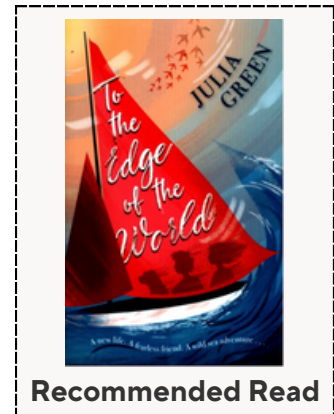


DANES CLASS INFORMATION



Autumn Term 2023



WELCOME

We hope that you and your family have had an enjoyable and relaxing summer break and that your child is looking forward to the new school year. We are delighted to welcome the children from Puddlebridge Class into Danes Class and also to welcome back those who were with us last year. Being the oldest children in the school, the children take on many responsibilities around the school. This includes helping at lunchtimes and Year Six supporting our youngest pupils by becoming 'Buddies' to the children in Shackadell Class. Obviously, we work hard to ensure that all children maximise their academic progress; we prepare them as fully as possible for secondary transfer and our overall aim is that they leave Aston St. Mary's as confident and ambitious 'young adults' - children do a lot of growing up in their final years at primary school! This letter provides information about the term/year ahead. Please do not hesitate to speak to any of us should you have any further questions.

Mrs Branagan, Mrs Dean and Mrs Avis



STAFFING

Mrs Branagan - Class teacher (Monday, Wednesday and Thursday)

Mrs Dean - Class teacher (Tuesday morning & Friday)

Mrs Avis - supports in class every morning

Mrs Evans - teaches RE and French on Monday & Tuesday afternoons

Mrs Minnis - teaches music on Tuesday afternoon

Rising Stars Staff - teaches PE on Monday and Friday afternoons



WEBSITE

Please see our class page on the school website to see our planned curriculum coverage, updates about our learning, etc :

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

CURRICULUM



In **History** this term, we will be studying '**Roman Britain and the Roman Empire**'. Our work will also link to other curriculum areas.

English: Myths, Classic Fiction, Explanations, Poetry. We will be reading 'The London Eye Mystery' by Siobhan Dowd as our class text.

Maths: Place value, calculation strategies, properties of number, fractions and algebraic reasoning.

Science: Electricity and Light

French: Core vocabulary and phonetics

Computing: Online safety, word processing skills and coding

RE: We will be thinking about the question: 'What is the best way for a Muslim to show commitment to God?' After half term, we will be thinking about the question: 'How significant is it that Mary was Jesus' mother?'

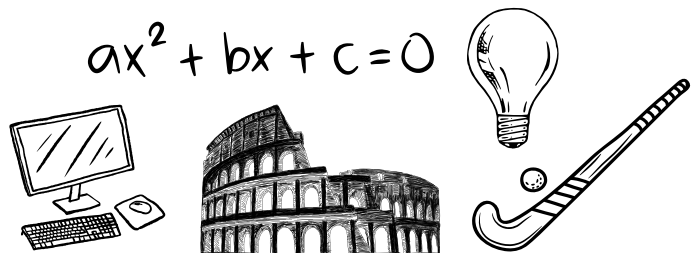
Music: Harvest and Christmas songs. Recorders, reading music and recognising musical terms.

PSHE: Relationships - VIPs

Design Technology: Cam Toys

Art: Roman Mosaics

PE: Swimming (Y5), football, tag rugby, netball and basketball.



TRIP TO VERULAMIUM MUSEUM

To support our Romans theme, we will be visiting St Albans on **Wednesday 4th October** this will include a visit to Verulamium Museum. See separate letter for further details.

YEAR 6 STANDARD ASSESSMENT TESTS

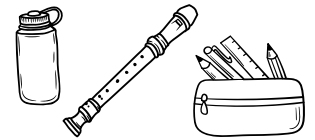
You are probably already aware that all Year 6 pupils are assessed via SATs during the summer term. Tests include Reading, Grammar, Spelling & Punctuation and Maths. Writing, Speaking & Listening and Science are assessed via teacher assessment. We will, of course, make sure that the children are fully prepared and given every opportunity to achieve their full potential.

SATs will take place between:

Monday 13th May 2024 – Thursday 16th May 2024

Further information about the tests and expectations will be shared at a meeting for parents – date to follow.

EQUIPMENT



PENCIL CASES

All children should have a small pencil case which will fit easily into their tray. This should contain the following items: two pencils, a rubber, a sharpener and a few coloured pencils. You may also wish to have a ruler, some scissors, a highlighter pen and a glue stick. It is important that children look after their equipment carefully.

RECORDERS

All children need to have their own recorder in school every Tuesday. These are available to purchase from the school office.

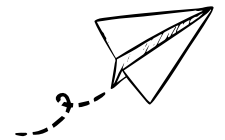
WATER BOTTLES

All children need to bring a named water bottle into school each day. They will keep these next to their table for use throughout the day. Please note, these should contain only water.

PE

PE lessons will take place on Mondays and Fridays. Please ensure appropriate kits are in school and items clearly labelled (this should include both shorts and long trousers). Trainers will be needed EVERY DAY for the 'Daily Mile'. Year 5 children will be swimming on Tuesdays.

HOME LEARNING



Maths and English homework will be set on **Seesaw*** every Monday and should be submitted by Monday morning the following week (**commencing w/b 18th September**). Spellings should be practised daily in their spelling journal. Regular lessons will take place in school; **children should practise words from these sessions and/or any personal spellings each day at home.**

Times tables should now be secure allowing for rapid recall, application to division and decimals. Regular practise on Times Tables Rock Stars will be continued to keep skills sharp – **weekly sessions will be set.**

Reading should also take place every day, with regular recording of this in reading records (to be signed by an adult).

Children are also required to complete one **homework project** each half term (see separate sheet for details). These will link to our topic and science.

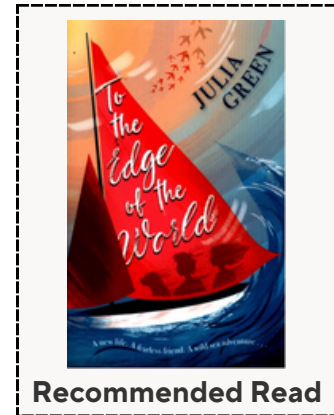
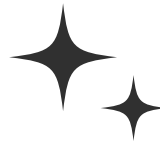
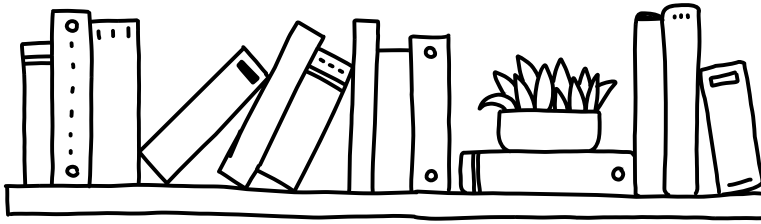
Homework is designed to be part of our home/school agreement, where children and parents work together to reinforce concepts learnt in class. In Years 5 and 6, homework is also important preparation for the expectations of secondary school. Should your child experience any difficulties with their homework, please remind them that we are always happy to help them in school before the submission deadline.



SEESAW LOGIN HOME LEARNING CODES

*Your child has already received their new login details. Please **keep this safe** as your child will need to access Seesaw for their weekly English and Maths homework.

READING



Recommended Read

It is very important for all children to maintain regular reading throughout the year. In school, regular guided reading sessions will take place and the children will also have opportunities to read independently. It is important that your child has their **reading book in school each day** as well as taking it home to **read every evening**. Please support your child by encouraging them to read independently as well as reading with them regularly and discussing their reading. Reading record books should be completed regularly. Children should be reading as widely as possible choosing books from a range of different genres and authors.

We have an extensive range of age-appropriate texts in our class book corner and also the library. Each half term, there will be a new **Recommended Read** which we would like as many children to read as possible. Below are some suggested titles for Years 5 and 6 which are all available in school. All children should aim to **read at least one of these books**, in addition to any other books they choose to read, this term.

'Reading is to the Mind what Exercise is to the Body' - Joseph Addison



SUGGESTED TEXTS

