates	Location	Booking Link	Parking
19th May 2023	The Hub, Fleetville Junior School, St Albans	Booking Link	Limited on site parking

For further information please contact:
hweicbhv.schoolsmh@nhs.net



Hertfordshire
Family Centre
Service



School Nursing

Summer Term
2023

Public Health Nursing 5-19 Team Newsletter

Ways to contact us

0300 123 7572
(Mon-Fri 9am-5pm)

Our referral website, which also has information about our service:
<http://ow.ly/eeWe50KI1gW>

Please see below our Workshop link, with lots of advice and support on your child's emotional health, returning to school, and more.

<http://ow.ly/Qn9G50KI17f>

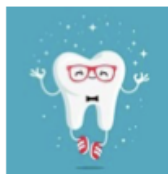
www.healthforkids.co.uk

A fun and interactive website for children to access health information, with also information for parents available.



Top Tips

Children and young people are entitled to free regular dental and optician check ups and treatments. This includes orthodontic treatment if needed. If children are not yet registered with a dentist it is important to register as soon as possible. Please see the link below of dentists taking new patients currently.



www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/dentists/how-to-find-an-nhs-dentist/

We see children aged 4-5 for an eye test in school. If there are any concerns we will refer to the children's eye service.

It is advised that children see a high street optician every 12-18 months.

Q&A

Q - What support can you offer my child?

A - We can offer of support for emotional health and wellbeing (including anxiety, anger, self esteem and bereavement) and signposting to further services if required.

An app which can be used for children aged 7-12 with managing anxiety can be found here:

[Lumi Nova: Tales of Courage](#)

Q - Can I refer my child to you?

A - Parents and professionals can refer to us using the referral form on our website.

There is also more information on our referral criteria which can also be found on our website.

<https://www.hct.nhs.uk/service-details/-/service/school-nursing-56>

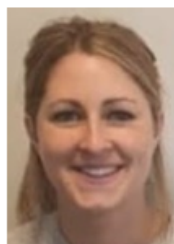
<https://www.hertsfamilycentres.org/info-and-advice/parents-and-mums-to-be/school-nurses.aspx>

Who we are

Hi, I am Katie, a Specialist Community Public Health Nurse (SCPHN) who works in the School Nursing team.

My role is to provide a link between school, home and the community, offering a health-focused perspective to improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people. Working in public health allows me to work in partnership with other professionals, supporting vulnerable families and facilitate health-enhancing behaviours.

The SCPHN programme allowed me to appreciate the value of our role in promoting and protecting the public's health by promoting healthy lifestyles.



Keeping safe in the community

Your child may be exposed to lots of different influences outside of home, for example their peers, friends, online activities and also in the community.

In most cases, these influences are very positive for a child and bring them opportunities to socialise, learn and thrive.

However, in some situations, some children may become involved in activities in their community that put them at risk of danger.

The best way to understand community risk and safety is to show an interest in what your child does when they are out of the home or online and creating a safe space for your children to talk to you about their experiences and how they feel.

Conversations with your child can help to tip the balance towards your child being safer.

Please see link below for further information:

<http://ow.ly/nF2O50NWtTX>

CWP Workshops

The Children's Wellbeing Practitioners (CWP) are pleased to offer the following workshops to parents and/or young people focused on emotional wellbeing and mental health.



Please see below website for up to date workshops:

www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/hct-childrens-wellbeing-practitioners-33494371787



Hertfordshire
**Family Centre
Service**



Want to know more about the Public Health School Nursing team in Hertfordshire?

Check out our platforms:



[https://www.hertsfamilycentres.org/info-and-advice/
parents-and-mums-to-be/school-nurses.aspx#](https://www.hertsfamilycentres.org/info-and-advice/parents-and-mums-to-be/school-nurses.aspx#)

www.hct.nhs.uk/our-services/school-nursing



07480 635 050

Confidential text message service ran by the school nursing team
for 11-19 year olds. Text in any health and wellbeing concerns



@hct_schoolnursing

@teenhealth.hct



@HCT_SchoolNurse



Hct SchoolNursing



www.healthforkids.co.uk/hertfordshire



www.healthforteens.co.uk/hertfordshire



School nursing duty number

0300 123 7572

9am – 5pm Monday to Friday
(excluding bank holidays)



Hertfordshire
Music Service



Family World Percussion Day

Join us for an uplifting morning of music-making with family and friends

Have a go at samba drumming, djembe drumming and steel pans!

No previous musical experience necessary – all instruments provided



For ages 7 – 107!

No unaccompanied children



Sign up on line at [Stevenage Music Centre](https://hertsmusicservice.org.uk)
(hertsmusicservice.org.uk)

or by scanning the attached QR code

Deadline 31st May 2023

Prices:

Adult £10

Concession £8.50

Child (7+) £6.50

Family Pass (2 adults, 2 children) £30

(please specify ticket required on application)

Venue: Stevenage Music Centre, Mobbsbury Way, SG2 0HS

Day and time: Saturday 10th June 2023, 9am to 12.30pm

Contact us: 01438 844518

For more up-to-date information and to find out about more events follow us on Twitter and Facebook - [@HMSStevenage](https://twitter.com/HMSStevenage)

Follow @HertsMusic



Hertfordshire Music Service

hertsmusicservice.org.uk

