



Aston St. Mary's Newsletter

Our value this half term is **Generosity**

www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk

3rd November 2023

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

Diary Dates

Friday 10th November – Remembrance Service

Friday 10th November – PTFA Uniform Sale

Friday 10th November – Quiz Night (adults only)

Friday 17th November – Children in Need

Sunday 19th November – PTFA Family Bingo 2pm – 4pm

Thursday 23rd November – Clothing Collection

Monday 27th November – Occasional Day (school closed)

Friday 1st December – Christmas Decoration Day

Friday 8th December – Non-uniform (donations of bottles for the Christmas Fayre please)

Saturday 9th December – PTFA Christmas Fayre 12 – 3pm

Monday 11th December – Flu immunisations

Wednesday 13th December – Christmas Dinner

Thursday 14th December – Christmas Parties

Friday 15th December – Reward Day

Monday 18th December – Christmas Service

Tuesday 19th December – Last day of term (1pm finish)

It has been lovely to welcome the children back to school this week after the half term break. With the festive season rapidly approaching, our new school value is **Generosity**. We will be exploring this value during our daily worship. Following the class pages, there are some suggestions of ways you could have fun together at home whilst exploring the value of Generosity.

Before the break, it was wonderful to have the opportunity to meet with parents during our **consultation evenings**. Thank you for your continued support – by working together we really can achieve the best possible outcomes for your child.

This week has been another very busy one in school. On Monday, we hosted The 2 Johns for our **E-Safety Day** – their sessions were very useful, engaging and informative. Yesterday, the **photographer** was in to take individual and family photos – hopefully this may help when sorting Christmas gifts for family and friends! Today, the children enjoyed leaving their school uniform at home – they always look so different when they wear their own clothes! Thank you for your donations of chocolate for the **Christmas Fayre**.

Next week, we are looking forward to our **Remembrance Service** in church on Friday morning; if you are able to join us, we would be delighted to welcome you. Our Year Six pupils will continue to sell poppies and other British Legion merchandise on the playground throughout next week.

We hope that you and your family have an enjoyable and relaxing weekend.



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:

Eli, Cameron, Harry C.,
Nathaniel

House Point Winners

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



House Points

Canterbury



52

St. Paul's



47

St. Albans



51

Coventry



49

Thoughts from Reverend Jenny:

**'We can believe what we choose.
We are answerable for what we choose to believe.'**

(Cardinal Newman quoted in Church Times last week,
sent in by Revd Angela)

**'What you do makes a difference, and *you* have to
decide what kind of difference you want to make.'**

(Jane Goodall)

**'You are never too old to set another goal or to
dream a new dream.'**

(C.S. Lewis)

**'The world needs dreamers and the world needs
doers. But above all, the world needs dreamers
who *do*.'**

(Sarah Ban Breathnach)

**'Throughout this day
Enliven our minds
Inspire our conversations
Inform our decisions
And protect those we love.'
Amen.**
(Iona community)

Notices

Quiz Night – Friday 10th November



Quiz Night is now fast approaching! This is a fun evening where teams compete in tables of up to eight – ten people (adults only). Bring your own food and drink.

£6 per person and raffle on the night.

Tables are limited due to space in the school hall. If you would like to join us, please email:

closed@astonmarys.herts.sch.uk

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

Year Six will continue to be selling poppies and poppy merchandise on the playground next week. Thank you for your generous donations.



Football Tournament

Just before half-term, our football team played in the finals football tournament at Bedwell School. Again, our team played really well, and we were very proud of them. They made it through to the final, where they were very unlucky to lose one nil.

Well done to all of our players for reaching the final and coming second overall out of twenty-two schools. The seven teams that made it to the finals tournament, were all much bigger schools than ours. However, the thing that made us proudest of all, was our players fair play and attitude shown throughout the competition.

The team have now been put into the highest league and will begin to play league matches soon.

We have also entered our Year 4 team into a friendly junior league, so look out for the results and good luck to them.



Notices

E-Safety Day – Monday 30th October 2023

On Monday, we held our E-Safety Day with The 2 Johns. During the day, all of the children participated in a session where they were learned how to keep themselves safe and the importance of being able to speak to an adult if they are ever worried or concerned about anything online.

The evening session was very well attended by parents, with nearly all of our children being represented. The feedback has been really positive with many parents appreciating the information they received.

Sadly, although the internet is an amazing resource, it can also be a very dangerous place. It is important we keep up to date as much as we can, as we live in an ever-changing world.

Thank you to everyone who attended the evening session and provided feedback. If you would like further information from The 2 Johns, it can be found on their website:

<https://esafetytraining.org>



Class News

Shackadell Class

Shackadell Class have been learning about the Autumn season. We invited our adults in to come on an Autumn walk around the village of Aston. Everyone enjoyed seeing the village and looking for signs of Autumn. We collected lots of items and used them in our learning in the classroom. The children were able to create transient art using these objects. We also sorted our leaves using colour charts, matching each leaf to the correct colour chart.



This week we have enjoyed learning about the Gruffalo story. The children are familiar with this book and by the end of the week we were able to recite the story using actions. We had a 3D story map so that we could retell the story to each other. The children enjoyed creating story sticks with different colours representing each animal in the story. We even made some of the different houses of the characters in our forest school lesson.



Class News

Peartree Class

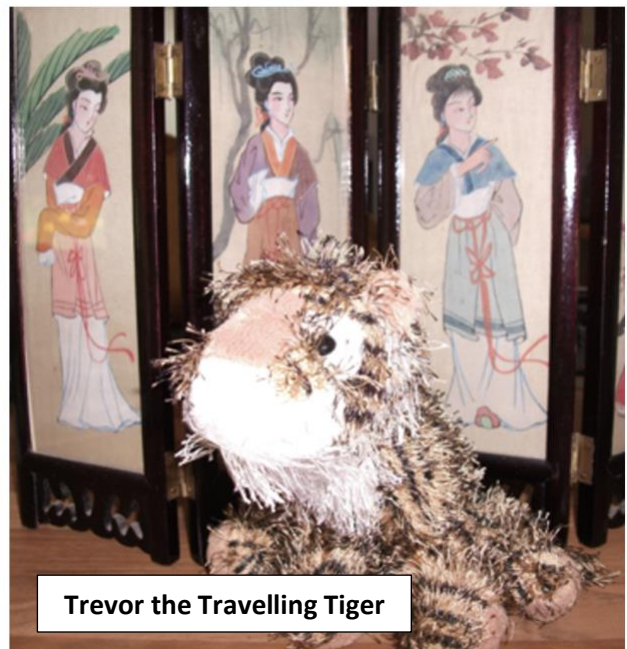
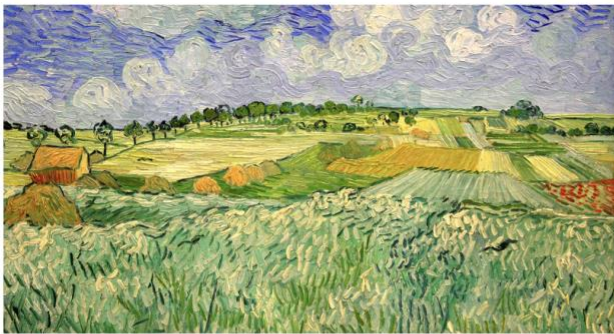
Welcome back after a well-deserved half term. The children came into school enthusiastic and ready for all the new topics we will be learning about this half term.

In geography, we will be learning all about the local area, maps and land use. The children are excited that they can take Trevor the Travelling Tiger home and show him some of the places that they go to round and about Stevenage.

The children have loved doing computing using the chrome books and are looking forward to continuing this using the 2-Code program on Purple Mash. They will have the chance to create simple programs using blocks of code and learn how to de-bug a program that isn't working correctly. They have learned about how to stay safe on the computer and the importance of not sharing passwords. All the children have had a lot of fun creating their own personal avatars.



In art, we will be looking at landscapes and cityscapes and the work of three artists: Claude Monet, Vincent Van Gogh and Jean Metzinger.

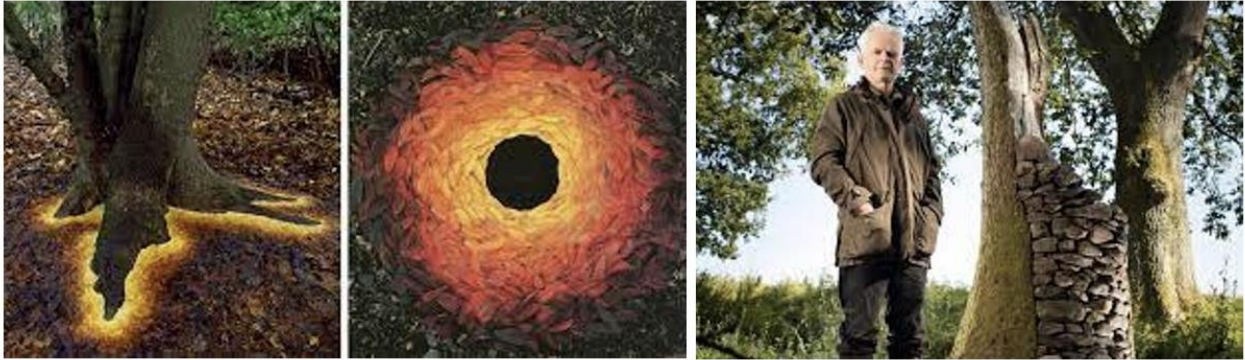


Trevor the Travelling Tiger

Class News

Haffydown Class

This week in Haffydown, we enjoyed a whole day of art, dedicated to learning about Andy Goldsworthy. Goldsworthy is an environmentalist and Land Artist, specialising in sculptures made from purely natural materials. His work is based on his personal ethos - do not bring in any materials, and not take any art home.



Haffydown spent the morning learning about Goldsworthy's different sculptures, practising their sketching skills to focus on the shapes and gradient of colours in nature, and planning their own 2D or 3D sculptures. In the afternoon, Haffydown worked in a range of groups with leaves, pine cones, stones, rocks and sticks to create their own beautiful sculptures. They had many visitors throughout the day, including Mrs Winwood, Mrs Branagan, Peartree class and many parents at the end of the day. Haffydown took pictures of their own artwork, just as Goldsworthy does, and evaluated their designs. You have to agree that effort and thought that went into their art shines through, and the photos are stunning! Haffydown's enthusiasm for their learning was clear to see and we expect many of you at home will be asked for a trip to the woods this weekend to find more natural art opportunities! At the end of the day, we were able to explain that our art was ephemeral. Please ask your children what this means and if it makes any difference to the value of their art. Please check the website for more pictures from our art day.



Class News

Puddlebridge Class

In art, we have been learning about Roman mosaics by considering how they were made, where they were found, and how archaeologists and historians use them to learn about the past. We created our own mosaics using printing techniques.



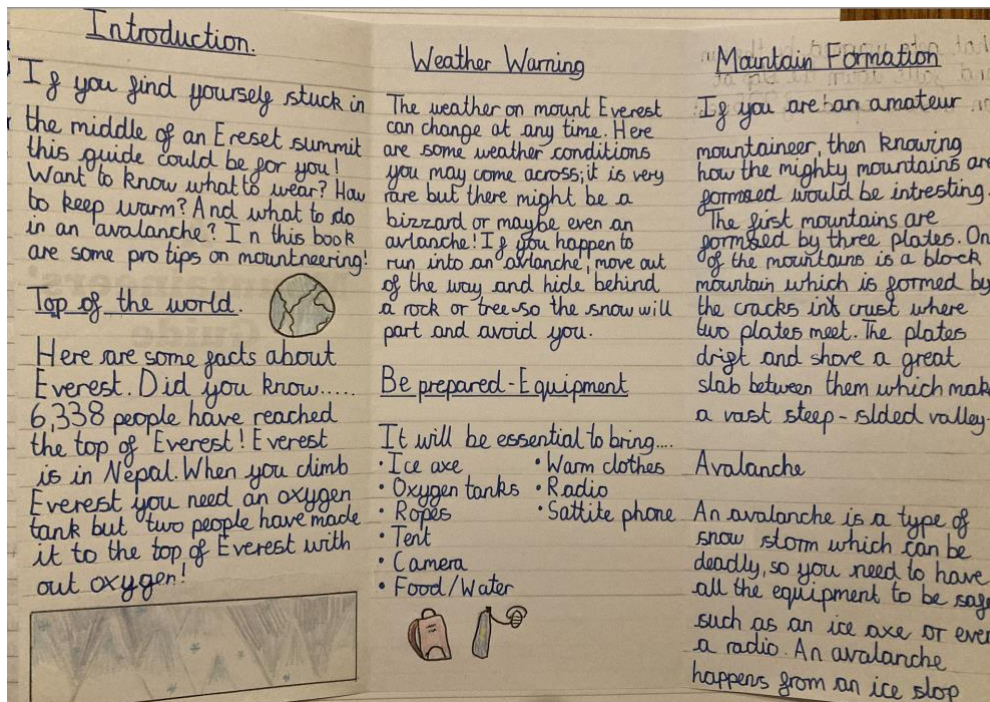
Class News

Danes Class



In art, we have been looking at **Roman mosaics**. We saw some wonderful examples of these on our recent visit to Verulamium Museum. We practised and perfected our printing technique before designing our own mosaics with a border and central motif – just like the Romans. Our finished pieces look wonderful and are on display in our classroom.

Having almost completed our learning about electricity in **science**, we applied our knowledge about electrical circuits in order to make **Steady Hand Games**. Some groups chose to use a light bulb which lit up if the wire was touched, others used a buzzer. Understanding how the circuit worked was a tricky challenge. We had so much fun!



Before the half term break in English, we wrote **leaflets** to provide essential information to anyone wanting to explore **mountainous terrain**. Lots of reading around the subjects enabled us to become experts before we started to write. There were some very impressive outcomes.



Please remember to check our class page on the school website for updates about our learning and lots of pictures: <https://www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk/danes-2/>

GENEROSITY

HOME SCHOOL VALUES

This term we will be focussing in school on the value GENEROSITY. We hope your family will find these ideas helpful as you explore the value and have fun together.

TALK TOGETHER about Generosity

When we think about **generosity** we usually think about being **generous** with money or possessions. However, we can also be **generous** with our time, our gifts and our abilities. **Generous** people often say that they receive much more than they give. Perhaps this is because when someone is **generous** to us, it makes us want to be **generous** in return. The opposite of being **generous** is being selfish. What kind of person would you prefer to have as a friend?

- How would you describe yourself on this scale?

Selfish ← → Generous
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

- Where would other members of your family put you on the scale and what are their reasons?
- Who is the most **generous** person you know?



READ TOGETHER...

The Widow's Mite

Jesus had been teaching in the Temple. But now he sat down near the treasury and watched as the many visitors to the Temple passed by and dropped money into the collecting box to help with God's work.

The rich men dressed in fine robes threw in handfuls of coins as they passed, without a thought. But then a poor widow came by, paused, and placed just two mites (tiny coins) into the box.

Jesus called his disciples to him and told them what he had seen.

Then he said to them, "Let me tell you, this poor widow gave more than all those people who threw many coins into the treasury. The wealthy men gave just a small part of their riches which made no difference to them. But the widow gave all that she had."

You see, God is more interested in what is in the heart of the giver than the size of their gift.

Bible story based on Mark 12:41-44

A Mite in Jesus' time was a small brass coin worth 1/128th of a denarius. Typically a labourer was paid 1 denarius for a day's work.



In Britain, many years ago, a coin called a mite was in general use and worth half a farthing, a very tiny amount of money.

THINK TOGETHER Words of Wisdom

"God loves a cheerful giver"
2 Corinthians 9.7

New King James Version® of the Bible



? QUIZ

Lost Letters

Which letters are missing from the alphabet? Arrange them to make a word from the story.



x l s h p k
d b f r j
u q a y
w z j g c
o s n v

★ HALL OF FAME

A Generous Saint

Nicholas grew up long ago in a poor part of Turkey. His father earned just enough to provide for the needs of his family but many people in the town were extremely poor.

One day something extraordinary happened. A wealthy relative, who Nicholas barely knew, suddenly died and left him a vast fortune. Overnight Nicholas became rich, so rich that he felt very uncomfortable about having so much money when many of the townsfolk barely had enough to eat. But Nicholas knew that the families were proud and they would not want to accept money that they had not earned. He needed to find a way to help them in secret.

So in the dark of night, Nicholas crept through the town leaving parcels of food, clothing and money for the families most in need. He helped one family with three daughters several times. The father was so curious about the mysterious benefactor, that he was determined to stay awake and discover who was being so **generous**. As Nicholas quietly left his gift at the door of their tiny home the man leapt out and chased Nicholas until he finally caught up. Nicholas was embarrassed and begged the man not to give away his secret. The father promised. But he was so happy and grateful that he just couldn't help telling people, and soon the whole town knew about Nicholas' **generosity**.

Nicholas continued to live in the same town and he continued to be **generous** to every one in need. Every December he rewarded the children who had been good during the year by secretly delivering presents whilst they were asleep. To this day Nicholas is remembered in countries across the world when children receive gifts on December 5th, St Nicholas' Day.



HOME-SCHOOL CHALLENGE



The Generositree

The fruit of the generositree are blessings.

Think of something **generous** that you could do that would bless someone and make them happy. Then do it.

Design and make a colourful exotic looking fruit to represent the blessing and take it to school to hang on the Generositree.



FAMILY FOCUS

Secret St Nick

Each member of the family could decide on someone that they think deserves a special present. Find some pots for each person and begin to save a small amount each week.

When December comes buy presents that will make your special person smile or that they will find useful. Wrap the gifts as creatively as you can and write their name on a homemade label. Deliver in secret on 5th December, St Nicholas' Day.



FASCINATING FACTS

Leading the Pack

Lieutenant Baden-Powell was a brave soldier in the British Army and served in India and Africa. He was an expert in wilderness survival skills, like hunting, making fires and building rafts. To help new soldiers he wrote a small manual. A version of this became 'Scouting for Boys' and gave him the idea of setting up the Scouting movement.

Today, worldwide, millions of children and young people are Scouts, Cubs, Beavers, Guides, Brownies or Rainbows.

- In the UK over 160,000 volunteers run Scouting and Guiding groups
- They **generously** give over 20 million hours of service each year
- Many parents also use their skills to help children to earn badges



Public Health Nursing 5-19 Team Newsletter

Welcome Back!

We hope you all had a relaxing summer break! We are looking forward to supporting lots of children and young people throughout the new school term.

How 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 use this link to see information about our online workshops which you can book without a referral.

<http://ow.ly/Qn9G50KI17f>

Health for Kids is a fun & interactive website for parents and children to access health information,

www.healthforkids.co.uk

Meet A Team Member

Hello, I'm Shannon, a Children's Wellbeing Practitioner in the school nursing team. Children Wellbeing Practitioners provide 1-1 self-help interventions for anxiety, low mood, and behavioural difficulties.

Our interventions offer support for mild difficulties and are based on Cognitive Behavioural Therapy principles. This empowers children and young people with tools for good emotional health and wellbeing.

Our appointments are either in school or online. You can make a referral to us using the school nurse referral form at the link above.



Measles

Measles in England and Europe has recently increased. Measles is a serious disease and 1 in 15 children go on to develop complications which can include meningitis and blindness. 1 in 5 children require hospital treatment.

There is no medical treatment for measles; vaccination is the best protection against becoming seriously unwell. The combined Measles Mumps and Rubella (MMR) offers the best protection for children and adults, the vaccine is free and available at your GP.

Children are given their first dose at 1 years old and their second dose at 3 years 4 months as part of the pre-school booster. But it's never too late to receive the vaccination, and this includes adults. The MMR vaccine is proven to be a safe and effective vaccine.

If you have any questions please contact your GP or visit the [NHS website](https://www.nhs.uk).



Healthy Lunches

A healthy nutritious packed lunch will help your child to make the most out of their learning, helping them to concentrate throughout the school day. A healthy lunch does not have to be complicated or expensive - for example, use leftovers from dinner, and switch crisps for cucumber or carrot sticks.

[This link](#) will take you to some useful packed lunch ideas!

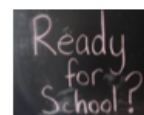


School Readiness

We know it can sometimes be daunting for children starting school.

The Health Visiting Under 5's webpage has lots of help and information about school readiness, and how you can help your child with the skills they need to settle into learning and socialising in their new school.

<https://healthforunder5s.co.uk/category/ready-for-school/>



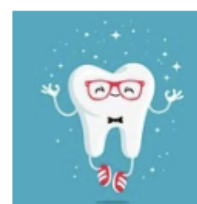
Dental Check ups

Children and young people are entitled to free regular dental 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/

Children should brush their teeth twice per day for 2 minutes, using a fluoride toothpaste. Toothbrushing is the best prevention against tooth decay.





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#>

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)

PLEASE JOIN US FOR LUNCH AND TO ENJOY OUR UNIQUE EXHIBITION

**This exhibition will feature everyday
triggers from survivors.**

Lunch is available for a
small donation from 12pm

The exhibition will be
available to view from
2pm onwards

RSVP by Friday 3
November

22 November 2023 12–2pm
Ingelheim Lounge,
Daneshill House SG1 1HN



Don't suffer in silence
Put a stop to domestic abuse