



# Aston and Cote Church of England Primary School

*"Learning together through courage, love and respect"*

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Headteacher: Mrs Fiona Taylor

**Newsletter 8 - Spring Term**

**31<sup>st</sup> March 2020**

Dear parents and carers

Although so many things have changed for all of us in the last few weeks, I thought it would be nice to keep some things normal so decided to go ahead with the monthly newsletter.

The month of March got off to a great start with World Book Day. The children enjoyed having extra opportunities to read for pleasure and to read with children from other classes. They also really appreciated listening to stories read by some of the mums and dads who were able to come into school. Book Speed Dating was another great hit with the children - it's always fantastic to have a book personally recommended by someone you know. I very much enjoyed looking at the photographs of children who took part in the Extreme Reading Challenge - there were certainly some very imaginative places! As always, our Scholastic Book Fair was very well supported - thank you to everyone who came along and bought a book. All profits will go towards buying new books for each class once we get back to school.

Sports Relief was the next whole school event in our calendar. We are very grateful to Gemma, our school chef, who led a Jazzercise session for us at the beginning of the day. It was great fun and really got the day off to a good start. Classes also took part in a skipping challenge - this is something that the children could keep up at home. In the afternoon the children heard about what the money raised is used for and also took part in a Joe Wicks Workout - no wonder we all felt tired at the end of that particular day!

Before our move to remote learning, we had an amazing STEM week in school. Each class focused on a different type of renewable energy and we were delighted to welcome visiting speakers to talk to or work with the children. Without exception they inspired the children to consider careers in the STEM subjects which is what we were aiming to achieve. This fits perfectly with our school vision: "Aspiring to be the people God created us to be" as well as with the Parable of the Talents - we want each of our children to make the most of the considerable talents they all have. Some of the visitors that we had lined up were unable to join us because of the Coronavirus situation but hopefully once things get back to normal, we will be able to rearrange these visits. I would like to thank everyone who was able to come along and make our week such a success as well as Mrs Feast who organised the whole week for us. Thanks as well to all our families who supported some fantastic home learning projects - as always, we were amazed at the range and quality of this work.

As we approach the Easter holidays, I would like to thank everyone for embracing remote learning so enthusiastically. None of us would have chosen the current situation but staff, parents and children are dealing with the challenges it presents and overcoming the obstacles we are faced with in inventive ways. Easter is traditionally a time of hope so let's hope for some positive news in weeks and months after the school holiday.

Take care and stay safe, Kind regards Fiona Taylor

# Sports Relief



I loved doing Jazzercise with Gemma, it made my heart beat fast, getting oxygen to my brain.  
Max



The Joe Wicks workout was brilliant with all of KS1. Everyone was happy and getting healthy.  
Aubrey



For Sports Relief this year, we had a whole school Jazzercise class with Gemma from the kitchen. Everyone took part in a skipathon and then in key stages we took on an 'Active 8' challenge with Joe Wicks. We managed to raise an incredible £138.50 for the charity

## STEM Week 16-20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

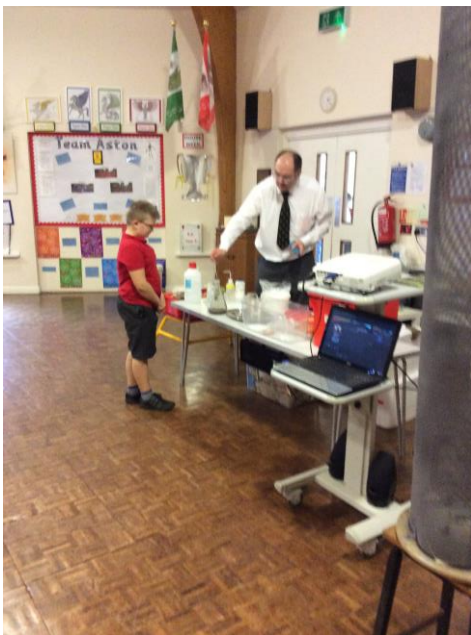
As part of our drive to inspire our children, we planned a week full of amazing activities for our STEM week this year. We had lots of visitors coming to share their skills and experiences with the children. Unfortunately, because of COVID-19 not all of our visitors were able to come but we were lucky enough to have three sets of visitors.

On Monday, Year 6 had a technology day where they worked in groups to design, build and test water filtration systems. Working as a team was really important and the children learned the importance of careful planning and preparation.

On Tuesday, Dale Harper, who is an industrial designer, came into talk to the children in KS2 about how he became a designer and what his job entails. He gave an inspiring presentation which explained the process of designing and creating a new product. It was fascinating and the children had lots of questions which Dale took the time to answer.

Our final visitor of the week was Dr Chris Flaherty, from Cokethorpe School, who presented the Hot and Cold Show. This gave the children a chance to see spectacular chemical reactions and to discuss why these reactions took place.

In classes, the children all had the chance to find out about a form of renewable energy, either solar, wind or water. They did research, designed investigations and projects and did practical experiments. We want to say a huge thank you to all who came and to all who would have come had circumstances not been what they were.



## Remote Learning

As we are all aware, as well as the good points about home learning (no school uniform, time to do things together as a family, etc.) there are also many challenges. One of these might be having a suitable space for your child to work in. Natalie Hudson, one of our Holywell parents, asked me to share the following with you:

How awesome are these little desks which are eco-friendly, great price and for every desk purchased they will donate £1 to the NHS!

<https://www.mylittledesk.co.uk>

## FACS News

Who we are?

We are happy to announce that FACS has been able to set up a new committee team so that the work of FACS can continue. Kate Norton - Chairman, Sally Calvert - Vice Chairman, Natasha Gray - Secretary and Becky Wain - Treasurer. In addition to the committee, we have a great support team of volunteers and we are always looking for more so if you would like to join or want more information please contact Kate on [katenorton1986@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:katenorton1986@hotmail.co.uk)

What we do? We at FACS are committed to raising much needed funds for the school with the school community's help. We will do this through running events for the children and parents. In the past FACS have helped to raise money for the Christmas Pantomime, crackers for the Christmas lunch, coaches to take the children on school trips and much more. The school has many needs at the moment including support for school trips, a new IPAD trolley and new playtime equipment. The more money we raise, the more we can help support these great benefits for the children. So by supporting us, you are supporting the kids! Thank you Firstly, thank you to the Allotment Committee who donated £250 to the FACS funds. Secondly, thank you to the school community for supporting the FACS events; we look forward to organising lots of events once everything returns to normal! Please just remember that all the money raised is benefitting the school community so please join in as much as you can.

I am always happy to meet with parents by appointment and welcome feedback either verbally, through emails or through our "Feedback and Suggestions" box in the front entrance.

Kind regards,  
Fiona Taylor, Headteacher