



Aston St. Mary's Newsletter

Our value this half term is **Respect**

www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk

26th May 2023

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

Diary Dates

Friday 9th June – Non-uniform day for SANDS charity

Quiz Night (adults only) 7pm for 7:30pm

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

Tuesday 18th July: Whole school trip to Campus West Cinema WGC

Wednesday 19th July: Leavers' Service (9:30am). Last Day of Term.

We have reached that time of year when the weeks just seem to fly by! After an incredibly busy term so far, we can't quite believe that we are at the half term break already! We are sure that you will agree that **Sports Day** last week was a great success; it was wonderful that so many parents, friends and family were able to join us to support and encourage the children. It was also fantastic to welcome everyone back into school yesterday for our **Open Morning** – this provides a great opportunity to share the range of exciting learning that goes on across the school. We really do appreciate all your **kind words and positive feedback** and are delighted that events such as these are so well-supported and appreciated.

Recent weeks have seen both Year Six and Year Two complete their **SATs assessments**. Our children really do make us very proud; both year groups have approached their tests with their usual enthusiasm and determination – we know they have done their very best. You may have seen news reports of Year Six pupils becoming distressed by the difficulty of some of the papers – this certainly was not the case at Aston. The children enjoyed their week and stepped up to the challenge.

We have been very impressed by the children's **polite and respectful behaviour** throughout the school this term. This is demonstrated by the calm atmosphere for learning in the classrooms; the happy, active playtimes and the respectful environment during daily class and school worship. It is great to see everyone working hard to earn house points for their teams – well done to **Coventry** house for earning the most points this half term and to **St. Paul's** house for winning Sports Day.

The children are very excited to be starting work on our end of year Summer Production – **The Wizard of Oz**. The older children were given their parts this week and have already begun to learn their lines. Please check the dates for this, and the many other events next half term, are in your diary!

Have a **wonderful half term break** and we look forward to seeing the children back in school on **Monday 5th June**.

ACADEMIC YEAR 2022/2023

SUMMER TERM

Tuesday 18th April 2023 to Wednesday 19 July 2023

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

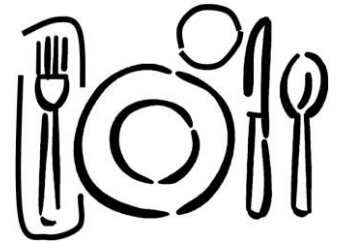
HALF TERM Break – Monday 27th May 2024 – Friday 31st May 2024

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



Shining Stars were
awarded to:

LJ, Austin, Ava, Niamh
and Keely

House Point Winners

Well done to Coventry House for
earning the most house points this half
term!



House Points

Canterbury



768

St. Paul's



697

St. Albans



713

Coventry



786

A Thought from Reverend Jenny:

Ascension Day, when the risen Jesus returns to God in heaven 40 days after Easter, was Thursday 18th May, but it is an important event in the Christian year so we celebrate it today, the nearest Sunday. It's a strange story. St Luke tells us (in his gospel and its sequel the book of Acts) that Jesus 'withdrew' from the disciples and 'a cloud takes' Jesus out of their sight. It's baffling today because, unlike Luke, we no longer believe God and heaven are UP there, in the sky.

What happens, how it happens, Jesus' ascension into heaven is outside our ordinary, everyday human experience - like Jesus' birth, miracles and resurrection from the dead at Easter! the awesome power of God, beyond the limit of our human understanding.

But Jesus doesn't want his followers to stand around, looking at the sky, trying to figure it out. As Jesus leaves the disciples on Ascension Day he blesses them so they/we can be a blessing to others. Whatever our questions or doubts, Jesus gives them and us a job to do - to carry on his work, following his example of love and service, building God's kingdom on earth, making a difference for good to our world.



Notices

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Rosie who has recently passed her Grade 1 piano exam with merit. We are so proud of you!



Coronation T-shirts

Thank you to everyone who purchased a Coronation T-shirt. An impressive £317 was raised for school funds. A big thank you also to Mrs Crowley for devoting so much time and effort in order to make them all!



King Charles III Artwork Display

Well done to all the children who submitted a coronation picture for the display in the Salvation Army shop in Welwyn Garden City. It was lovely to see such beautiful pieces on display in the shop window for everyone to enjoy. They received lots of praise from members of the public.



Campus West Cinema Trip

Tuesday 18th July 2023

We are very excited to be able to take the whole school for an end of year treat to the cinema in Welwyn Garden City. This has been made possible by an extremely generous **anonymous donation** to the school for which we are very grateful. Our children really are very lucky, and we would like to say a huge **THANK YOU** to the donor. Thank you also to the **PTFA** for funding the cost of the coaches.

Thank You!

Notices

Attendance



Attendance continues to be a key priority across the school - this is currently 97% this term. Danes Class deserve a special mention for having the highest score - with Peartree and Puddlebridge Classes close behind.

DANES: 98.1%

Peartree: 98.0%

Puddlebridge: 97.8%

Haffydown: 96.6%

Shackadell: 94.6%

**'Attend Today and Achieve
Tomorrow'**

It's Quiz Night!

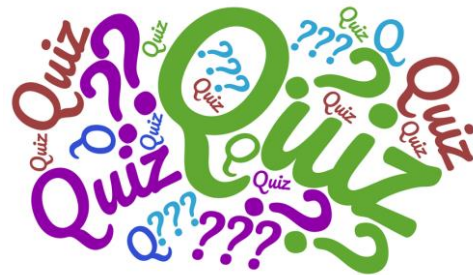
Friday 9th June (7pm for 7:30pm start)

Bring along a team of up to eight people (adults only). £6 per person - payable on the night. There will also be a raffle.

All money goes towards the Governor Fund which helps to pay for projects such as our new windows, security gates etc.

Please speak to Mrs Winwood or email closed@astonmarys.herts.sch.uk if you would like a table.

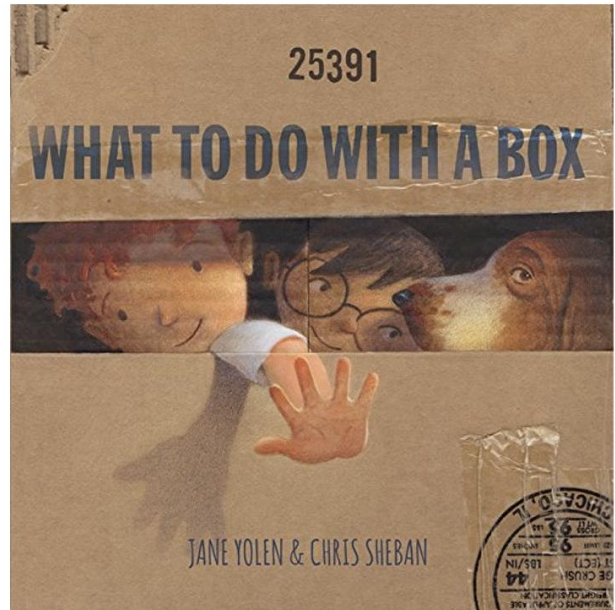
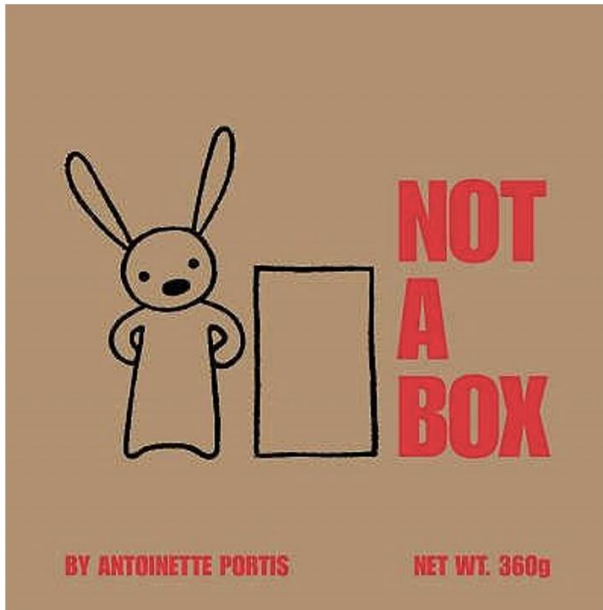
Many thanks in advance to our quiz master - Mr Preston.



**Congratulations to our Sports Day winners:
St. Paul's House**

Class News

Shackadell Class



This week has been a very exciting week in Shackadell because it has been 'box week'! We have been reading books about how creative you can be with a cardboard box. We read 'What to do with a Box' by Jane Yolen and Chris Sheban. We also read 'Not a Box' by Antoinette Portis. It has been really fun to let our imaginations run wild and think of all the things we could make. We drew and labelled designs for our ideas. Then we invited our parents and carers in to help us to create our wonderful masterpieces.

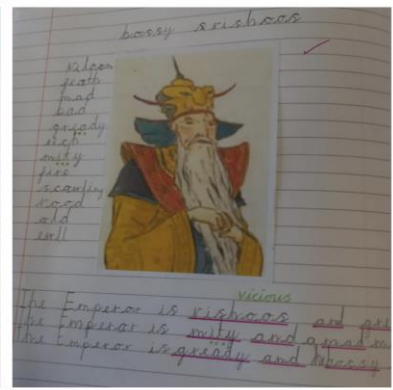
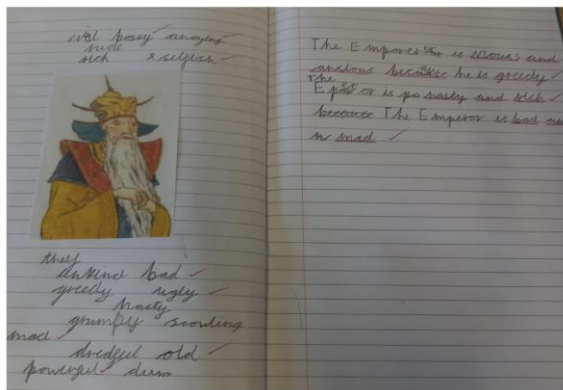


Class News

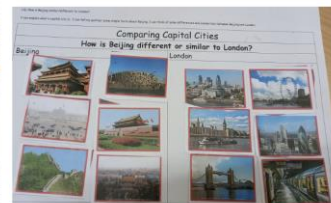
Peartree Class



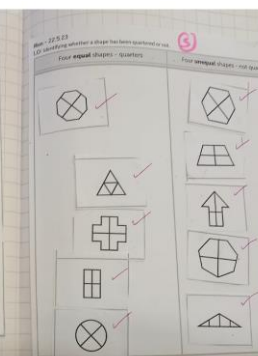
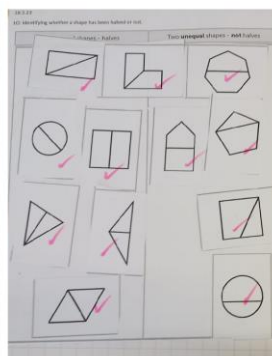
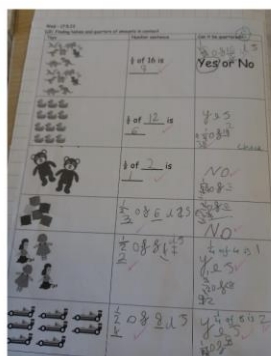
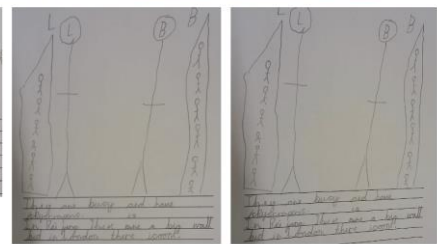
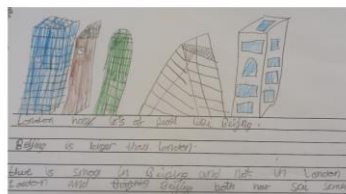
In English, we have been looking at a book based on an old traditional folk tale from China. The magic Paintbrush by Julia Donaldson. We have been writing character descriptions about the emperor and finding great adjectives to describe him.



We have also been looking at differences and similarities between the capital cities of England and China. (London and Beijing).



Did you know that, due to pollution causing a smog, the Chinese government have reduced traffic by allocating days of the week for certain cars?

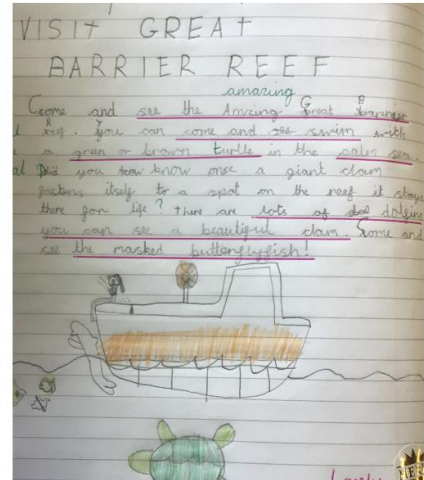
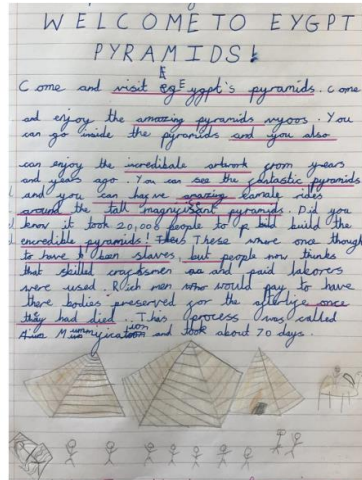
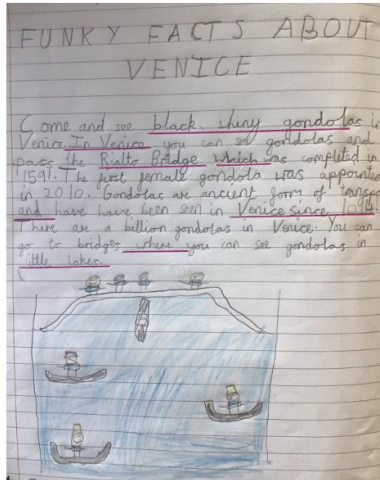


In maths, we have been learning about halves and quarters. We know that the bottom number (the denominator) tells us how many EQUAL parts or groups make a whole.

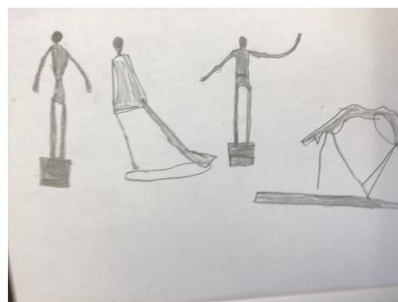
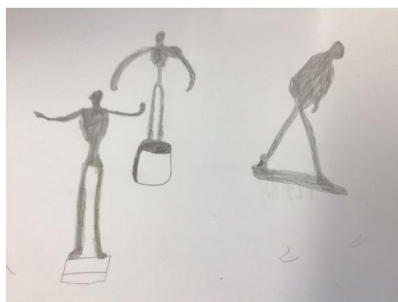
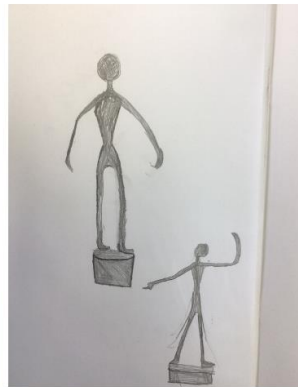
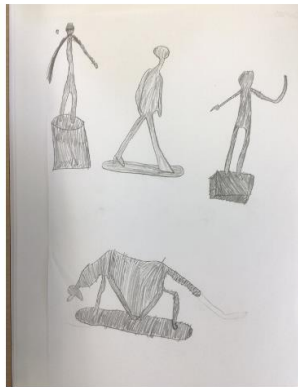
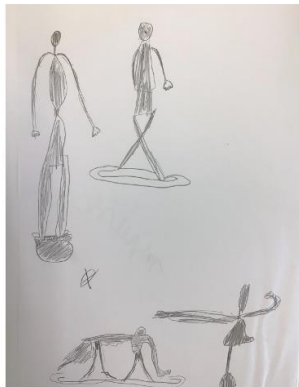
Class News

Haffydown Class

We recently finished the book 'Atlas of Adventures'. Haffydown explored different parts of the world and to finish the book the children wrote a travel leaflet for either the Dead Sea, the Great Barrier Reef, the Great Pyramids of Giza, Alaska, or Venice. They used the text to inform their writing and it was important that they made their chosen location as welcoming as possible.



In Art, we are focusing on the artist Alberto Giacometti. The children observed different sculptures by Giacometti. They studied the shape of each sculpture and drew what they could see. This is the first step in our learning about Giacometti and Haffydown will have the opportunity to create their own Giacometti inspired sculpture.



A big well done to the Year 2s who sat their KS1 SATs. They showed determination and resilience and should be proud of themselves.

Class News

Puddlebridge Class

In English, we have read *The Listeners*, a poem by Walter de la Mare. We have been inspired by his interesting use of vocabulary and are working towards writing our own poetry. We wrote our own expanded noun phrases to describe a mysterious forest.



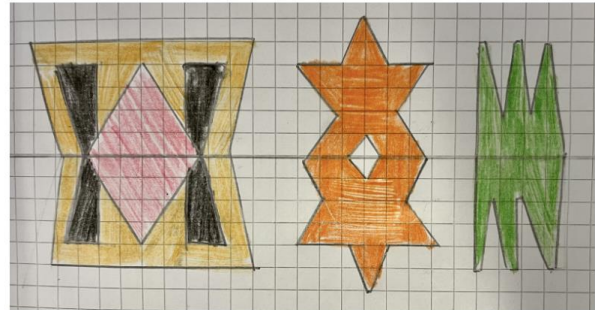
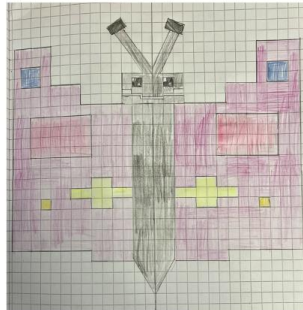
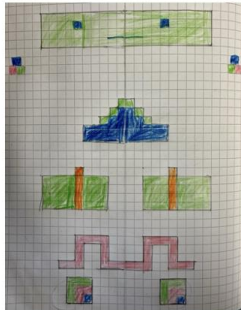
trees whisper, longing
to tell you their secrets



damp, damaged twigs
snapping deafeningly in the
mysterious, shadowy forest

Wet grass rustling eerily
in the dark forest

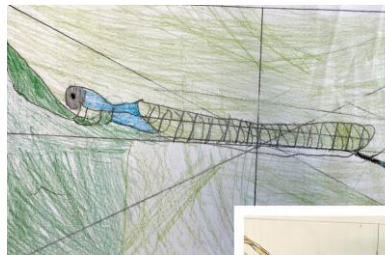
In Maths, Year 4 have been learning written methods for multiplication and division, while Year 5 have been focusing on translation and reflection. Have a look at some of our symmetrical patterns:



In Art, we have been learning about Vincent van Gogh and his famous landscapes. This week, we had a go at copying one of his pieces of work in order to practise our oil pastel skills (left).



In Science, Year 4 have enjoyed looking closely at different insects. We have learned that scientist need to observe living things closely in order to classify them accurately. We were inspired by Levon Biss, who takes extremely detailed photographs of different minibeasts.



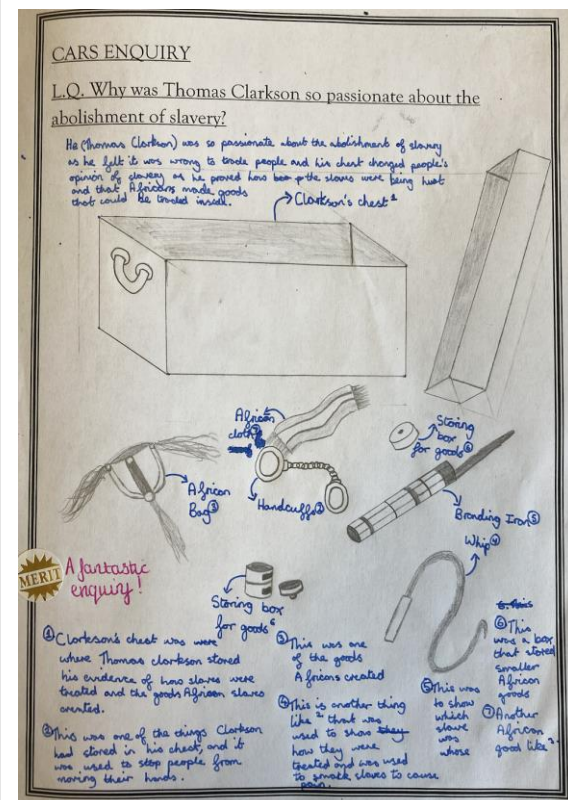
Class News

Danes Class

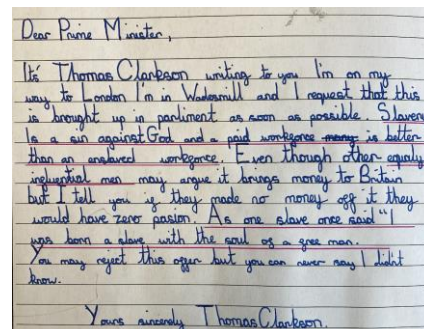


Year Six made us all so proud during their SATs week. They had smiles on their faces all week and tackled some tricky papers with such confidence and determination. They had great fun celebrating the end of the tests with a party in the park. We think that you will agree that they look wonderful in their new leavers' hoodies!

Last week in DT, Danes Class enjoyed making bread rolls. Before making their bread, they first sampled different breads from around the world. Making the bread linked perfectly to our recent learning in science about irreversible changes. Thank you to Joyce, our school cook, for leading this session. The children shared in their evaluations their favourite flavours – some preferred cheese, others banana, tomato or garlic and herb.



In History this half term, we have been learning about Thomas Clarkson and the Transatlantic Slave Trade. Thomas Clarkson was an abolitionist who devoted his life to campaigning to stop the trading of enslaved human beings. There is a memorial to him nearby in Wadesmill as he often stopped there when travelling to London. Last week, we completed historical enquiries where we looked at some of the artefacts and evidence that Thomas Clarkson collected in order to convince people that slavery should be abolished.





GOT CONCERNS ABOUT FUSSY EATING?

Won't eat their veggies?

Can't get them to try new foods?

Join BeeZee Bodies and lots of other parents who struggle with fussy eating, on our special **FUSSY EATING MASTERCLASS**.

It will be led by our Nutritionists who can help you understand why they might be picky, how to manage it and practical tips you can implement today.

Whatever their age, if you are struggling with your child's fussiness around food, sign up for free!

SIGN UP FOR YOUR FREE SESSION:

Tuesday 20th June 6pm -7pm


Click below or scan QR to sign up:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/fussy-eating-masterclass-tickets-591529710287>



 BeeZee Families

 01707 248648

 beezeebodies.com



Funded mental health workshops, advice and support for Parents and Carers in Hertfordshire



Nessie is funded by Hertfordshire County Council to support parents/carers of children and young people with emotional and mental health issues. The aim of this work is to help parents/carers develop a positive and more confident approach to supporting their young person, whilst offering a chance to gain peer support; useful strategies and practical tools.

What we offer:

- **Free online and face-to-face workshops on a range of mental healths that affect children and young people**
- **Parent Support line**
Tel: 07932 651319
(open Thursdays 9 am - 12 pm or by appointment)
- **Private moderated Facebook support groups:**
- **NESSie Parent/Carer Support Group**
- **1-1 support and advice sessions**
- **Peer support groups:** A confidential group, where parents will have an opportunity to share their experiences, support each other through challenges, and identify coping strategies.

For more information, please [CLICK HERE](#)



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<https://nessieined.com/>

Helping children and young people thrive

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
15th June 2023	The Pod, Northfields Infant and Nursery School, Letchworth	Booking Link	Parking available on surrounding roads
4th July 2023	Oak Suite , Peartree Spring Primary School, Stevenage	Booking Link	

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



YEAR 6 TRANSITION WORKSHOP

Delivered by Stevenage Mental Health Support Team

Workshop for Families at all Stevenage Primary Schools

What:

TRANSITION WORKSHOP for parents/carers of Year 6 pupils transitioning into secondary schools.

Year 6-7 can bring up many different feelings including worry. We will discuss these feelings and suggest ways to support the transition process.

Follow the link to book your place via Eventbrite.



When:

Friday 9 June 2023

12:00 – 13:00

Tuesday 13 June 2023

18:00 – 19:00

Wednesday 21 June 2023

09:30 – 10:30

Monday 3 July 2023

18:00 – 19:00

Wednesday 5 July 2023

19:00 – 20:00

Where:

Online

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/617719665147>

Online

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/617720437457>

Peartree Spring Primary School - SG2 9GG

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/year-6-to-year-7-transition-face-to-face-workshop-1-parentscareers-tickets-634589132177>

Fairlands Primary School - SG1 3JA

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/624237550317>

Online

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/617721350187>



AFC WALKERN GIRLS



**UNDER 10s
23/24 SEASON**

Does your daughter have what it takes to play competitive football?

Trials still open for new players Location: Chells park, Stevenage Tuesdays at 6pm

All positions available

Please text the below number for more details:

07522775574

Tune to ASD



Jessica Kuffour
Lead Consultant
Tune into ASD

Tune ToGether

**An Autism Awareness Chill and Chat Session
Facilitated by Jessica Kuffour and Dami Rock**

A time to chat about Autism and related conditions.
A time to listen, ask questions and share experiences from various perspectives.

Episode 15

Thursday 1st June 2023

7.30pm-8.30pm GMT via Zoom

Are you:

- a parent/carer or a family member of someone diagnosed with Autism or related condition or awaiting an assessment?
- an adult on the Autistic Spectrum, have a related condition or exploring an assessment?
- an Educator or another professional who works with people diagnosed with Autism or related conditions?

You may be all of the above or none of the above but you feel passionate about connecting more with the wonders of our world and gaining more insight into ways to embrace the difference.

There's no fixed agenda so we will just flow with you and whatever comes our way. We will make sure the tribe has what we need. Come find your tribe here with us.

Come let's talk.

Bring your own drinks, come zoom with us with your camera on or off. Let's tune in together.

**To register for this free event please visit: www.tuneintoasd.com
or email: letstalk@tuneintoasd.com**



Dami Rock
Creative Strategist
Filmmakers Therapy Couch

