



Aston St. Mary's Newsletter

Our value this half term is Justice

www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk

23rd January 2026

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

Diary Dates

Friday 13th February – Non-uniform and cake sale

Monday 16th February - Friday 20th February – Half Term break

Friday 27th February – Non-uniform for governor fund

Thursday 5th March – World Book Day

Friday 6th March – Aston Talent Show 5:30pm Stevenage Music Centre, Nobel School (PTFA)

Monday 9th March - Parents Evening 3:30pm - 5:20pm

Thursday 12th March - Parents Evening 3:30pm - 7:20pm

Friday 13th March – Mothering Day Service 9:30am
PTFA Mother's Day Gifts

Thursday 19th March – Haffydown Class trip (Climb Quest)

Thursday 26th March – Rock Steady Concert

Friday 27th March – Easter Service 9:30am
Spring term finishes at 1pm.

Whilst the new year celebrations seem not much more than a distant memory now, we would like to wish our whole school community a **happy and successful 2026**. We are now three weeks into the new school term and there is certainly a buzz of learning around the school.

Our value this half term is **Justice**, which is about treating others fairly, standing up for what is right, and making choices that help create a safe and respectful community for everyone. By practicing justice in our school each day, we learn to listen, act with integrity, and care for one another. There are some ideas towards the end of this newsletter which you may like to use to explore this value together with your child at home.

On Wednesday evening this week, Danes and Puddlebridge Classes enjoyed a visit to **Bayfordbury Observatory**. You can find out more and see some pictures later in this newsletter. Children learn about the **Earth and Space** as part of the upper key stage two science curriculum; this visit certainly did provide an invaluable enrichment opportunity.

Since the beginning of term, we have experienced typical cold and wet January weather. We do try to get the children outside as much as possible for breaktimes and lunchtimes. Please make sure your child comes to school equipped with **suitable warm and waterproof clothing** including a pair of **outdoor shoes or wellies**. Please remember that all items should be **clearly named**. Thank you.

Have a lovely weekend and thank you for your continued support.

SEEK
JUSTICE

LOVE
MERCY

WALK
HUMBLY

MCM 06

ACADEMIC YEAR 2025/2026

SPRING TERM

Tuesday 6th January 2026 to Friday 27th March 2026

Half Term – Monday 16th February 2026– Friday 20th February 2026

SUMMER TERM

Tuesday 14th April 2026 to Friday 17th July 2026

Bank Holiday – Monday 4th May 2026 – School closed

Half term – Monday 25th May 2026 – Friday 29th May 2026

INSET DAYS (School closed)

Inset day – Monday 13th April 2026

Inset day – Monday 20th and Tuesday 21st July 2026

ACADEMIC YEAR 2026/2027

AUTUMN TERM

Wednesday 2nd September 2026 to Friday 18th December 2026

Half Term – Monday 26th October 2026-Friday 30th October 2026

Occasional Day Monday 30th November 2026 – School closed

SPRING TERM

Tuesday 5th January 2027 to Thursday 25th March 2027

Half Term – Monday 15th February 2027– Friday 19th February 2027

SUMMER TERM

Tuesday 13th April 2027 to Tuesday 20th July 2027

Bank Holiday – Monday 3rd May 2027 – School closed

Half term – Monday 31st May 2027 – Friday 4th June 2027

INSET DAYS (School closed)

Inset day – Tuesday 1st September 2026

Occasional day – Monday 30th November 2026

Inset day – Monday 4th January 2027

Inset day – Monday 12th April 2027

Inset day – Wednesday 21st, Thursday 22nd July 2027

School Meals

To order school meals, please log onto your School Gateway account via the website or the app.

DINNER MONEY FEES £3.55 per meal



Please be reminded that you can use the closed email address should you need to contact us out of hours.

closed@astonmarys.herts.sch.uk

A Thought about Justice:

Justice means treating others fairly and kindly, even when it's hard. It's about making sure everyone feels included, listened to, and safe. When we stand up for what is right, help someone who is left out, or choose honesty and kindness, we show justice in action. Small choices made each day can help make our school and our world a better place for everyone.

Dear God,

Help us to be fair and kind in all we do.

Teach us to speak up for others,
to share, forgive, and listen with care.
May our words and actions help build a
world
where everyone feels safe, valued, and
loved.
Amen.



House Points

Canterbury



245

St. Paul's



228

St. Albans



221

Coventry



250

Notices

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Keely who recently passed her Grade 1 Dance (Tap) with distinction.

We are so proud of you, Keely.

Should you wish for us to celebrate an achievement of your child's on our newsletter, please email details to:

closed@astonmarys.herts.sch.uk

Do you have a child in Year 2 - Year 6?

All children from Years Two up to Year Six take part in regular spelling lessons in school and are expected to be practising their spelling regularly at home. Children should be bringing their spelling journal home daily (alongside their reading book and reading record).

Should you need a reminder, or you are unsure of what is expected, please scan the QR code below to see the presentation on our school website about how spelling journals should be used.

Spelling, like any other skill, needs regular practise to build confidence – a few minutes most days really does make a difference.



SCAN ME

**“Success is the sum of small efforts,
repeated day in and day out.” —
*Robert Collier***

**“The only way to get better at
something is to do it—again and
again.” — *Unknown***

Clothing Collection

Our next clothes collection is on Wednesday 11th February 2026. Please leave any donations under the bike shed by 9am on the date above. Donations should be left in tightly tied bags with no rips, so the clothes stay dry.

Thank you for your donations.



The PTFA

Website

<https://www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk/>
Please be reminded that our school website is regularly updated and contains lots of useful information as well as updates about learning across the school.



Parking – Drop Off and Pick Up

Neighbours are, once again, complaining about inconsiderate parking by some of our parents in the residential roads outside school. Driveways have been blocked resulting in residents either not being able to gain access or leave their property. There have also been reports of children being allowed to run across communal gardens belonging to some of the flats as well as residents' gardens – sometimes even damaging plants; sadly, some neighbours have even reported that parents have argued with them about this.

As adults, we are role models to our children, and we would urge anyone dropping children or collecting children from school to demonstrate our Christian values by parking considerately and treating people with respect. We all know that parking is a challenge around school; allowing just a few extra minutes to park a little further away (e.g. at the village hall) would significantly ease congestion and keep our children safer.

PTFA Talent Show



TALENT SHOW

**06
MAR**

AT 5:30PM

Stevenage Music Centre
Nobel School, SG2 0HS

Show us what you've got and grab
your chance to shine on stage!

REGISTER BY 30TH JAN

astonstmarysptfa@gmail.com

Stevenage FC



BORO BEAR'S BIRTHDAY BONANZA

Your story must;

Be around the length of an A4 page – No more than 2 A4 pages.

Have a beginning, middle and end

An exciting setting (Where is Boro Bear's Birthday Party going to be)

Who would be invited? Did he get any presents? And what is he doing for his 50th birthday?

Entry Deadline

Please submit all entries by Friday
20th February 2026.

Entrants must be aged between 5-
11. Please include your name, age
and contact details in the entry.

How do I Submit my entry?

To enter, please scan the QR code
below and upload your story!



We will select 1 winner from KS1 and 1 winner from KS2. The winner will receive a goody bag, tickets to a Home Stevenage FC Match and be interviewed on the pitch.

Stevenage FC have launched their storytelling competition. They are asking for pupils to write a short story all about Boro Bear's 50th birthday party!

They are looking for winners in both KS1 and KS2 and the winners will receive tickets to a Stevenage FC home match, a goodie bag and their story featuring in the matchday programme.

Things to include in the story are:

- What does Boro Bear do for this birthday?
- Who's on the special guest list
- What presents does he receive?

The deadline for this competition is Friday 20th February.



Louie and Molly had a fantastic time the weekend before Christmas when they enjoyed a mascot experience with Stevenage FC.

Bayfordbury Observatory

On Wednesday evening, Puddlebridge and Danes spent a very exciting evening at Bayfordbury Observatory. Our evening began with a very interesting talk about telescopes, planets, galaxies and more. We learned lots of interesting facts and were very impressed by how engaged the children were; they certainly asked some challenging questions!

Later, we visited the planetarium. We started off by exploring the starry sky, spotting the North Star and identifying the constellations around. The children were very excited to watch an asteroid make a crater on the moon and to get a close-up view of an exploding star.



Despite the rain, we also headed outside to see telescopes. The children were amazed by their size and to learn all about how they work.



The evening really was a great learning experience; we had a brilliant time, and the children were excited to take home the knowledge they had learned. Thank you to all the parents who provided transport to and from the observatory.

Class News

Shackadell Class

We are back with a BANG! ZAP! WHOOSH! We have been enjoying our superhero topic over the last few weeks. We have had a great time creating our own superhero characters, even designing our masks and choosing the colours for our capes. Our love of superheroes has also been evident during 'Adventure Time' where we have been making superhero bases!



We have loved reading 'Supertato' by Sue Hendra. We described the characters using lots of fantastic adjectives. When looking at the features of a comic we noticed speech bubbles. We had a lot of fun creating speech bubbles for some of our favourite characters.



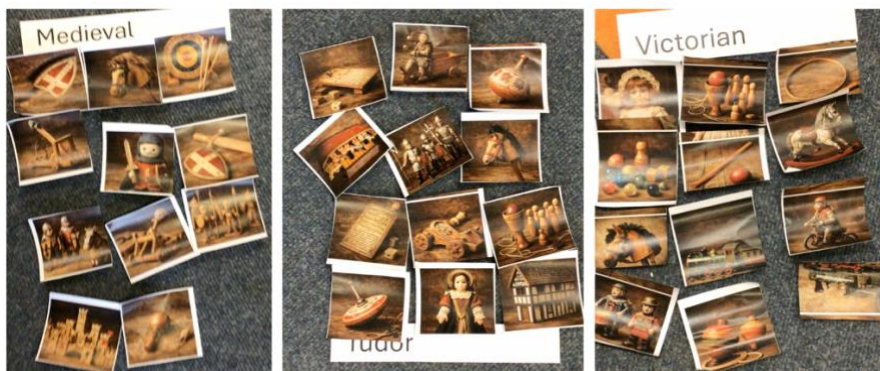
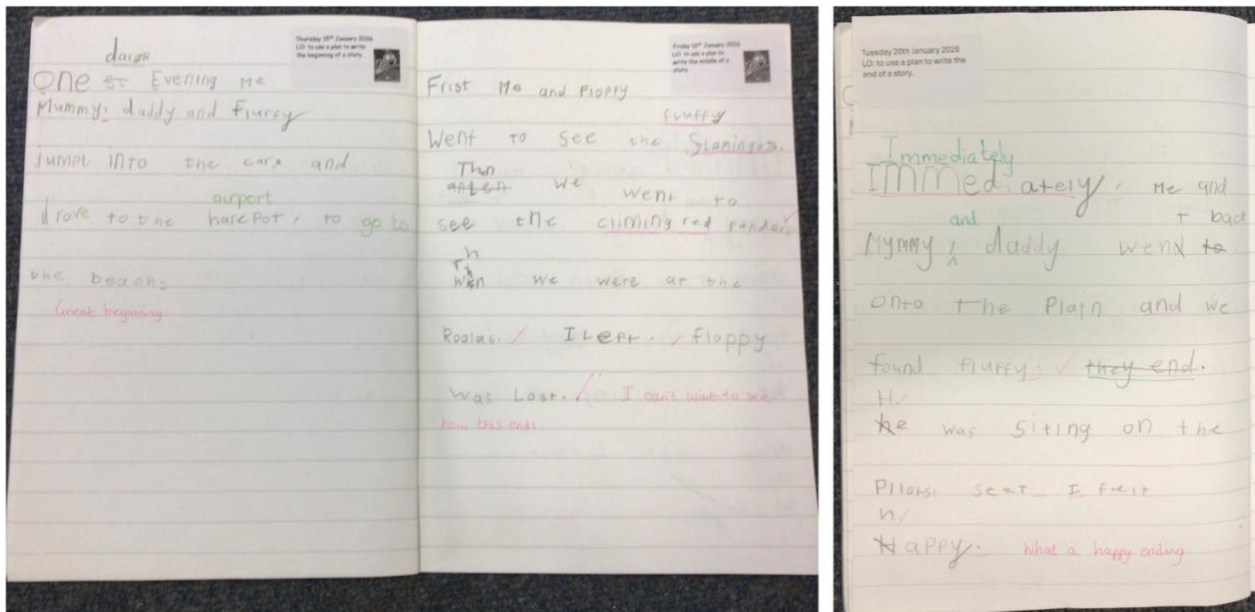
As part of our learning journey, we have created our own heroes and villains using real vegetables! We loved creating these and animating them using Chatterpix. We finished the week by cutting them up to make some vegetable soup.



Class News

Peartree Class

We are almost halfway through this half term already and what a lot we have been doing! A lot of our work this half term has been about toys. In English, we are reading '**Knuffle Bunny**' by Mo Willems, about a girl who lost her favourite toy. We have been writing our own versions of this story.



In history, we have been learning about the **toys** people played throughout time. We looked at Medieval, Tudor and Victorian toys. We then focused on toys from more recent decades ranging from 1980 – 2025. We set up a 'museum' of toys and children had to identify their pictures and find the toys in the museum to find out what decade they were from.



In art, we practised sketching logos from some of the companies **Mitchell Wu**, a toy photographer, works for.

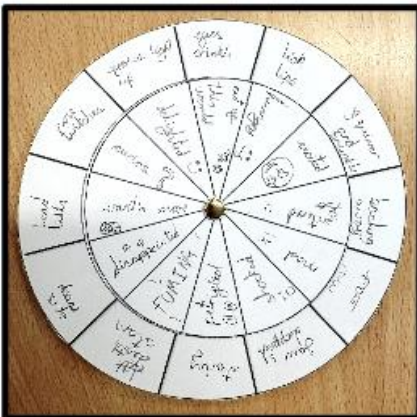
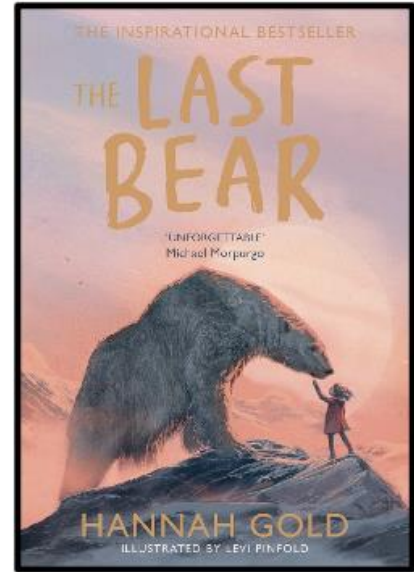


Class News

Puddlebridge Class

We have recently finished reading *The Last Bear* by Hannah Gold as part of our English lessons. By sharing and analysing the author's writing, we explored a range of descriptive techniques, with a particular focus on figurative language. As a class, we used personification and simile to bring Bear Island to life. The children worked in groups, each focusing on a different feature of the island before creating a bank of powerful verbs to describe its characteristics and behaviour. We then pooled our ideas together to create a shared descriptive paragraph of Bear Island:

The fog was haunting April, while spreading through the air like fire. A vast wind smacked her as she walked across the snowy floor. April watched as the sea raged swiftly round the bending island, carrying fish in its vicious waters. She looked up at the dark towering mountains that reached up in the sky over the barren land.



Throughout the story, the main character, April Wood, befriends and rescues a lone polar bear who has been separated from the others due to the melting ice caps. As Bear cannot speak, April must rely on carefully reading his body language to understand his feelings. To explore this, the children had great fun creating code-breaking spinners, recording Bear's actions on the outer circle and matching them to the emotions they revealed on the inside.

We also explored active and passive voice, learning how passive verb forms can be used to focus on the action. The children then had a go at sorting sentences and writing their own examples using the passive voice.

While the storm raged on, April and Bear were huddling^{ed} up together, shivering in the cold. The boat was rocked and heaved by the monstrous waves, and the sea pulled the boat this way and that, causing it to flip over. It was so sudden and abrupt, that the pair of them soon fell into the dark, murky water. They gasped and spluttered for air, and were dragged into deep the deep, dark, depths of the sea.

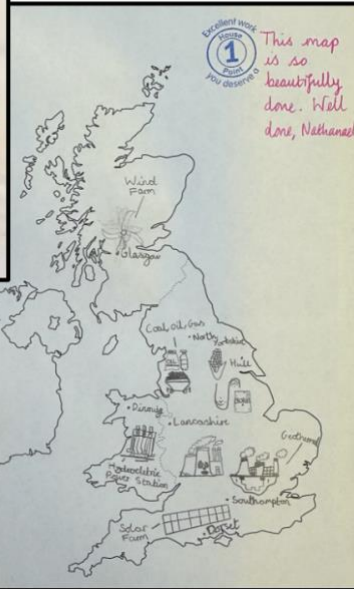
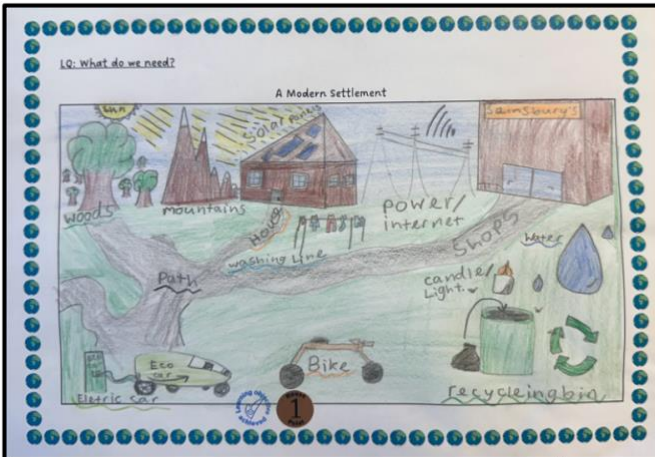
We are currently working on writing news articles to recount the story and inform others on the impact global warming is having on our environment.

Class News

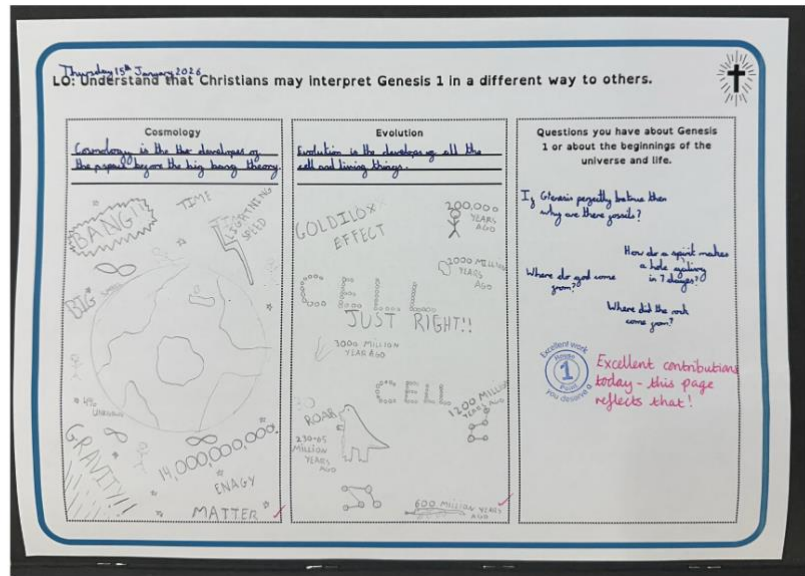
Danes Class



Our new geography topic is 'Everybody's Earth'. To begin the unit, we looked at what features a modern-day settlement needs to have; we then designed our own settlement. After this, our focus was to look at how our power is generated – we learnt about renewable and non-renewable sources before plotting power stations on our UK map.



Our RE learning this half-term has complimented our scientific learning about **Evolution and Inheritance**. We began our learning journey by exploring Genesis – depicting God's creation of Earth. Then, we contrasted this with cosmology theory.



To finish our algebra learning in maths, we practised our algebraic reasoning skills through a game of snakes and ladders. As a class, we agreed values for a, b, c and d. Then, we randomly selected an expression to evaluate – this told us how many spaces to move.

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

TALK TOGETHER about Justice

Justice means more than making things 'fair'.

In order for people to live together well in a **just** community, it is important to have rules or laws that everybody sticks to. Imagine if there were no rules for people driving cars on the road!

As a family you may want to talk about:

- why it is important to have rules and laws
- rules or laws that you don't think are **just** (or fair)
- family rules that you think are important

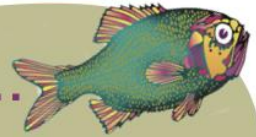
THINK TOGETHER Words of Wisdom

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to **justice** everywhere."

Martin Luther King Jr



READ TOGETHER... The Story of Jonah



Some folk always seem to be arguing or moaning and groaning. Sometimes they moan about the weather, sometimes they moan about their family, and sometimes they just moan. In fact, they are so busy moaning about EVERYTHING that they forget to be thankful for ANYTHING.

Jonah was just like that! He moaned all the time. So when God asked him to go to Ninevah and tell the people there that he was angry about their stealing, lying, fighting and their wicked ways, of course Jonah moaned and groaned. "Not Ninevah, please! Anywhere but Ninevah! We have never got on with that nasty bunch. Please Lord, send someone else." And just in case God asked him again Jonah, quick as his legs could carry him, ran to the dock and asked the captain of the nearest boat to take him to the furthest place from Ninevah. The nearest boat was the Jolly Dragon and her captain was called Wise Captain Silas. The Jolly Dragon set sail on a calm sea under a clear blue sky but within a day found herself caught up in a fierce and frightening storm. Captain Silas knew immediately that something was not right. He went to find his passenger, who, surprise, surprise, was below deck moaning to one of the sailors. "It's my fault," groaned Jonah. "Throw me into the sea and the storm will blow over." Wise Captain Silas knew Jonah was right and so to save his ship and all the crew, gave orders to toss Jonah overboard that minute. A huge fish saw Jonah sinking slowly to the bottom of the sea, and he opened his great mouth wide, and swallowed him whole!

Jonah had only just enough time to recover from the shock when he found himself shooting through the air and onto a beach very near to Ninevah. The great fish had spat him out and swum away.

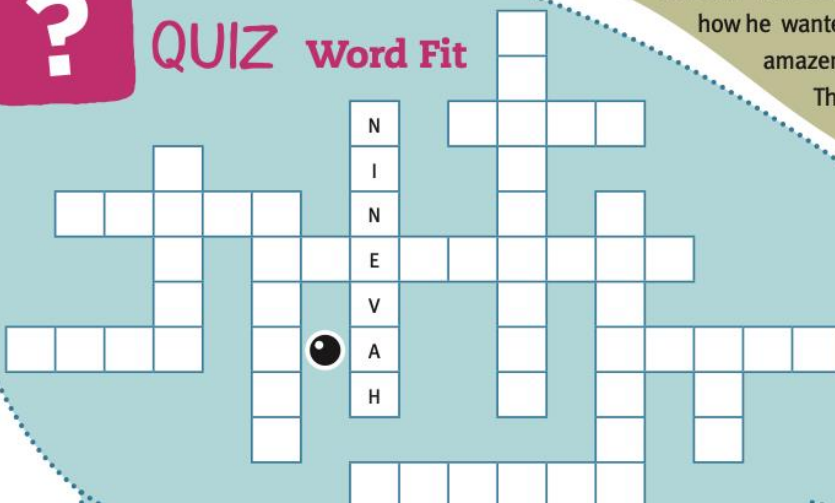
Even Jonah knew now that there was no way out. He picked himself up, shook off the seaweed and walked slowly into the centre of the city. There he did what God had told him at the start and explained to the people of Ninevah that God was sad about their **unjust** behaviour and how he wanted them to change their ways. To Jonah's amazement, that's exactly what they did.

They fasted, they prayed for God's forgiveness and even thanked him for sending Jonah.

Bible story based on Book of Jonah



QUIZ Word Fit



- ANGRY
- CALM
- FISH
- GOD
- GROANED
- JONAH
- MOANER
- OVERBOARD
- PRAYED
- STORM
- SWALLOWED

☆ HALL OF FAME

Lady Justice

Lady **Justice** is one of the most famous landmarks in London. It is a bronze statue that stands on the domed roof of the Old Bailey. This building houses the central criminal courts where people who are accused of breaking the law are tried by a judge and jury to find out if they are 'guilty' and should be punished or 'not guilty' and can go free.

Lady **Justice** was designed to be a symbol of **justice**: in her left hand she carries the scales of truth and fairness and in her right hand a double edged sword representing the power of reason and **justice**.



FAMILY FOCUS

Making a new law

New laws are passed every year by the government.

Ask each member of the family to think of a law which they think the government should pass. Talk about your ideas and how your new law would make a difference.



FASCINATING FACTS

The World Village

If the world was a village, with 100 people living in it:

- 61 people would come from Asia, 13 from Africa, 13 from the Americas, 12 from Europe and 1 from Australasia
- 26 of the people would be under 15 and just 8 of them over 64
- half of the people would speak one of just 8 languages – and the most common language would be Chinese
- 82 village people have access to safe drinking water
- 17 people would not be able to read or write
- 53 villagers would have less than £1.30 a day to live on
- there would be 18 cars, 15 computers, 61 mobile phones

Talk with your family about ...

- what you find surprising about these statistics
- what we take for granted in our lives that many people live without
- what you think is **unjust**
- what you think could be done to make the world a more **just** place for everyone

* Taken from 2012 statistics inspired by © If the World Were a Village by David J. Smith, 1990.



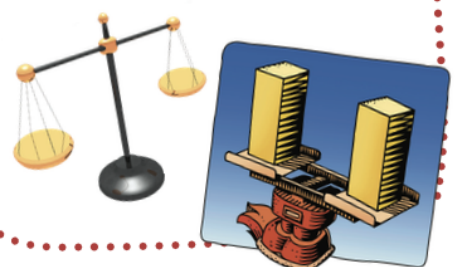
HOME-SCHOOL CHALLENGE



Design a weighing machine

Before electronic weighing machines were invented, scales often had two pans that were balanced when each held an equal weight.

Design and make a simple balance from junk materials that can weigh small objects.



Calling all Parents

Do you have a child with SEND?



FREE DROP IN SESSION



Come along to meet other parents, have a coffee/tea and hear about support and advice available in the SEND world

no booking or appointment needed

- Find out about local services
- Meet other families
- Advice and support

SERVICES ATTENDING:-

Herts MIND	Messy Minds
Supporting Links	Tracks
Step2Skills	Lending Space
Phoenix	Home Start
Angels	SET Family Support
ADDvance	Well Being Junction
Family Centre	Herts Parent Carer Involvement

DATES & VENUE:

17th March 2026, 10am-12pm, Moss Bury School, Stevenage SG1 5PA

16th June 2026, 10am - 12pm, Pear Tree School, Stevenage SG2 9GG

Tel: 01438 233900 | Email: dspl2@peartreesprings.herts.ac.uk



Both mixed and girls only

TK football

FEBRUARY HALF TERM

Dates

Monday 16th Feb
Wednesday 18th Feb

Tuesday 17th Feb - multisports

5 - 12 year olds
9:00 - 15:00

£18 per day

Bedwell Primary School

MESSAGE DIRECTLY TO BOOK A SPACE



FEBRUARY HALF TERM

TKmultisports camp

Dates

Tuesday 17th Feb

5 - 12 year olds
9:00 - 15:00

£18 per day

Bedwell Primary School

MESSAGE DIRECTLY TO BOOK A SPACE

