



Aston St. Mary's Newsletter

Our value this half term is **Forgiveness**

www.astonmarys.herts.sch.uk

27th March 2026

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

Diary Dates

Tuesday 14th April - Children return to school
Wednesday 15th April – Year Five walk to Astonbury woods
Monday 11th May – Thursday 14th May – Year Six SATs assessments
Friday 15th May – Sports Day (PM)
Thursday 21st May – Open Afternoon (2:00pm-3:15pm)
Friday 22nd May – Reserve Sports Day (PM)
Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May – Half Term Week
Thursday 4th June – Shackadell Class to Hertfordshire Zoo
Monday 15th June – Friday 19th June – Year Six Bikeability
Monday 22nd June – **Years Five and Six visit to Hazard Alley Safety Centre**
Music Evening (6pm)
Thursday 25th June – Class Photos
Wednesday 1st July – Danes and Puddlebridge Classes to Wicksteed Park
Monday 6th July – Haffydown Class to Celtic Harmony
Tuesday 7th July – Intervillage Sports Event
Monday 13th July – Year Six Leavers' Trip (PM)
Tuesday 14th July – Whole School Production 1:30pm and 6pm
Wednesday 15th July – Whole School Production 6pm
Friday 17th July – Last day of summer term
9:30am Leavers' Service
1:00pm School finishes

As we approach the joyful **celebration of Easter**, we are reminded of the message of hope, new life and love at the heart of the season. It is also a special time for families to come together - whether through shared meals, quiet reflection, or simple moments spent with one another. We hope you enjoy this meaningful time, creating happy memories and celebrating the values that bring our school community together.

It was wonderful that so many parents and friends were able to join us in church this morning for our **Easter service**. Earlier this week, the children enjoyed a special **Easter breakfast** in school. This is always a lovely occasion during which hot cross buns are shared whilst the children are reminded of the importance of Easter in the Christian calendar. Another important Aston tradition, which takes place today, is the **egg decorating** competition followed by **egg rolling** on the school playground. These are always exciting and closely fought competitions! We hope that the decorated ceramic eggs can be enjoyed as part of your Easter celebrations at home.

Today, we say **goodbye to Miss Myers**, class teacher of Haffydown Class. During her time here, she has made a lasting impact on the children and our wider school community through her dedication, care and enthusiasm. She will be greatly missed by both pupils and colleagues alike. We thank her for all she has given to the school and wish her every success and happiness in her new role. We look forward to **welcoming Miss Smith** to our school next term; she is very excited to get to know Haffydown Class.

As you will see from the **dates list**, we already have lots planned for the term ahead. In the meantime, we hope that you all enjoy some special family time over the break, and we look forward to welcoming the children back to school on **Tuesday 14th April**.



ACADEMIC YEAR 2025/2026

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 NOTE: From 1st April 2026, the price per meal will increase to £3.65.



House Point Winners

Well done to St. Albans House for earning the most house points this half term!



House Points

Canterbury



576

St. Paul's



526

St. Albans



606

Coventry



506

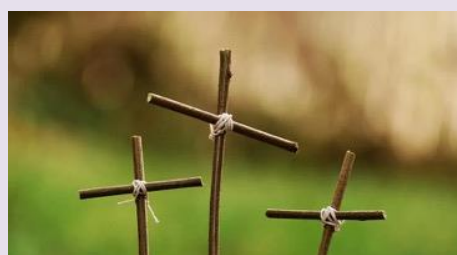
A Thought about Forgiveness:

As we approach Easter, we are reminded of the powerful message of forgiveness. In our school community, forgiveness helps us to heal, to rebuild friendships, and to show kindness even when it feels difficult. Just as the Easter story teaches us about new beginnings and compassion, we encourage our children to say sorry, to accept apologies, and to move forward with understanding and care. By practising forgiveness, we create a happier, more peaceful environment where everyone feels valued and respected.

Dear God,

Thank you for showing us the importance of love and forgiveness. Help us to forgive others as you forgive us, to be kind in our words and actions, and to bring peace to those around us. As we celebrate Easter, guide us to make good choices and to care for one another each day.

Amen.



Notices

FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

Following winning the local football tournament in December at Stevenage FC, our Year Five and Six team were invited to participate in a national football tournament representing Stevenage FC. Teams had travelled from all over the south of England, including as far south as Exeter.

Stevenage FC kindly provided the team with kits and a minibus for the competition. The team, along with their coach, Rene (Theo's dad) and Toby from Stevenage FC, travelled to High Wycombe on the 17th March. They played five matches in their group. Each match was very competitive. Good sportsmanship was displayed throughout the day.

The team achieved second place in their group which earned them a place in the semifinals. Unfortunately, on this occasion, the team were beaten in the semis so did not progress to the finals stage which is held at Wembley stadium. We are extremely proud of our whole team, and this was a great experience for them all. Thank you to Rene for coaching and Toby for supporting Rene. Also, thanks to all the parents who travelled to cheer on our team and Stevenage FC for providing this opportunity for our small school.

Ethan, Lucas, Jack, James, Theo, Nathanael, Vaaris and Louie, this really was a performance to be proud of.



A Fantastic Friendly

There were plenty of positives to take away from this friendly which ended with a 2:1 victory to Roebuck. The team showed energy, determination and commitment throughout.

Well done to **Darcie, Ellis, Pixie, Theo, Ted, Aariv, Jayne and Isabel** – we are so proud of you all.

Please be reminded that 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).



NUT AND SESAME FREE ZONE

'Attend Today and Achieve Tomorrow'



Attendance continues to be a key priority across the school – this term, attendance has been 96.9%. Puddlebridge and Shackadell Classes deserve a mention for having the highest attendance score - with Danes Class not far behind.

Puddlebridge: 98.1%

Shackadell: 98.0%

Danes: 97.3%

Haffydown: 95.9%

Peartree: 95.5%

Every Minute Counts

Frequent absence can add up to a considerable amount of lost learning and can seriously disadvantage your child in adult life. The chart below shows the impact of absence across **one school year**.

Attendance during one school year	equals this number of days absent	which is approximately this many weeks absent	which means this number of lessons missed
95%	9 days	2 weeks	50 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	150 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	200 lessons

Notices

World Sing Up Day

We are delighted that our **fantastic school choir** has, this term, joined thousands of schools around the world to become part of the most musical map on the planet! **World Sing Up Day** took place on Wednesday and the whole school enjoyed a fantastic performance in assembly of **We Get Up Again** composed by **Emily Barden**. This vibrant pop anthem celebrates resilience, personal growth and the ability to embrace life's highs and lows. It encourages children to view challenges as part of their journey and to keep moving forwards with confidence and joy.

Last week, the choir's performance of the song was recorded meaning Aston will be part of the **Herts Music Service Sing Up Digital Choir**. In addition to this, two lucky children – **Jadon and Orla from Puddlebridge Class** – represented Aston in the **countywide Hertfordshire Mass Choir**. They attended **HMS Sing Up Celebration Day at Mid Herts Music Centre** in Hatfield on Monday – they really did have a fantastic time. Both children are passionate about singing and were excellent ambassadors for our school at this event.

Well done to every single member of the choir for your passion and enthusiasm and a huge **THANK YOU** to the **wonderful Mrs Avis** for all her hard work with both the upper and lower school groups and for organising this fantastic opportunity for the children.



SCAN ME

Good Luck Lara!

We would like to wish Lara Minnis (mum to Ted, Orla and Otilie and music teacher to many of our pupils) the very best of luck in the London marathon. Lara is running for Caudwell Youth, a charity who provide mental health services to young people – often including those who are neurodivergent. To find out more, please visit her Just Giving page.



If you are able to make a donation, however small, Lara would be very grateful.

Congratulations to the following children who were awarded **Shining Stars this week – we are very proud of you all.**

Ted (Danes),
Jadon (Puddlebridge), **Elle** (Peartree), **Jessica, Artie** and **Rose** (Shackadell).



Notices

Easter Breakfast



Bird Art Competition



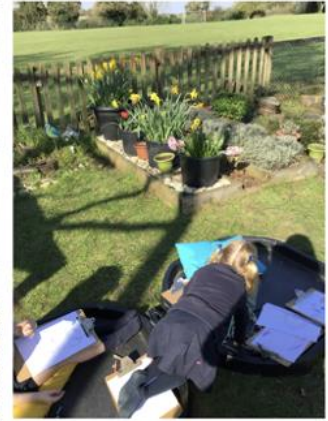
Well done to all our budding artists who entered the Bird Art competition. Thank you to **Miss Skull** for organising this following **RSPB Big School Bird Watch** - which all classes took part in. There were so many fantastic entries from across the school. Congratulations to the winners in each age group:

Early Years: Humaid
Lower School: Lottie C.
Upper School: Tilly

Class News

Shackadell Class

Shackadell have been enjoying their outdoor learning and forest school. We have been looking for signs of spring around the school grounds and have loved seeing all of the blossom and new flowers. During Adventure Time, we spent time drawing some of our lovely spring flowers.



We enjoyed an afternoon at Aston village pond. We looked at the pond life and were following all of our safety rules. Mrs Skull was really careful when she got near to the edge to collect some pond water. We poured the pond water into white trays and let it settle. After a while we could see small insects moving around in the water.

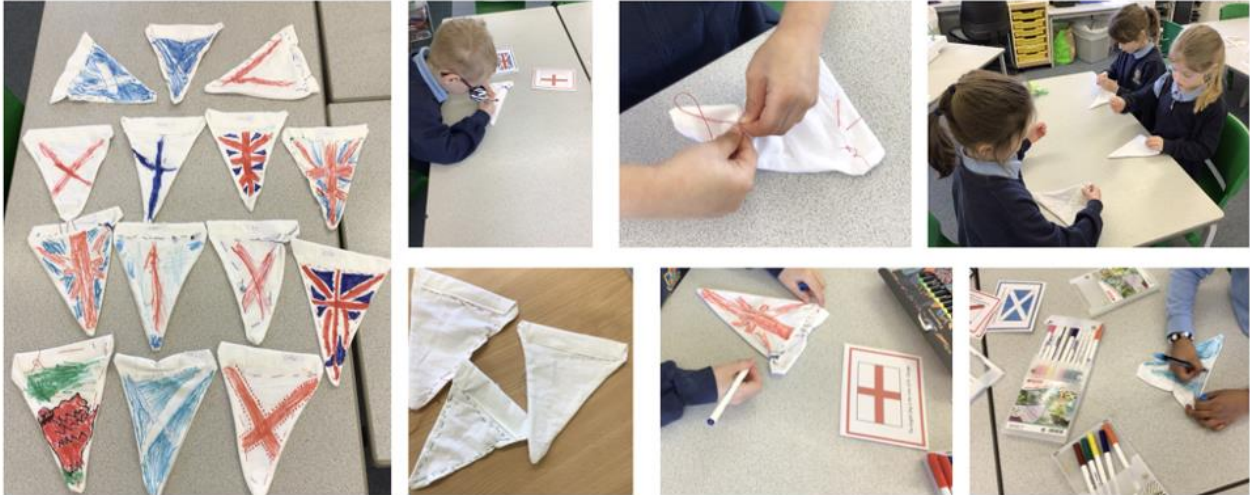


Class News

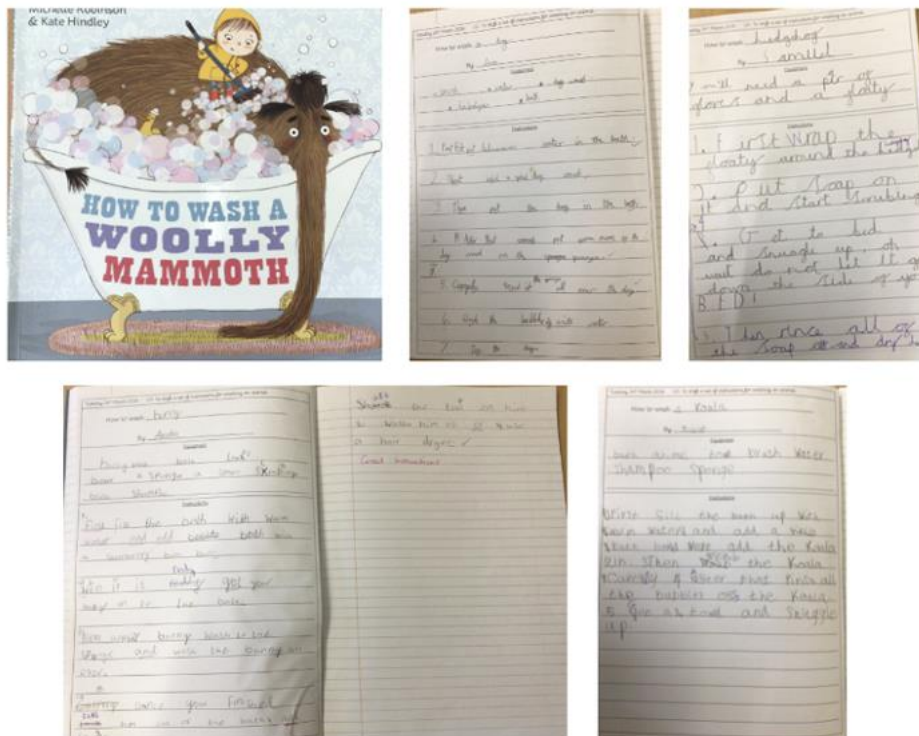
Peartree Class

Finally, we have finished our DT topic of **'bunting'** and are proud of our flags. We enjoyed looking at and evaluating existing bunting flags.

We then designed our own on paper and by using a computer design program. We have used our geography topic of the UK to inspire us. Can you guess which flags? We used a running stitch to join the fabric together and fabric pens to decorate. We loved sewing.



We have also finished our instructions unit in English based around the book **'How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth'**. We wrote draft instructions and edited them and then we wrote them up in neat to produce a class book. Please feel free to come in and have a read on how to wash a variety of different animals.



We hope you have a lovely rest and look forward to all the new topics we will be learning about in the summer.

Class News

Haffydown Class

Haffydown Class have had a brilliant end to the Spring Term, finishing with lots of fun and plenty to be proud of. Our trip to Climb Quest in Milton Keynes was definitely a highlight. The children showed fantastic teamwork and supported each other throughout, and it was great to see so much courage on display. Many really pushed themselves to try things they found challenging and stepped well outside their comfort zones, while others were eager to get started straight away and take on every wall they could. The Stairway to Heaven and the vertical drop slide were particularly popular and there were some very brave moments! We were so proud of everyone for all the challenges they took on and the way Haffydown conducted themselves all day.



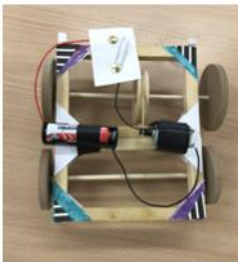
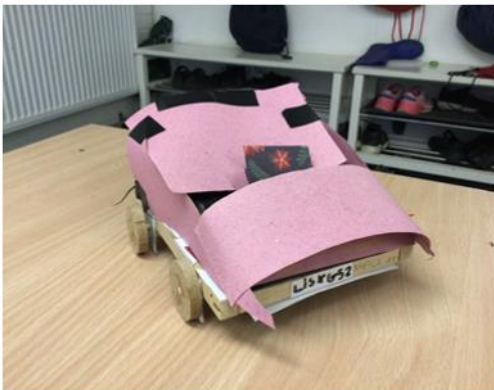
Back at school, we enjoyed our annual Haffydown D.E.A.R. day, where we pushed the tables back, got cosy with blankets and comfy clothes, and spent time sharing and enjoying books together.

We also completed our art unit on Cindy Sherman by creating photographs based on who we would like to be when we grow up. The children brought in their own props and fully embraced the activity, producing some really thoughtful and creative work. It was a lovely way to spend time together and a great way to end the term.

Class News

Puddlebridge Class

As part of our Everybody's Earth topic, the children have been busy designing and making their own model **electric vehicles**. Linking closely with our Geography learning, the project has helped pupils understand how more sustainable transport works. Each child created their vehicle individually, using a wooden chassis along with an electrical motor and pulley system to rotate the wheel axle and power their design. The class has shown fantastic creativity, problem-solving, and perseverance throughout the process.

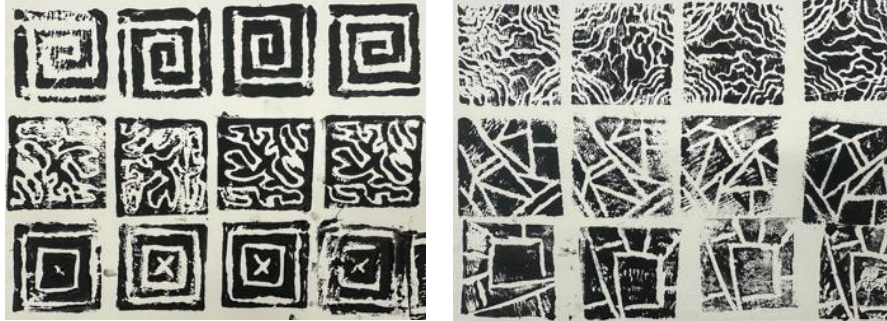


Class News

Danes Class

Our art learning this term has centred around the question 'What Does it Mean to be Free?'

After exploring what the word freedom means to us as well as famous freedom fighters, we experimented mark making through printing.



It was then time to design our final pieces – portraits of historical figures who are dedicating or have dedicated their lives to fighting for freedom.



Creating our prints was lots of fun; using lino was a tough new challenge! Some of us chose to use this material for our final portraits which took a lot of skill, strength and sustained focus!



Could you be a young carer?

If you help look after a friend or family member who needs extra support - you may be a young carer and there's **one easy place to get help.**

WELCOME

- Be part of a young carers community
- Friendly welcome from the young carers team

Support for the whole family

- Friendly chats to consider everyone's needs
- Check ins to make sure you're doing ok
- Help as you grow up and move into new stages of life

A new young carers webpage

- Clear information on what help you can get
- Links to opportunities, activities & wellbeing support
- Designed by young carers for young carers

Get involved

- Conference designed by young carers, workshops, fun sessions, meeting others
- Opportunities to have your say
- Work with SEND Youth Councils

Additional support

- Support in your school / college
- Meet other young carers
- If you're eligible for free school meals, you can get discounts with a **Herts Card**
- Free activity camps in school holidays - **HAPpy Camps**

How to get support

- Ask an adult in your family to help you get in touch
- Speak to your teacher or a trusted member of staff
- Visit the website or call 01992 658469



www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/youngcarers



Groups and workshops

Summer 2026

Bringing Up Confident ADHD/ASD Children (6 weeks) Online group

Thursday 14th May to 25th June, 7pm - 9pm

If your child has ADHD/ASD, or you think they might, join our online 6-week group where you will receive support from other parents and gain a comprehensive understanding of ADHD/ASD and learn strategies to improve life at home and at school.

Less Shouting, More Cooperation (6 weeks) Online group

Wednesday 13th May to 24th June, 7pm - 9pm | Monday 1st June to 6th July 9.30am to 11.30am

Do you feel you are constantly nagging or shouting at your child to get what you need? Are you tired of losing your cool and want a calmer house? Join our free online 6-week group to learn how you can change the way you communicate with your child, respond better, and feel more in control.

Getting on with your Pre Teen / Teen (6 weeks) Online group

Friday 5th June to 10th July, 9.30am to 11.30am

Is your teen feeling anxious or isolated? Are you concerned about their mental health and struggling to get help? Join our free online 6-week online group to learn how parents can best emotionally support their teen and feel confident and prepared for whatever challenges might arise.

Sibling Rivalry Online Workshop

(Date to be confirmed)

This workshop provides parents/carers with practical strategies and tools to effectively foster positive sibling relationships, promote cooperation and manage conflicts between children.

Reducing Conflict Online Workshop

(Date to be confirmed)

This workshop is for parents/carers struggling with conflict within their family life and provides tools to promote a cooperative and collaborative approach to resolving the conflict.

Anxiety around ADHD Online Workshop

(Date to be confirmed)

This workshop helps parents/carers understand what ADHD is, why it makes sense for a child to be anxious if they have ADHD, strategies to help support you and your child, plus signposting to other support that is available.

All our programmes provide support, information and resources to parents/carers and adult family members in Hertfordshire so they can help their children reach their full potential. For more information about our programmes, please contact **Louise** on **0204 522 8700/8701** or email **services@familylives.org.uk** or scan the QR code for our online form.



SCAN HERE

We build better family lives together

www.familylives.org.uk  @familyliveshertsandbeds

Funded by
Hertfordshire
County Council



DSPL2

Delivering Special
Provision Locally



Family support surgery

These are face to face, or online appointment sessions, where parents, carers and extended family can receive guidance, support and signposting on various SEN topics: navigating school issues/accessing community activities and resources.

When:

Thursday 23rd April 2026

45 minute appointment slots will be available
between 9:15am-12.00pm

[Book via DSPL2 Eventbrite](#)

If you have any questions email: dspl2@peartreespring.herts.sch.uk

Face to face appointments will be held at
The Oak Suite, Peartree Spring Primary School,
Hydean way,
Stevenage,
SG2 9GG.



DSPL2

Delivering Special Provision Locally

Chat Health School Nurse text messaging service for parents/carers: 07312 263002

A new service from Chat Health has recently launched for parents/carers to provide advice on supporting children and young people's health and wellbeing (launched July 24)

Find out more about the wide range of services available to support Hertfordshire's children, young people and their parents/carers with emotional wellbeing/mental health at:
www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/youthmentalhealth

Young Minds

Young minds are the UK's leading charity fighting for young people's mental health.

They have a Parents Helpline which is a free national service for any parent or carer concerned about a young person aged 0-25 yrs. We give customised advice and provide translation services in over 200 languages. We also have comprehensive resources on the Parent and Carer section of our website,

https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/parents-helpline/?utm_source=website&utm_medium=website&

With Youth online groups for children and young people

With Youth free online emotional wellbeing groups for 7–12-year-olds and ages 13+.
E: withyouth@hertsmindnetwork.org for more information and/or find out more [here](#)

The sandbox

The Sandbox is an innovative **digital mental healthcare** service for **Children and Young People**.

We work together with the **NHS, local government, and other organisations** to help Children and Young People with their mental health.

<https://thesandbox.mindler.co.uk/>

Follow us on Facebook- https://www.facebook.com/p/DSPL2-Stevenage-100063726952451/?_rdr
Our website is continuously updated with useful information- <https://www.stevenagedspl.org.uk/>

WithYOUTH Online Group Support



Road to Year 7

A welcoming space just for Year 6 students getting ready for secondary school.

Thursdays
5pm - 6pm

Living with Anxiety

A supportive group for young people aged 15 and up who want to understand and manage anxiety. It's a safe space where you can talk, listen, and learn without any pressure.

Wednesdays
7pm - 8pm

Anger Avengers

Anger Avengers is a friendly group for children aged 7-12 who want to understand their anger and learn healthy ways to deal with it.

Tuesdays
5pm - 6pm

Creative Minds

A fun drop-in space for 7-14 year olds where you can use art, games, music, and writing to explore your feelings and express yourself.

Wednesdays
5pm - 6pm



With Youth online groups for children and young people

With Youth free online emotional wellbeing groups for 7–12-year-olds and ages 13+.
E: withyouth@hertsmindnetwork.org for more information and/or find out more [here](#)

Useful information for the Easter Holidays 26

Food support for all - does not require a referral and is not benefit dependent



PLACES WHERE KIDS EAT FREE (OR FOR £1) EASTER HOLIDAYS 2026

moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free



ANGUS STEAKHOUSE Kids under 8 eat FREE daily, 12pm to 5pm	MORRISONS Kids Eat FREE all day, every day with a £5 spend
ASDA Kids eat for £1 daily, with no adult spend	MARCO PIERRE WHITE Kids under 12 Eat FREE daily with an adult spend
ASK ITALIAN 2 Kids eat free from 27th March - 19th April 2026	PAUSA CAFE @ DUNELM Kids eat FREE with every £4 spend all day
BELLA ITALIA Children eat free Sunday - Thursday	PIZZA HUT Kids Eat Free Every Day after 3pm
BEEFEATER & BREWERS FAYRE 2 Kids Eat Free Breakfast with one paying adult	PREMIER INN 2 kids eat for free with 1 adult breakfast
BILLS Kids eat free Mon 30th March - Fri 10th April	PRETO Kids up to age 10 eat free with 1 paying adult
BREWDOG Kids eat free 28th March - 12th April 2026	PUREZZA Kids under 10 get free pizza with every adult meal
CAFE ROUGE Kids Eat FREE 12-4pm every day of the week	SA BRAINS PUBS Kids eat for £1 on Wednesdays
COCONUT TREE Kids eat free Mon 30th March - Sun 19th April	SUBWAY Kids eat Free from the 6th - 13th April
CHIQUITO Kids eat free during all school holidays	SIZZLING PUBS Kids eat for £1, Every Monday to Friday, 3 - 7pm
DOBBIES GARDEN CENTRES Kids eat for £1 with an adult breakfast or lunch	TABLE TABLE 2 Kids Eat free breakfast daily with 1 paying adult
FARMHOUSE INNS Kids eat FREE weekdays 30th March - 17th April	TGI FRIDAYS Kids Eat Free with any adult meal (Via App)
FRANKIE & BENNY'S Kids eat FREE daily from 30th March - 17th April	THE REAL GREEK Kids under 12 eat FREE Sundays with £10 spend
FUTURE INNS Under 5s eat for free with any adult meal	TRAVELODGE 2 kids eat for free with 1 adult breakfast
GORDON RAMSEY RESTAURANTS Kids under 10 eat FREE all day, every day	TURTLE BAY Kids eat free with every £15 adult spend
IKEA Kids get a meal from 95p daily from 11am	WHITBREAD INNS 2 kids eat for FREE with 1 adult breakfast
LAS IGUANAS Kids under 12 eat FREE with 'My Las Iguanas' App	YO! SUSHI Kids eat free all day (weekdays) in school holidays

Please see below following the letter shared last Friday from Public Health Services and Children Services regarding the Meningitis outbreak.



Dear parents and carers,

Re: Men B Vaccination Clarification

Following yesterday's Parent Mail, we would like to provide some further clarification in relation to catching up on missed vaccinations. While it's never too late to catch up with most vaccinations, there is an upper age limit for catching up on the Men B vaccination through the NHS. If your child has missed any of their Men B vaccines usually offered at 8 weeks, 12 weeks and 1 year of age, they can be offered the vaccination up to 2 years of age. The Men B vaccination is not offered by the NHS to children after their 2nd birthday.

Men B vaccination was introduced as part of the NHS vaccination schedule in 2015 and children born before this time are not eligible.

We apologise for any confusion caused.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Perman".

Sarah Perman
Director of Public Health

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jo Fisher".

Jo Fisher
Executive Director, Children's Services