



Aston St. Mary's Newsletter

Our value this half term is Justice

www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk

13th February 2026

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

Diary Dates

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

Wednesday 11th 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.

Tuesday 14th April - Children return to school

As we come to the end of another busy half term, it's a pleasure to reflect on all that has been happening in school. It has been a fantastic half term of learning, and it has been wonderful to see the progress the children are making across all areas of the curriculum. Classrooms have been full of curiosity, creativity, and determination, and the pride the children take in their work has been clear to see. After half term, we are really looking forward to welcoming you into school for parents' evenings, where we will have the opportunity to share your child's learning and progress with you.

The children have also enjoyed a wide range of sporting activities this half term. The children have shown great enthusiasm, teamwork, and resilience as they have taken part in events and competitions. Sport plays an important role in school life, helping children to stay active, build confidence, and support one another. There is lots more to celebrate, so please read further in the newsletter for reports and photos.

Our value this half term has been **justice**. We have seen many examples of children living out this value in both their work and their play. Whether it has been including others, standing up for what is right, sharing fairly, or showing kindness and honesty, the children continue to demonstrate what justice looks like in everyday actions.

Finally, we would like to wish all our families a happy, safe, and restful half term break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for another exciting half term ahead.

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

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



Shining Stars were awarded to:

**Raina, Darcie, Stanley,
James, Jack B. and Bella**

A Thought about Justice:

Justice means following Jesus' example of love, kindness, and fairness. When we care for others, forgive, and choose to do what is right, we are living the way God asks us to live. With God's help, even small acts of love can bring hope, healing, and fairness to our school and our world.

Dear God,





Thank you for showing us how to live justly and love one another.

Help us to follow Jesus each day by being kind, forgiving, and fair.

Guide our hearts and our actions so we may build your kingdom of peace and love.

Amen.

House Points

Canterbury  398	St. Paul's  388
St. Albans  370	Coventry  424

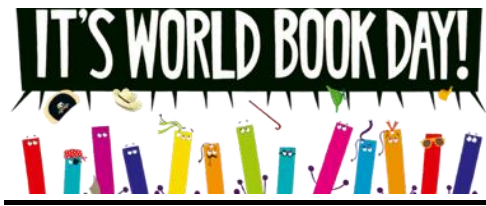
House Point Winners

Well done to Coventry House for earning the most house points this half term.

Notices



Aston St. Mary's is a **NUT and SESAME FREE ZONE**. Please ensure that packed lunches **do not contain any products containing nuts** or sesame (including products such as Nutella, humus, tahini and sesame seeds on bread/breadsticks).



World Book Day – Thursday 5th March 2026

Staff are busily planning for another celebration of reading for World Book Day. This year, the children will be travelling around the world through a range a range of exciting texts. As in previous years, children will not need to dress up as our focus is simple - to promote a love of reading without additional expense of time or money.

Further details to follow.

Attendance Matters

We are delighted that our attendance so far this year is an **impressive 97.7%** (compared to 93.4% nationally). This means that vast majority of children are **accessing the full curriculum without gaps in their learning**.

Attendance this term

Shackadell 98.5%

Puddlebridge 98.4%

Danes 98.2%

Peartree 94.8%

Haffydown 94.7%

A particular well done should go to Shackadell, Puddlebridge and Danes Classes for achieving over 98% attendance so far in 2026!



Attendance Matters



Read, Read, Read!

Supporting your child to become an avid and enthusiastic reader really is one of the most important ways in which you can help enable your child's future success. Strong readers not only become competent writers but they also they build a rich and varied vocabulary, they develop empathy and imagination. All this as well as gaining a wealth of knowledge and understanding about their world. Perhaps most importantly, they can enjoy travelling to different times and places in order to simply relax and recharge.

Please ensure that your child reads regularly at home in order to develop their fluency and enjoyment. Younger children should be reading aloud to an adult most days. Please ensure that this is recorded in your child's reading record book. Older children should also be reading widely and often – sometimes to an adult and often to themselves.



Notices



On Friday 6th February, Puddlebridge and Danes competed in NSPCC Rocks – a national competition hosted by Times Tables Rock Stars for NSPCC Number Day. NSPCC Rocks required children to correctly answer as many multiplication and division questions as possible. The competition was fierce with 92,457,148 questions answered collectively by 307,110 pupils from more than 4,000 schools around the country!

Aston St. Mary's achieved 33rd place out of 4,011 schools nationally and 2nd place out of 413 schools in the East of England.

This fantastic result is a testament to the children's hard work to secure their knowledge of multiplication facts up to 12 x 12. On average, the children in Years Four, Five and Six answered a staggering 961 questions each correctly during Friday's competition. This really is impressive fluency!

Ted in Year Five deserves a special mention; he was the 18th highest pupil out of 30,146 pupils competing in the East of England. Ted answered 5,627 questions correctly in an hour!

As you may be aware, children are assessed on the knowledge of multiplication facts via the MTC (multiplication tables check) during the summer term of Year Four. This is a statutory check to determine whether pupils can recall their times tables fluently, which is essential for future success in mathematics. It also helps schools to identify pupils who have not yet mastered their times tables, so that additional support can be provided.

At Aston St. Mary's, our results in the MTC are consistently significantly higher than national averages which enables our pupils to be in a strong position to tackle the Year Five and Six maths curriculum. Weekly sessions are set by teachers for children in Years Two – Six.

Please ensure that your child completes these sessions every week; regular short bursts of practice really does aid fluency.

School Uniform

Please be reminded that all clothing must be clearly labelled with your child's name. Every week, items are found without names which means we are unable to return them to their owner.



Sports Updates

Hertfordshire Schools Athletics Association Cross Country Championships

Saturday 31st January 2026

On Saturday 31st January, a team of children from years Five and Six competed in the Hertfordshire Cross Country Championships at St. Margaret's School, Bushey. The whole team were amazing and made us very, very proud as they competed over a tough, slippery course against a very large field of competitors. Well done to the team and thank you to all the parents who ensured their children were able to get there on the day.

**Jack, Ethan, Theo,
Keely, Darcie, Amelie,
Ted, Hayden, Stanley,
Tilly, Maryam and
Pixie**

– you are all stars!



Small Schools County Cup Finals – Saturday 31st January 2026

We were delighted that our fantastic football team won the initial stage in order to represent Stevenage at the county cup finals at Parmiter's School in Watford. The team showing amazing skill and sportsmanship throughout; they were the highest goal scorers and made it to the final. This was a closely fought match which ended in a draw after extra time. Sadly, we were beaten on penalties but, once again, the team made us proud – as they accepted their loss graciously.



A huge well done to:

**James, Jack, Louie, Theo,
Vaaris, Bertie, Ethan, and
Nathanael**

You all made us very proud
and showed great resilience
despite having to play
through driving rain and even
hail!

Sports Updates

Sports Hall Athletics at Barnwell School

On Monday and Wednesday last week, lots of children in Key Stage Two had the opportunity to compete against other - much larger - schools at an indoor athletics event at Barnwell School. Year Five (and a few Year Six) competed on Monday and then on Wednesday it was Year Four's opportunity (with a few Year Three). We were very proud of all of the children as they showed great determination and ambition throughout. Their behaviour was, of course, exemplary too.



Basketball



Last week, a Year Six team competed in a 3v3 basketball competition at Barnwell School. They all did so well and really cheered each other on. They are now through to the next round - we are so proud of them all.

Congratulations:

**Jasmine, James, Ethan, Keely,
Darcie and Theo.**

Year Six Rowing

On Wednesday this week, Year Six really enjoyed a rowing lesson. It was certainly good exercise - everyone was exhausted by the end! During the session, they learnt how to improve their rowing technique whilst competing in various fun challenges.



Class News

Shackadell Class

In Shackadell Class, we have been thinking about **real life superheroes** and people who help us. We have been focusing on police officers, firefighters and medics. We had to solve a crime in our classroom. Someone had taken Miss Holden's sweets. After much investigation, we found out that it was Mrs Baker!



We looked at police officers and firefighters and talked about their uniforms and important equipment. We have really enjoyed dressing up and keeping everyone safe!



We had a wonderful afternoon with two of our Mum's who are medics. It was so much fun learning about their jobs. We were allowed to practise taking care of patients by using a lot of bandages. Poor Shackadell Class looked like they had a lot of injuries by the time we had used all the bandages! We have loved learning about real life superheroes and all of the amazing people who keep us safe.



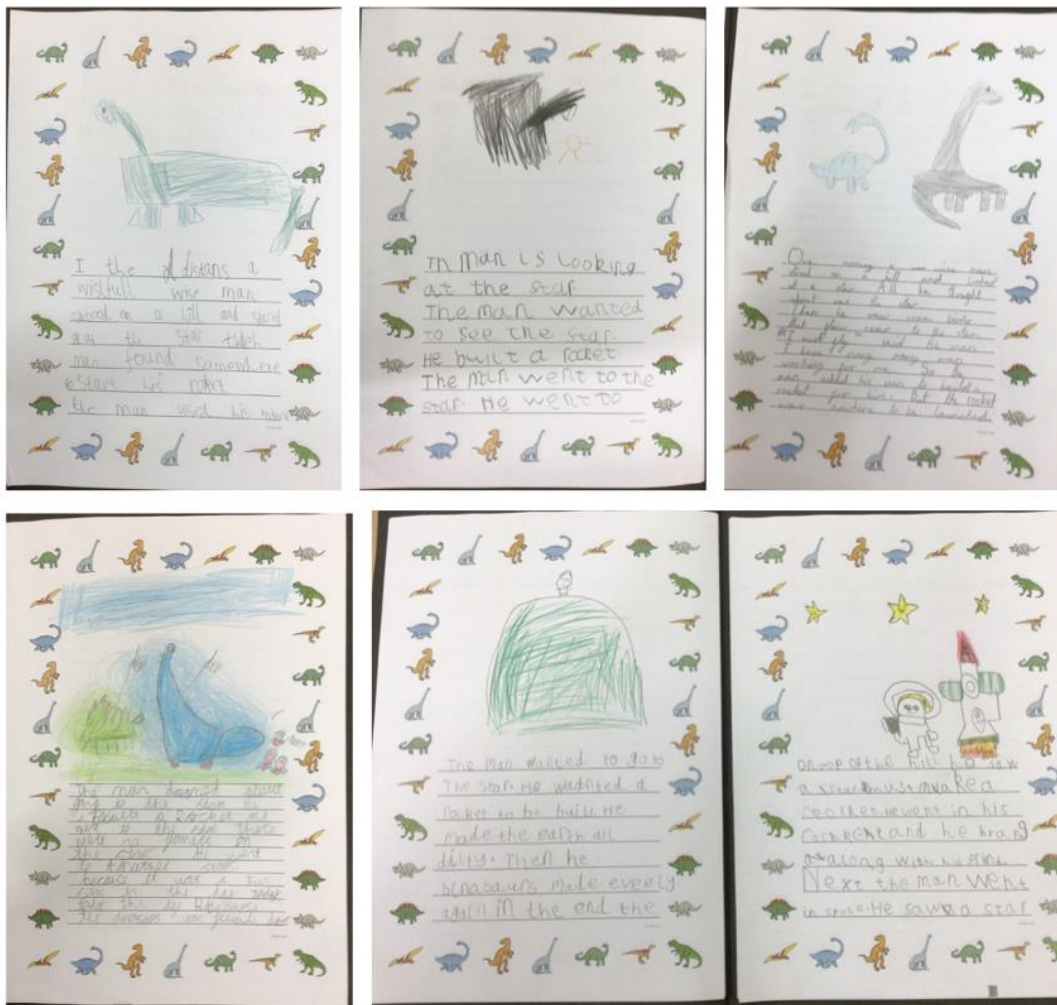
Class News

Peartree Class

Another half term over. We are now halfway through the school year already. We have thoroughly enjoyed our art topic based on the photographer **Mitchel Wu**. Here are some of our before and after photos. We used the app 'Snapseed' on the iPads to help erase objects, blur foregrounds or backgrounds and change lighting and colouring.



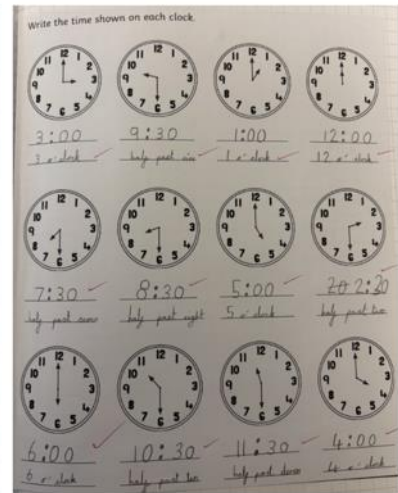
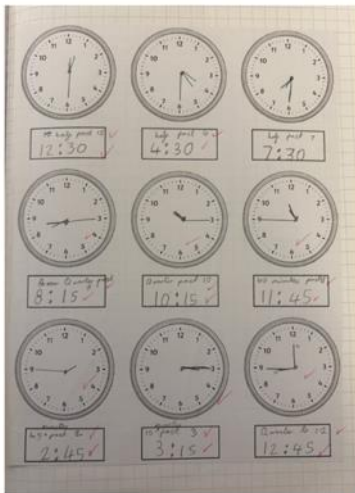
In English, we have just finished our extended writing based on the book '**Dinosaurs and all that Rubbish**' by **Michael Foreman**. We have made our own class book and here is some of the writing we have produced. Please feel free to come in and have a look.



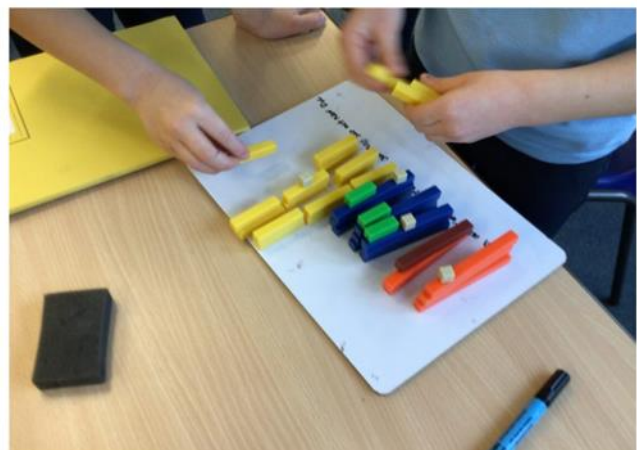
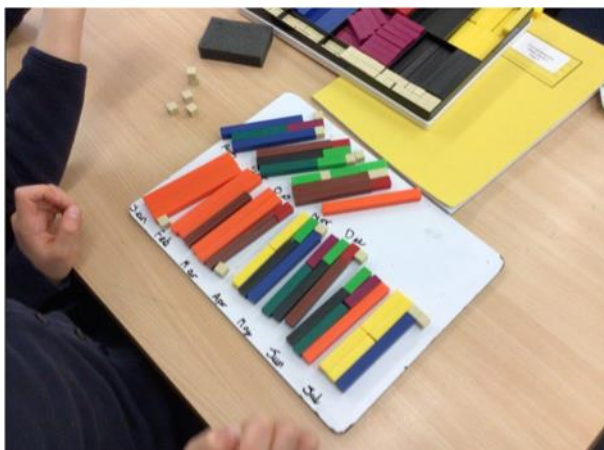
We say goodbye to Miss Sheridan this week and have really loved having her in our class. We will miss her. We hope you all have a lovely rest over half term.

Class News

Haffydown Class

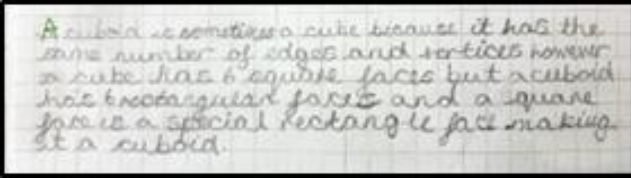
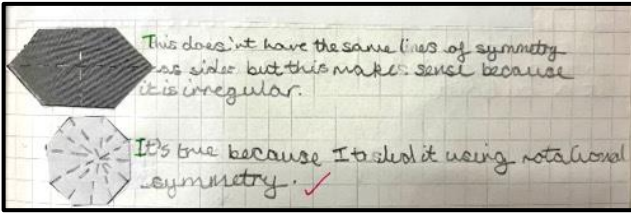


Over the last few weeks, Haffydown Class have been busy learning how to tell the time. The children have been working on reading the time to the nearest half hour, quarter hour and 5 minutes, and they've shown great enthusiasm throughout. They really enjoyed making their own clocks from paper plates, which helped them understand how a clock works. We've played lots of interactive games and taken part in practical activities and problem-solving tasks to practise telling the time. Some children who wear watches have been especially keen, regularly checking the time and proudly sharing it with us during the day. It's been lovely to see their confidence grow with such an important life skill.



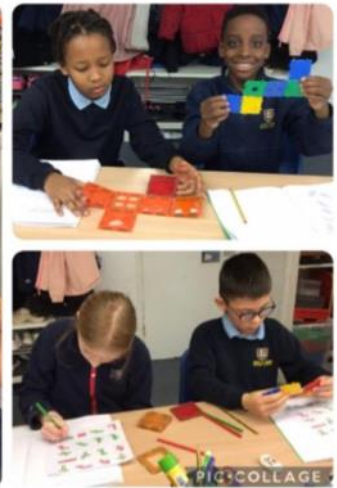
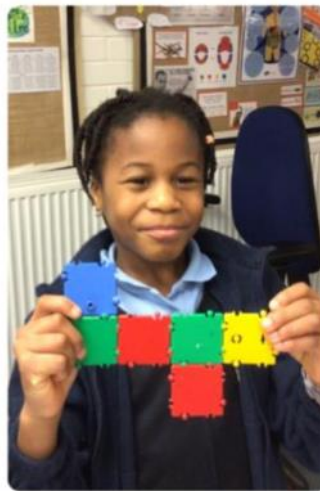
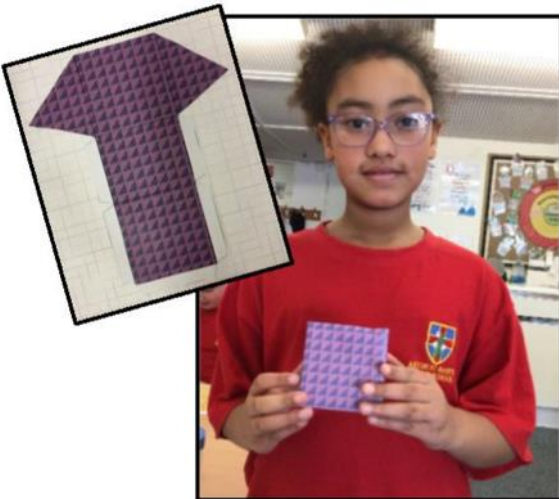
Class News

Puddlebridge Class



In maths, we have been exploring **the world of shape**. We began by learning about the properties of different quadrilaterals before moving on to symmetry, where we investigated the relationship between regular and irregular shapes. We discovered that regular polygons have the same number of lines of symmetry as sides and used a range of approaches to prove that this is always true.

We then turned our attention to 3D shapes and posed the question: **Is a cuboid always a cube?** Through careful questioning and discussion, we concluded that while a cube is always a cuboid, a cuboid is not always a cube. We finished the unit by exploring **nets of 3D shapes** and had lots of fun designing our own using software before printing and constructing them.



In art, we have started a new unit based around the question: **Can art tell a story?** We began by discussing what this question means to us and exploring examples of storytelling through art that we had seen before. I was particularly impressed by how much the children could recall from previous learning, such as cave paintings and the Bayeux Tapestry. We then studied a range of famous artworks, including *The Scream* by Edvard Munch, *In the Loge* by Mary Cassatt, and *The Horse Fair* by Rose Bonheur, and considering the stories these paintings might be telling. Finally, the children created their own images inspired by what could have happened before or after the scene shown.

