



# ASTON HALL JUNIOR AND INFANT SCHOOL

## AUTUMN TERM 2 NEWSLETTER 3.11.16

*Mrs Bestall - Head of School*

### AUTUMN TERM 2 TOPIC "DIFFERENT PLACES, DIFFERENT FACES"

Welcome back after the half term holiday. I hope you have had an enjoyable break and are all set for the final half term of 2016! Your child will be learning through the topic of 'Different Places, Different Faces' on the run up to Christmas, and each class will take a different approach to ensure learning is interesting and meaningful for the children and that it fully delivers the objectives of the relevant curriculum. For example, FS2 will be learning about different festivals (such as Bonfire Night, Diwali and Christmas), Y1/Y2 will be learning about France, Y3/4 will base their learning around China and the Shang Dynasty, and the curriculum in Y5/Y6 will centre around Ancient Greece. Please see individual class newsletters for more information!

#### Improving provision at Aston Hall through our partnership with Wickersley Partnership Trust (WPT)

We are committed to ensuring our children receive the best possible educational experiences and outcomes at Aston Hall, for example through a curriculum that is broad, rich and balanced to develop the whole child.

The decision to join Wickersley Partnership Trust is already having a noted impact on enriching our curriculum and provision as we are now able to access specialist facilities, resources and staff that were not previously available as a small stand-alone primary school. For example, children are accessing an enhanced curriculum and benefiting from lessons taught by specialist staff and subject leaders each week, such as music lessons each Wednesday from Mr Dixon (Head of Music at Wickersley Academy), Miss Facey (Rawmarsh Community School) leads French sessions in KS2 each Wed morning, Mr Walker (Rawmarsh) teaches PE across school each Tuesday, and we are already organising AHJI sports teams to compete at sports festivals organised within our new family of WPT schools. Members of Y5/6 were amazing at the Football Festival at Wickersley Academy in October and came second - go Team AHJ!!!!

As part of the additional specialist IT support now available from WPT, I have also arranged a meeting with our new IT support team to review and improve the functionality of our website. Some of the improvements I'd like them to make are offering an online payment option for school lunches etc., more regular updates incl. to the school calendar, and also a facility for you to book future Parents' Evening appointments on online. Please watch this space!

#### SCHOOL TOURS

We are currently offering visits around our school for parents and carers of nursery/FS1 pupils ready for primary school choices to be submitted to the Local Authority. If you have a FS1 child and would like to attend one of these visits please contact the school office to book a place on 2879811.

The two remaining visits are:

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November at 9:30am**

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November at 1:15pm**

#### SAVE THE DATE!

w/c 14.11.16	Anti-Bullying Week
15.11.16	Google Expeditions workshops for KS2
18.11.16	Children in Need (details to follow)
25.11.16	'Stars in our Schools' Day
25.11.16	Christmas Fair in the hall 3:15-4:30pm
6.12.16	FS2 Chatsworth Farm Nativity Trip
8.12.16	Y1/Y2 Nativity Performance 9:30am
9.12.16	Y1/Y2 Nativity Performance 1:45pm
12.12.16	Y1/Y2 Nativity Performance 9:30am
12.12.16	FS2 Christmas Celebration 2:15pm
14.12.16	KS2 Carols in the Community 4-5:30pm
14.12.16	Christmas Dinner Day
16.12.16	Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day (£1)
16.12.16	Break up for Christmas holiday - 2pm

#### DONATIONS FOR THE CHRISTMAS FAIR - DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO COULD YOU HELP?

Our parents' group 'Friends of Aston Hall' would love volunteers to supervise stalls at our Christmas Fair on Fri 25<sup>th</sup> November 2016 and any donations of the following please -

- small prizes for games/stalls e.g. toys, tubs of sweets, stationary etc. and raffle prizes
  - donations of cakes/buns for the refreshments stall (with allergen information please)
- We also need parent volunteers to supervise the stalls, so please let us know if you are able to support

### Parents' Survey Feedback

Thank you to all parents and carers who attended our recent Parents' Evening and shared their feedback about school through a short online survey in the library. If you have not completed the survey and would still like to do so, we'd love to hear your thoughts! Please share your views using the following address before the collection date of 4th November -

<https://goo.gl/forms/QSH8luq5rLamH3D92>

(If you do not have Internet/computer access, please pop into the school office and arrange to complete the survey in school)

### Anti Bullying Week - 14/18th November

Anti bullying Week, organised by the [Anti-Bullying Alliance](#), is being held between the 14th and 18th November this year with the theme 'power for good'.

ABA defines bullying as the "repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. Bullying can be physical, verbal or psychological. It can happen face-to-face or through cyberspace."

Our school has a zero tolerance approach to bullying and we teach children about positive relationships and behaviour on an ongoing basis. Anti bullying week is also a great opportunity to reinforce information on how we approach bullying concerns, to reinforce messages about what children should do if they feel they are being bullied, and also help children to understand the long-term impact it can have on friendships, self-esteem and health and wellbeing.

### New Sports Clubs for Autumn Term 2!

Tuesday - Y5/Y6 Football

Thursday - Y5/6 Hockey and Y3/4 Dance

These clubs will be offered to different year groups after Christmas - please look out for letters from Miss Hanley (our new PE Leader) for more information!

**A huge THANK YOU to all who helped raise £230.04 at our Macmillan coffee morning last half term!**

### Stars in our schools

On Friday 25 November 2016, schools across the country will be celebrating the people behind the scenes who help children learn, keep them safe and healthy and make sure schools run smoothly.

UNISON organises this day to celebrate the wonderful work support staff do, to improve the children's understanding of the roles support staff play and also to promote how vital support staff are to the children's education.

We will be celebrating the roles of support staff on this day by

- A whole school assembly on "How do our support staff make our school better?" and sessions in class to raise awareness of the support staff at Aston Hall J&I and the important roles they have
- Inviting support staff to a special thank you assembly on 25<sup>th</sup> November

**Would you formally like to nominate a star for a UNISON award?** In addition to the above celebrations in school, if you know a school support staff worker who is an absolute star and deserves recognition then why not nominate them for a UNISON award? Perhaps it's a teaching assistant who is having an amazing impact on your child's learning, a catering assistant who makes lunch times happier, an admin assistant who always welcomes your child into school or a caretaker who always goes the extra mile. If you nominate them for this year's 'Stars in our schools' competition you could both win a £25 M&S voucher from UNISON. UNISON will select one star from each region after the deadline of Friday 2 December.

Please see the website for more information - [starsinourschools.co.uk](http://starsinourschools.co.uk)

### In the interest of safety at hometime, please ensure;

Children walk with bikes and scooters on the school grounds  
Children do not access the climbing equipment before/after school

Children refrain from accessing the decking outside the new building to avoid both slipping and also disturbing our Y5/6 children who are in lessons until 3:05pm

Many thanks for your understanding and support.

**STRIDEOUT  
ASTON** 

*A running group bringing women together to improve their fitness and have fun!*

[strideoutuk.weebly.com](http://strideoutuk.weebly.com)

*Would you like a little exercise?*

*Do you have a goal but not sure how to achieve it?*

*Have you never done any running before but fancy giving it a go?*

*Or are you a regular runner who wants to improve time or increase distance?*

Karen Chamberlain is a local mum and is a newly trained run leader volunteering her time to get parents and carers together for fun and exercise.

If you'd like more information on when and where these sessions take place, either;

- Find 'StrideOut Aston' on Facebook
- Email [karenlchamberlain@gmail.com](mailto:karenlchamberlain@gmail.com)
- Look out for Karen in the playground!

**Please help spread the word!**

Many thanks for your continued support,

Mrs Bestall  
Head of School



Visit us at  
[www.astonhallschool.co.uk](http://www.astonhallschool.co.uk)