



# Aston St. Mary's Newsletter

Our value this half term is **Wisdom**

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

23<sup>rd</sup> June 2023

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

## Diary Dates

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June:** Class photos

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June:** Non-uniform day please bring £1 towards PTFA raffle prizes

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July:** PTFA Summer Fete and BBQ

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July:** Intervillage Sports

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July:** Danes and Puddlebridge Classes to Wicksteed Park

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July:** Haffydown and Peartree Classes to Stanwick Lakes

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July:** Dress Rehearsal

Year 6 Leavers' Treat (PM)

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July:** Whole School Summer Production (1:30pm and 6:00pm)

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July:** Whole School Summer Production (6pm)

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July:** Class Changeover Day and Secondary School Transition Day

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July:** Reward Day

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July:** Whole school trip to Campus West Cinema WGC

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July:** Leavers' Service (9:30am). Last Day of Term.

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September:** Children return to school after summer

Today we were delighted to welcome visitors into school to conduct our **SIAMs** (Statutory inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) inspection. This gave us an opportunity to share and celebrate our distinctive Christian vision: '**Every Child is a Treasure – small in size, growing in God's Love**'. We really are immensely proud of our children and our school – we will share with you the inspection report when it is published.

Rehearsals are now well underway for our whole school production of **The Wizard of Oz**. The next couple of weeks will be especially busy as the classes come together to put the show together. Thank you for your support with providing your child with a costume – please do let your child's class teacher know if you need any support with this. Due to the size of our hall, tickets are limited to two per family. Once tickets have been allocated, additional tickets may become available to families with children in Year Six.

It has certainly been a busy week in school. Yesterday **Shackadell Class** enjoyed a fun-filled day at **Paradise Wildlife Park** – please see their class page to find out more. Meanwhile, **Year Six** have completed their **Bikeability Training**. Last week, **Years Five and Six** also completed their **First Aid Training**. Bikeability and First Aid Training are both key components of our **PSHE curriculum** in Upper Key Stage Two as we prepare the children to keep themselves and others safe in the wider world.

We hope that you all have a happy and relaxing weekend – hopefully with more dry, sunny weather!

## ACADEMIC YEAR 2022/2023

### 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

## 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:

Leo F, Bertie

## Attendance this term

**95.9%**

**'Attend Today and Achieve Tomorrow'**

## House Points

### Canterbury



**301**

### St. Paul's



**224**

### St. Albans



**218**

### Coventry



**268**

## A Thought from Reverend Jenny

In the story of the Prodigal Son, the father lets the younger son go his own way, just as God leaves us choose how we live. When the son realizes his mistakes and returns home, his father forgives him before he asks. No telling off, no punishment, the father kills the fatted calf to celebrate his wayward son's return - the unconditional welcome God offers all who re/turn to him.

The story of the Prodigal Son is hard to take in. It seems unfair that God, our Heavenly Father, loves everyone, equally, whatever we do or fail to do; that forgiveness is given freely, without punishment or record of wrongs. The older brother, who stays home and works hard, is (understandably) angry but Jesus' story makes the point that we don't earn God's love. And, however we mess up, we never lose God's love.

**Thanks be to God.**

**'God didn't make a mistake when He made you. You need to see yourself as God sees you'.**

# Notices

## HELP US WIN £1,000 FOR OUR LIBRARY!

Help us rebuild our library and encourage reading for pleasure – nominate us today to win £1,000 of National Book Tokens plus a £500 grant to improve our library space.

If yours is one of the five winning entries, you'll win a £100 National Book Token to spend in your favourite bookshop!



NATIONAL  
BOOK  
tokens

In association with

Read  
for Good

SCAN ME



#rebuildthelibrary

[nationalbooktokens.com/schools](https://nationalbooktokens.com/schools)



Herts4Hearts  
Clothing Collections



## Clothing donations wanted

Donations  
will be  
collected  
on  
Wednesday  
5th July

Fundraising  
at Aston  
St Marys

Please  
drop  
your  
donations  
to the  
bike shed



### Donations we accept:

Items must be in good condition  
Adults and childrens clothing  
Paired shoes  
Accessories (hats, scarves, bags)  
Dress up sets

### We cannot accept:

Damaged clothing (stained, ripped  
or wet)  
Logo items (schools/workplace)  
Underwear or socks  
Bedding



Our purpose is to make it easy for you  
to recycle your unwanted clothing whilst  
helping your local school too. Help us  
save as many clothes as possible from  
landfill.

[herts4heartsclothingcollection@gmail.com](mailto:herts4heartsclothingcollection@gmail.com)  
Facebook @herts4hearts



# MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT



## Charity Cake Sale – Saturday 8th July

Attention all cake lovers! Join us for a sweet and charitable cause as we host a cake sale to raise funds for MacMillan Cancer Support.

Indulge in a variety of delicious cakes, cupcakes, and pastries, baked with love by our talented volunteers. From classic vanilla sponge to decadent chocolate fudge, there's something for everyone's taste buds.

Not only will you be satisfying your sweet tooth, but you'll also be supporting a fantastic cause. MacMillan Cancer Support provides invaluable support and care for those affected by cancer, and every penny raised from this event will go towards helping them continue their vital work.

So, mark your calendars for **Saturday 8th June, midday to 3pm**, gather your friends and family, and come down to **Aston Cricket Ground**. Let's make a difference, one slice of cake at a time. See you there!

## Quiz Night 9th June 2023

Thank you to everyone who attended our quiz night – an impressive total of £401 was raised. This has been split between the SANDS charity and our Governor fund.

A BIG Thank you should also go to our quiz master – Mr Preston – for another fun and entertaining evening.





## A Visit from Rabbi Neil

We were thrilled to invite Rabbi Neil from a local Jewish school to come and talk to our pupils last week. He led our morning worship during which he taught us all about Jewish Shabbat. He told us all about how he celebrates this in his home and shared some of the special items he has to do this. We were all fascinated and eager to learn about how Jewish people worship.



Afterwards, Rabbi Neil then spent some time working with Puddlebridge Class as they have been learning about Judaism this year. They were interested to speak to a practising Jew and handle some artefacts linked to the faith. To find out more, see Puddlebridge's class page.

## Year Six Bikeability Training

This week, Year Six completed their Bikeability training. Their first morning was spent practising their skills on the school playground and then, after that, they were out on the roads each day in order to complete their Level 2 training. During the course, the children learnt: to start and stop with confidence; to pass stationary vehicles parked on a road; to understand signals, signs and road markings; to negotiate the road (including quiet junctions, crossroads and roundabouts) and to share the road with other vehicles. The children really enjoyed the training and are now well-prepared to keep themselves safe when riding their bikes. Well done Year Six!





# Class News

## Shackadell Class

Shackadell had a wonderful day out at Paradise Wildlife Park. We started the day by exploring the dinosaur park. The children were very knowledgeable and were teaching us all the different names. We were careful not to be eaten by the Tyrannosaurus Rex! After this, we enjoyed exploring some dinosaurs' bones in the giant sandpit.



Later, we had some lunch before heading off to spot some animals. It was a very sunny day which meant all of the animals came out for a sunbathe! We loved crawling through the meerkat mound and spotting them in the enclosure. We were very excited to see the lions, tigers and the snow leopards who were grooming each other. We also loved seeing the sun bears and jaguars who are new to the park!



We took a moment to spend some time reflecting on what we had seen whilst we kept in the cool under some Buddhist prayer flags.

The children were fantastic and were had a great day out.

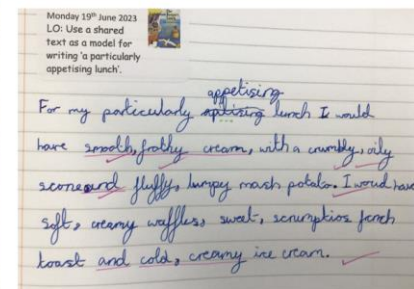
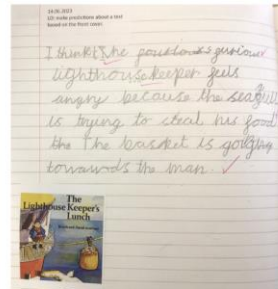
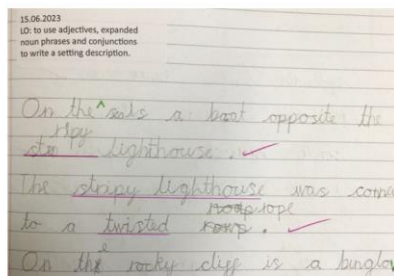
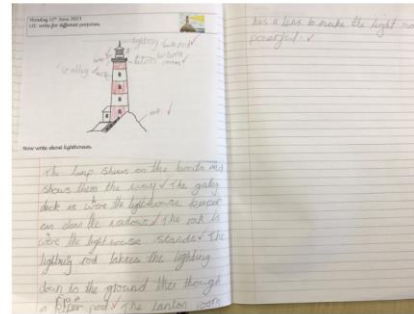
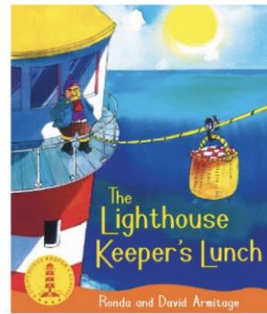
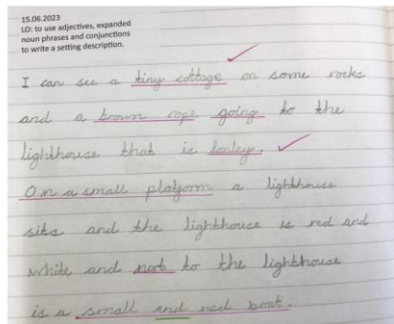


# Class News

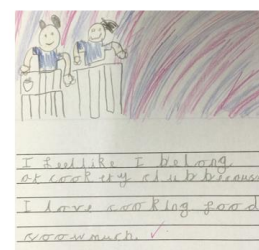
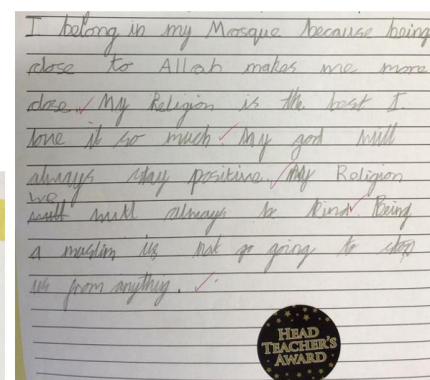
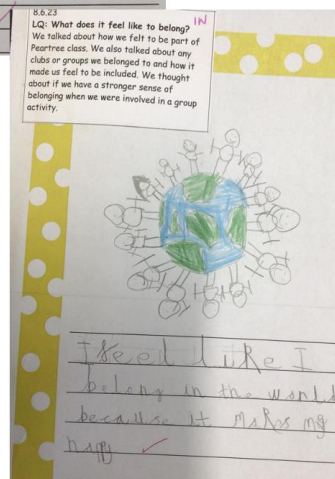
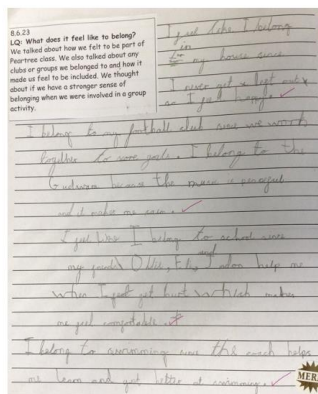
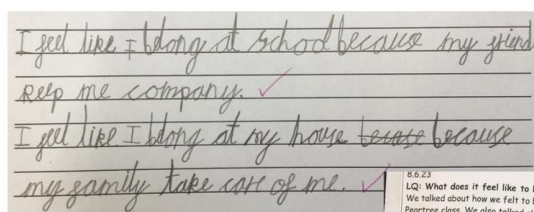
## Pear tree Class

A quick thank you to everyone for remembering to send in sun cream and hats now that we have some sunny weather. It is lovely to be on the field, safe in the sun.

In our English lessons, we have started to read *The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch* by Ronda and Davis Armitage. We have learned about lighthouses, made predictions based on the cover, described a setting and designed 'a particularly appetising lunch'.



In RE, our learning question is ‘Does going to Mosque give Muslims a sense of belonging?’ We talked about all the different groups that we might belong to and the children wrote about somewhere they felt they belonged.



# Class News

## Haffydown Class



I can hardly believe that we're coming to the end of the year! Haffydown have been very busy and it has been wonderful to see how dedicated they have been to their learning. The Rainforest has been the centre of our learning for English, Geography and DT.

We read the book, *There's a Rang-Tan in my Bedroom*, in English. The children learnt about the impact of deforestation on orangutans and wrote a persuasive letter to a chocolate company to urge them to use sustainable palm oil. Our learning in English helped our learning in Geography where we looked at the impacts of deforestation and how it is being tackled.

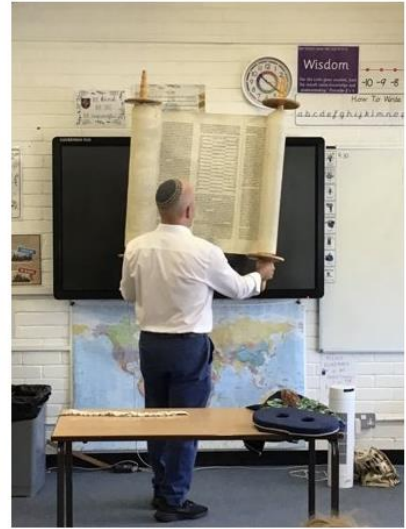
To finish off the topic, Haffydown researched, designed and made their own rainforest shelters as their DT project. The children used a variety of different materials to create their shelters. Each shelter is unique, which shows their creativity. I was so impressed by how hard they all worked and showed great enthusiasm and problem solving in their work.





# Class News

## Puddlebridge Class



Last week, Rabbi Neil bought some special Holy books with him to show us. He bought a Torah scroll and several other sacred writings. We were really impressed by how beautiful the Torah was; it was a huge scroll with an intricately designed covering. Rabbi Neil read parts of the Torah to us in Hebrew and even sang some Hebrew to us which is sung in the film 'The Prince of Egypt'. We learned about how Hebrew developed from early drawings at that it isn't written and read from left to right. We were able to handle some of the books very carefully.

We were able to look at Rabbi Neil's prayer shawl which is called a Tallit. He showed us that there are four tassels, one on each corner, which remind a Jew how to live. He had a special Tallit for Pride month that features the colours of the rainbow.



Rabbi Neil also explained to us that Jews wear head coverings called Kippah to help them to know where they end and the world begins. These are worn when studying, teaching or saying prayers. Rabbi Neil told us that on special occasions, such as a Bar Mitzvah or weddings, people are often given new Kippahs to celebrate. He bought a selection of these for us to try on.



# Class News

## Danes Class

In Design and Technology, we have made our own pencil cases. We began by researching different designs – we looked at different materials that were used and the different fastenings. We also practised using the sewing machine again – we learnt to use one last year when we made our cushions. Our pencil cases fasten with a zip; some of us put the zip at the top, others chose to have it on one side (either near the top or in the middle). Lots of us are now using our pencil cases every day in school. Please see our class web page for more photos:

<https://www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk/classes/danes/dt-textiles-25-05-23/>



In English, we are reading one of Shakespeare's tragedies: Macbeth. We have enjoyed several drama sessions to help us get to grips with the characters and plot. In the first session, we met the three witches as they waited by the heath until the battle between the Scottish and the Norwegians was over. Later, we created a whole class tableau of the battle itself. Shakespearean language can be challenging; we enjoyed reading Act 1 Scene 3 and decoding the text. Finally, we prepared group performances of the section where Macbeth and Banquo meet the witches. Please scan the QR codes to enjoy some of our performances.

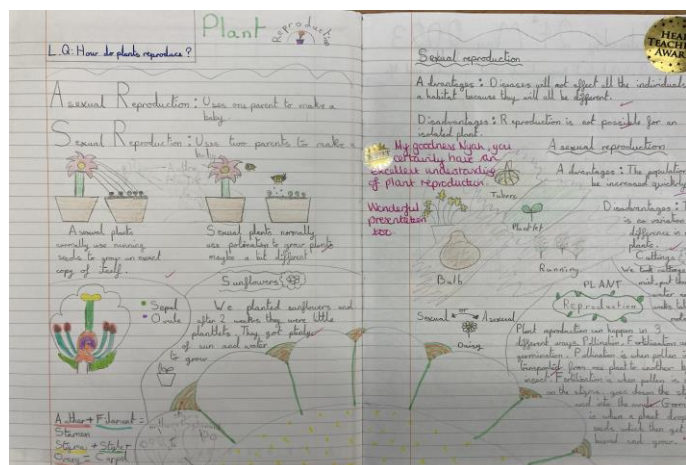


The Three Witches Waiting

The Battle

Macbeth and Banquo meet the Witches

In Science, Years five and Six are learning about life cycles of living things. We began by focussing on plants. As well as planting seeds and taking cuttings we also created beautiful double page spreads to show everything we have learnt about plant reproduction.





Families In Focus CIC  
LOOKING FORWARD TOGETHER



# A complete guide to parenting children with SEND

Our award winning, evidence based, free 10-week course is for those parenting children aged two to 11 with all Special Education Needs & Disabilities (SEND) living in Hertfordshire.

Facilitated by founders, Lesley and Francine, the course aims to help parents:

*"The strategies we worked through each week were relevant and realistic to me as a parent."  
Parent quote*

Increase understanding of children's behaviours that challenge.

Learn a range of strategies to reduce behaviours that challenge.

Understand children's sensory needs.

Explore children's common sleep issues.

Learn how to support siblings living with a sister/brother with SEND.

Learn communication techniques to improve children's emotional regulation.

Meet other parents living in similar families and share experiences.

Learn techniques to manage stress, conflict and so much more....

Wednesday evenings  
6.30pm to 8.30pm

September  
13th 20th 27th  
&  
October  
4th 11th 18th  
&  
November  
1st 8th 15th 22nd

Places are limited and booking essential.

To book your free places, email Francine & Lesley

[bookings@familiesinfocus.co.uk](mailto:bookings@familiesinfocus.co.uk)

or

visit our website for more course information

[www.familiesinfocus.co.uk](http://www.familiesinfocus.co.uk)





## Drop in Parent/Carer Coffee morning

We hope you come along and join us for a coffee and a chat.

**Date:** Friday 14th July 9.30am-11.00am

**Location:**

The Oak Suite,  
Peartree Spring Primary School,  
Hydean way,  
Stevenage,  
SG2 9GG.

Please use this link to book on Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/dspl2-mhst-parents-and-carers-coffee-morning-tickets-656593728517>

If you have any questions email: [dspl2@peartreespring.herts.sch.uk](mailto:dspl2@peartreespring.herts.sch.uk)



Is your child starting  
Reception in September?  
Are you and your child ready?

Come along to a free workshop to find out more about how you can help to prepare your child for the best start in Reception.

- Supporting your child's transition
- Ideas and activities to try at home
- School life and expectations

**Delivered via Microsoft Teams**  
**Thursday 29th June 2023 9:30-11.00am**

To book your space use the Eventbrite link below

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/early-years-transition-workshop-for-parents-tickets-657586658397?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

If you have any questions email: [dspl2@peartreespring.herts.sch.uk](mailto:dspl2@peartreespring.herts.sch.uk)

## Families Feeling Safe

Supporting families with Protective Behaviours

STEVENAGE  
starting  
SEPTEMBER 2023

A FREE course for Mums,  
Dads, Step-Parents and  
Carers



Wednesday mornings  
9.30am—11.30am  
27 Sept, 4, 11, 18 Oct, 1, 8, 15 & 22 Nov  
2023  
At  
The Oak Suite, Peartree Spring Primary  
School, Hydeau Way, Stevenage, SG2 9GG

Stevenage - DSPL Area 2  
DSPL | Delivering Special  
Provision Locally  
Achieving quality outcomes



Please like us on Facebook for further  
updates @familiesfeelingSAFE

Families Feeling Safe Protective Behaviours Services has been funded through HCC to provide Families Feeling Safe programmes across Hertfordshire. We deliver Protective Behaviours training for professionals and provide programmes and workshops to children and their families. [www.familiesfeelingSAFE.co.uk](http://www.familiesfeelingSAFE.co.uk) E-mail: [enquiries@familiesfeelingSAFE.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@familiesfeelingSAFE.co.uk)

Are you looking for some strategies and new ideas  
to help improve family life? This course can help  
you to

- Understand the links between Feelings, Thoughts and Behaviour
- Understand what may be influencing your child's behaviour
- Respond to a range of feelings e.g. stress, anger, anxiety and worries
- Improve communication to build better relationships
- Build on your own and your child's strengths
- Learn strategies to help you and your family feel safe and have problem-solving skills for life

"I wish I had done the course sooner"

Places are for families living in Hertfordshire and  
there are eligibility criteria

For eligibility and to book your FREE place please  
email:  
[enquiries@familiesfeelingSAFE.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@familiesfeelingSAFE.co.uk)

Tel: 07748 332606

Course No: 05/54



Families In Focus CIC  
LOOKING FORWARD TOGETHER



## Handling anger of children with Autism & ADHD

Facilitated by founders Lesley and Francine,  
this very popular, effective and award winning anger  
management course helps parents to:

"I often use the analogy  
of a toolbox of  
approaches, and you  
have helped replenish  
mine with new strategies  
and skills for home life  
with three neuro diverse  
children."  
Parent quote

Increase understanding of how Autism and ADHD may  
affect emotional regulation.  
Attain awareness of a child's sensory world and the affect  
on behaviours.

Increase your understanding of triggers that cause  
children's angry outbursts.

Learn healthy anger management strategies for children  
and parents to reduce angry reactions.

Discover creative ways to support children to 'let go' of  
anger safely.

Gain effective empathic communication skills to increase  
emotional literacy for all.

Meet and share experiences with other parents.

Tuesday mornings  
9.30am to 11.30am

September  
12th 19th 26th  
&  
October  
3rd 10th 17th

Places are limited and booking essential.

To book your free places, email Francine & Lesley



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or

visit our website for more course information

[www.familiesinfocus.co.uk](http://www.familiesinfocus.co.uk)

"It was great to meet  
other mums & dads  
who were  
experiencing similar  
challenges and learn  
all together."



Families In Focus CIC  
LOOKING FORWARD TOGETHER



## Handling anger in your family

Our FREE 6-week evidence based course is for those parenting neurotypical children aged two to  
11, living in Hertfordshire.

Facilitated by founders, Lesley and Francine, our course aims to help parents:

Gain greater understanding of 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 & 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

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CONTACT US

Email Francine & Lesley to secure your free place:

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visit our website to see all course information:

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