

Danes Class Information

Autumn Term 2025-2026

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 in Danes last year. Being the oldest children in the school, the children take on many responsibilities. 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 the Danes team should you have any further questions.

Miss Branagan and Mrs Avis

Staffing

Miss Branagan - Class Teacher

Mrs Avis - supports in class every day

Mrs Brazier - supports in class

Wednesday - Friday

Mrs Branagan - teaches Science on Wednesday afternoon

Mrs Newman-Sanders - teaches French on Monday afternoon

Rising Stars - teaches PE on Monday afternoon

Class Reader



Recommended Read



Meet the Teacher and PGL

Our usual **Meet the Teacher** meetings will take place after school on **Wednesday 10th September**. These will be followed by a **PGL meeting at 4pm on the same day**. This will provide **Year Five and Year Six parents** with more details about our exciting trip!

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/>

CELEBRATE
your mistakes
it means
you're
Learning

Curriculum

In order to provide an ambitious and varied curriculum, we aim to enrich the children's learning by making links across the curriculum as well as providing opportunities for invaluable off-site visits. For example, we will be supporting our historical learning through our learning in English where we will be enjoying Joe Todd-Stanton's *Marcy and the Riddle of the Sphinx*, as well as through our Design Technology topic this term. We have an exciting trip planned to the **British Museum** on **Friday 14th November** where the children will be able to explore the Egyptian galleries as well as attending a presentation about daily life in ancient Egypt.

Please see the plan of what we will be learning about across the curriculum below:

Subject	Autumn	
	1	2
English	Thematic texts linked to our Egyptian learning, Classic Fiction, Explanations and Poetry	
Maths	Sequences of learning surrounding number, place value and properties of number, additive and multiplicative reasoning, and fractions and algebra.	
French	At School	
History	The Awesome Egyptians	
Science	Electricity	Light
Design Technology	Egyptian Shadufs	
Art	How Do Artists See The World?	
Music	Happy	A Spooky Story
RE	What is the best way for a Muslim to show their commitment to God?	How significant is it that Mary was Jesus' mother?
PSHE	Relationships - VIPs	
PE	Football & Rugby	Dance & Basketball
Computing	Coding	Online Safety and Databases

Year Six Standard Assessments

You are probably already aware that 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 11th May 2026 - Thursday 14th May 2026

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

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 15th 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**.

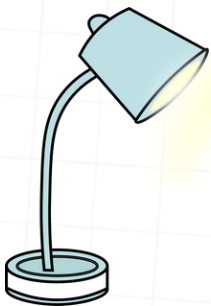
Reading should also take place every day, with regular recording of this in reading records (to be signed by an adult).

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

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.

In general, it is **preferable for children to submit their learning online via Seesaw** instead of on paper as **this enables me to provide prompter feedback and additional support where necessary**. However, there will be occasions where I specify to work on paper.



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 Five and Six, 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 or online before the submission deadline.

Water bottle

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.**



Recorder

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



Equipment



PE Kit

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'.



Pencil case

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.

Reading

Little People, BIG DREAMS

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 essential 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 Five and Six 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.



Year Five and Six Recommended Reads

