



Aston and Cote Church of England Primary School

"Learning together through courage, love and respect"

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Newsletter 12 – Summer Term

17th July 2020

Dear parents and carers

It's difficult to know where to start this final newsletter of the term!

During the last few months we have all been so consumed by a global pandemic which included such things as the unexpected closure of the school, remote teaching and learning and bubbles! We have become experts at sending videos and uploading work on Class Dojo as well as meeting each other virtually instead of in person. Extensive use of hand sanitiser, washing our hands for at least 20 seconds and standing at least 2 metres away from anyone have become second nature to us all.

Throughout this period, parents and staff have worked together to provide the best education for the children that we could under the circumstances – once again, I would like to thank all of you for your exceptional efforts to ensure the children didn't fall too far behind. As I have said before, I could not be prouder of the staff team here at Aston & Cote – they have gone above and beyond what I could possibly have hoped for on a daily basis and have proved once again what an amazing staff team they are. I am also in awe of all of you wonderful parents who took on the role of teaching your children which is a completely different skill set to being a mum or dad – I am guessing that by now, you will be looking forward to the summer holidays as much as we always do! And of course, we shouldn't forget the children who kept calm and carried on learning despite the difficult circumstances.

We should also, however, reflect on all the amazing things that took place in school this year before any of us had even heard of COVID-19. We started the year by merging with pre-school; although we have always worked closely together, this has definitely enhanced our provision and has been an excellent opportunity to welcome our youngest learners and three new amazing members of staff into our school family.

We have continued to enjoy our links with St James' Church – collective worship with Reverend Janice is definitely the highlight of some children's week! Our Harvest and Christmas services in St James' were great opportunities to reflect on just how lucky we are here in Aston and to celebrate with Christians all around the world. We were even fortunate enough to receive a visit from the Bishop of Dorchester, Reverend Colin, who opened our new outdoor area for Windmill 2.

We supported many charities throughout the year including Besom, Macmillan Cancer Support, Sport Relief and our copper coin collection and have tried to help others by being more environmentally friendly by collecting batteries and crisp packets for recycling. We all thoroughly enjoyed a visit from Pudsey Bear who came to remind us to support Children in Need.

Links have continued to be forged with the Corinthian Partnership schools including a circus skills day, an amazing Lego workshop and a spectacular Science Show for the Year 5s. The children have also benefited from trips such as the Year 1 & 2 visit to Cogges Farm Museum and the ever-popular Year 6 residential trip to Yenworthy Lodge in Devon. We celebrated our love of reading with a visit to the Oxfordshire Book Award ceremony and improved our culinary skills with a Cooking Roadshow.

All of these are just a sample of the excellent learning experiences that our children had this year and just go to show that there were definitely lots of highlights this year before lockdown.

I wish all of our families a very happy holiday – please enjoy going back to being parents instead of teachers and rest assured that in September the staff here will continue their exceptional work with your children to ensure that we close the gaps in learning that may have happened over the last few months.

Stay safe!

Kind regards
Fiona Taylor

FACS News

Please don't forget about our crowd funding appeal to raise money for 15 new IPADS for the school. These will be used to enhance learning by children across the school so we hope that you will be able to help by making a donation yourself and by sharing the link with family and friends who also might like to contribute. We are very aware, of course, that for some of you this may not be possible at the moment.

The site will be available for 10 more days.

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/it-equipment-for-aston-and-cote-school-1>

Staffing

I am delighted to let you know that Mrs Chadwick has been appointed as the Deputy Headteacher of the school from September 2020. We will be working closely together with the staff and governors to continue to improve the learning experiences of all the children in our care.

We are also delighted to welcome Mrs Nicola Farrow to our staff team - she will be the class teacher of Holywell Class every Monday and has already been very busy planning for September with Mrs Gardner.

Miss Glanville

We were very sad to hear this week that Janet Glanville, who was the headteacher here at Aston & Cote from 1969 until 1990, has sadly passed away. She was the longest serving headteacher of the school - I believe that some of our parents were taught by her many years ago. Even after retirement she was a great supporter of the school and visited us regularly to talk to the children about her experiences as headteacher and what it was like to live in the school-house.

Farewell Year 6

This time of year is always tinged with sadness as we say goodbye to another wonderful group of Year 6s. This year's children are no exception - they have been an absolute joy to work with throughout their time at Aston & Cote and we will all really miss them. As well as working hard academically, they have relished the opportunity to take on roles of responsibility such as Windmill Buddies, House Captains and Playtime Leaders. They have also represented the school exceptionally well in many sporting events over the years. We will certainly miss every single one of them but know that they are leaving Aston fully prepared for the next stage of their learning journey.

Although they may not have been able to enjoy the normal end of year experiences because of COVID-19, they have definitely marked the end of their time at primary school in a variety of ways including a visit from the ice cream van, Leavers' Bibles from St James', a delicious cake courtesy of Mrs Green, a special leavers 2020 photograph, a virtual leavers' service and a staff guard of honour at the end of the day.

Class Dojo

Love it or hate it, we have all become very adept at using Class Dojo on a daily basis to communicate with each other over the last few months. Please note that teachers will not be checking messages during the summer holidays so please send any urgent communication to office.3120@aston-and-cote.oxon.sch.uk. Many thanks for your cooperation.

Thank you!

On behalf of all the staff, I would like to say a huge thank you for your generous gifts and kind words.

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