

ASTON ALL SAINTS CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWS LETTER

SPRING TERM 2020

"Everything is possible for the person who has faith"
Mark 9.23



A HAPPY NEW YEAR to all our children and their families!

Dear Parents,

I hope you have all enjoyed the Christmas holidays; the children were all buzzing about their holidays and the wonderful time they have had. In our first assemblies of the new year, we have focussed on the Christian Value of hope and have talked about our hopes for the coming year. I thought you might enjoy reading some of our children's hopes for 2020 ...

- I hope that all of us will stay happy
- I hope that my grandad will get better because he has cancer
- I hope for everyone to be happy
- I hope we will have a good year - and everyone in England
- I hope for everyone to have a great and happy new year and to work as hard as you can in school
- I hope that all my family and friends are happy and healthy
- I hope that the fires in Australia stop
- I hope that my family won't be ill so that we can have a good year
- I hope to pass my SATs this year
- I hope that people won't litter our earth because it is bad for the animals
- I hope that the fires in Australia will stop to save the animals' habitats
- I hope that my mummy gets better and that I will see my grandad

I am sure you will agree that these are wonderful and very thoughtful hopes for the coming year. It might get you thinking about your own hopes for the future

"Hope is believing that good things will happen".



"And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love". 1 Corinthians 13:13

..... this is a quote from one of our hope posters in school.

Thank you to everyone who attended all our Christmas events in school during December; I hope you enjoyed them as much as we did!

Thank you also to everyone who very generously donated to the food bank – your donations were very gratefully received by The New Hope Food Bank.

The sale of concert tickets raised £1055.00 for school funds. Thank you too to the members of our Friends of Aston group who helped to organise the Christmas afternoon, the Christmas card fund raiser and the evening Christmas shopping event. They will keep parents up to date with the funds they raised for school at these events. The money raised by individual classes at the Christmas fair will be spent by each class and the children will help to decide how this is spent.

As always a huge thank you to our teaching assistants who help organise the Christmas concert costumes and props – they do a fabulous job!

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Thank you to all our school families who support our school uniform policy. Below is a polite reminder of our uniform policy; the full policy is available on the school website or can be obtained from the school office. This is as follows:

- **Burgundy** sweatshirt
- **Burgundy** fleece
- **Burgundy** cardigans
- **White or yellow** polo shirts
- **Black or grey** – trousers or skirts – or shorts in the summer [please do not send children to school in jogging bottoms]
- **Yellow, green or burgundy checked** dresses for the girls in the summer [not blue or purple]

The order forms for school uniform are on the parent notice board in the Foundation classroom, in Infant Centre Bay and on the school website. If

any parents need support with the purchase of school uniform, please get in touch with the school office.

Reminder!!! PLEASE ensure that all school uniform [including coats and jackets] is clearly labelled with your child's name! We still have lots of uniform where we are unable to trace the owner because there is no name.

School book bags and back packs are available from the school office and usually do not need to be ordered.

PE shorts and tee shirts are available from the school office; please make sure that your child has PE kit in school every week so that they can take part in all PE lessons. Please also make sure that they have suitable footwear for outdoor PE lessons.

Water bottles

It is part of our healthy school policy that all children have access to fresh drinking water from our water coolers. It is also part of our policy that children have the clear water bottles supplied by school. These are provided free of charge for children when they start school in F2 and when they transfer to KS2. These are available to purchase from the school office – the smaller bottles at £1.40 and the larger ones, for the junior children, are £1.60. *Thank you*

ATTENDANCE

Each week we display weekly attendance figures in classrooms so that parents and children are aware of attendance figures for each class. Well done to those classes who gained 100% attendance for a full week in the autumn term.



If parents need to request leave of absence they must complete a leave request form and send this into the school office. These are available from the main notice boards in Infant Centre Bay, Foundation classroom and on the school website. Thank you to all those parents who continue to make a determined effort to take holidays during the school holidays.

Here is a reminder of the **criteria** agreed by governors.

Head Teachers are now no longer able to grant any absence in term time except under “exceptional circumstances”. This is unlikely, however, to be granted for the purpose of a family holiday.

Governors at Aston C of E Primary School have also agreed that where a request for leave of absence is deemed to be in exceptional circumstances, permission will not be granted:

- If the child has an attendance level that falls below 96% for the previous three terms should the leave go ahead.*
- If the student is due to take any examinations or SATs during this period. [SATs 2020 will be week commencing 11th May]*

Requests for leave of absence must also be made to the school in advance. DfE regulations do not allow any absences to be authorised after they have been taken. Leave of request forms are available from the school office or the school website.

DfE have also stated that parents can be fined by the local authority for taking their child on holiday during term time without consent from the school. Further information about this can be found at www.dfe.gov.uk

Also to help with the planning of holidays, the dates of holidays for the coming year as well as the INSET days are published on the school website in the annual calendar and timetable. If parents do not have access to a computer or printer, please contact the school office and we will happily provide a hard copy. **Please note the national change of date for the early May Bank Holiday – this will now be Friday 8th May and NOT Monday 4th May.**

If your child cannot attend school because they are ill, please contact the school office as early as possible. There is usually someone in the school office from 7.30am each day to take messages. Alternatively, parents could email the message to the school email; emails are checked regularly. enquiries@aasp.dsat.education

Here are the absence and attendance figures for the autumn term -

	School Absence authorised	School Absence unauthorised	School Attendance
September	1.1%	1.1%	97.7%
October	1.9%	1.3%	96.7%
November	3.0%	0.8%	96.5%

Our attendance figures for the autumn term are all above the national average which is excellent news! Thank you to our parents for supporting school in this!

INSET DAYS

The remaining INSET days of the school year will be taken on –

- Friday 22nd May
- Friday 3rd July
- Monday 20th July

CLASS ASSEMBLIES

We would like to invite parents to their child`s class assembly in the spring or summer term. Details of the dates will follow shortly.

A big thank you to all those parents and grandparents who are helping in school on a regular basis, your help and support is greatly appreciated! If there is anyone else who would like to come into school and help please either get in touch with your child`s class teacher or call in and have a word with me – you will be most welcome! It will be necessary for all volunteers to complete a DBS check and details will be provided to all parents and grandparents wishing to volunteer in school.

Mrs Meek, our crossing lady, has asked me to pass on her sincere thanks to children and parents for the cards and gifts she received at Christmas. She really appreciated your thoughtfulness and kindness.

Contact details

Please could we remind parents to update contact details with the school office when phone numbers/email addresses/ postal addresses change? Occasionally we need to contact parents during the school day, for example of their child is ill, so it is **vital** that we have up to date contact details. *Thank you.*

New school email – please make a note of our new school email address – enquiries@aasp.dsat.education

SATs Week 2020

SATs week 2020 will take place week beginning 11th May and the tests will run from Monday to Thursday. These national tests are for Y6 children. The Y2 children will undertake the Y2 SATs and schools can administer these throughout May.

Phonics Screening Y1 – the children in Y1 will take part in Phonics screening from 8th June to 19th June. Packs to help Y1 parents support

their children with phonics will be sent home towards the February half term holiday.

Times table tests Y4 – the children in Y4 will sit a times table test from Monday 8th June for a three week period.

All of the above tests are mandatory and all children will take these tests. These tests must be taken within the given time frame. The outcomes will be reported to parents as part of their child's end of year Record of Achievement towards the end of the summer term.

Keeping all our children safe

Please could we ask that parents do not use the electronic gates on the school drive at the beginning and end of the school day? We need to keep all the children safe and the children need to use the gates on the infant or junior playground whether coming on to the school grounds on their own or with an adult. *Thank you*

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

Here are the dates for the spring term 2020. This newsletter will only be posted on the school website but where parents have requested a hard copy this will be sent home with their child. If any parents require a paper copy, please call into the school office and we will be happy to provide one for you.

Dance lessons

This term, dance teacher, Louise Wells, will be working again with all classes in school; she will be teaching a wide variety of dance, based on the current themes which the classes are working on. As parents are aware all schools receive funding for PE; Sport Premium, to develop different aspects of PE in school. For the spring term we are using our sport premium money to develop dance. Some of the classes may well perform their dance at a parent assembly so parents will be able to see the results of all their hard work!



Wednesday 5th February, Wednesday 12th February and Thursday 13th February there will be an orchestra practice – please could all members of the school orchestra remember to bring their instruments to school on these dates? I am sure that Mrs Thompson Smith will remind the children nearer the time! Thank you

MESSY CHURCH Thursday 16th January and Thursday 6th February

Beth Henshaw will be leading Messy Church in school starting at 3.30pm. The children will be provided with refreshments and a range of activities to take part in. For these sessions, all children must be accompanied by an adult. They will have a great time!



Messy Church in the autumn term.....

Tuesday 21st January

All the children in school will be attending a performance of Cinderella in the school hall. This will be performed by a professional theatre group and the cost will be funded totally by school. I am sure the children will all enjoy this theatre performance – it will be great fun!

Foundation Maths Workshop – Tuesday 18th January

The parents of the children in the Foundation Class will be invited to attend a workshop either in the afternoon or evening. Separate letters will be sent out in due course.

Friday 14th February– there will be a family service and this will be led by the children in Y1. Everyone is welcome to join us for this special service which will begin at 9.15am. Visitors will be invited to stay for tea and coffee after the service.

SCHOOL WILL CLOSE FOR HALF TERM FOR ALL CHILDREN AT 3.15PM ON FRIDAY 14th FEBRUARY AND WILL RE OPEN ON MONDAY 24th FEBRUARY AT 9AM.

Internet Safety talk for parents – 2.15pm on Tuesday 25th February

This will be a short session for parents lasting about an hour when parents can find out lots of information about how to keep their children safe when using computers, tablets etc. This will be led by an outside speaker – Tim Pinto – who has lots of experience in this area.

We also post internet safety information on the school website every month which I am sure parents will find interesting and useful.

Tuesday 3rd March, Wednesday 4th March and Thursday 5th March - Open Evenings for all classes. Letters will follow nearer the time and as with the autumn term open evenings we will be holding some appointments during the school day.

Assembly in All Saints Church – Tuesday 3rd March

All the children in school will be walking up to church for the morning assembly.

MUSIC WEEK - week beginning 16th March

Parents of children who play a musical instrument will be invited to join their child's music lesson. Letters will follow nearer the time with all the details of Music Week. All classes in school will take part in a special music event which I am sure they will really enjoy!

Y4 Residential – a meeting for parents – Tuesday 17th March at 6pm

Parents of the children in Y4 will be invited to a meeting about their residential visit to Eyam in Derbyshire on 4th and 5th May. Letters will follow after half term.

Family learning “Bring Books to Life” led by the Family Learning Team in Rotherham will be held in school on the morning of 23rd March.

This will be open to families in F2 and KS1. Letters will be sent nearer the time.

Y5 Residential – a meeting for parents – Tuesday 24th March at 6pm

The parents of the children in Y5 will be invited to a meeting about the residential visit to Whitby from June 1st to 5th. Letters will be sent nearer the time.

Wednesday 25th March, Wednesday 1st April and Thursday 2nd April there will be an orchestra practice – *please* don't forget those instruments!

Friday 3rd April – the **EUCHARIST** will be led by the children in the confirmation group and they will be able to make their first school communion at this Eucharist. All our families are very welcome to join us for this service which will be held in *All Saints Church*.

SCHOOL WILL CLOSE FOR ALL CHILDREN ON FRIDAY 3rd APRIL AT 3.15PM AND WILL RE OPEN ON MONDAY 20TH APRIL.

Thank you for reading this newsletter and we look forward to seeing you at the various events and meetings during the spring term.

Yours sincerely

S. Mellon

Head Teacher