

MARS CLASS

Safari Artists



On Thursday afternoon, Mars Class headed out on Safari, our Nature School sessions led by Mrs Reynolds. After exploring the countryside beyond the school gates, the children settled down on the grass with their sketchbooks and became landscape artists for the afternoon. They looked carefully at the trees, the path, the gate and the sky, then recorded what they could see using lines, shapes and marks. Some focused on the shape of a single tree, while others captured the whole view.

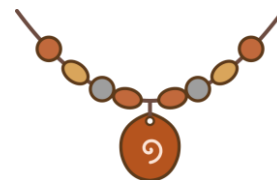
Drawing outdoors from real life is a wonderful way to learn. For our Reception children, it supports the Early Years Foundation Stage, particularly Understanding the World, as they observe and talk about the natural world around them, and Expressive Arts and Design, as they explore and create with pencil and paper. It also builds the fine motor control they need for early writing. For our Year 1 children, it links to the Key Stage 1 art and design curriculum, using drawing to share their ideas and experiences and exploring line, shape and texture, as well as geography fieldwork and observation in our local area.

Just as importantly, time spent quietly noticing nature is good for wellbeing. Slowing down, breathing fresh air and focusing on what is in front of them helps children feel calm, settled and proud of what they have created.



SATURN CLASS

Stone Age Jewellery



Saturn Class have been travelling back thousands of years to the Stone Age, and they have been getting hands-on with history by making their own clay jewellery.

Long before metal tools, Stone Age people decorated themselves with beads and pendants made from natural materials such as shells, animal teeth, bone and stone. These pieces were not just for decoration: they could show which group someone belonged to, mark special occasions or be swapped with other people. Archaeologists have found beads that are tens of thousands of years old, which tells us that people have always wanted to create and wear beautiful things.

Inspired by these finds, the children designed and made their own beads and pendants. They rolled, pinched and shaped the clay, pressed in patterns and textures, and carefully made holes so their pieces can be threaded once dry.

This project brings history and art together. In history, the children are learning how objects that survive help us find out about the past, and how life in the Stone Age was different from today. In art, they are developing their sculpting skills with clay, exploring shape, pattern and texture, and learning to plan a design and see it through. Working with clay also strengthens the fine motor control needed for handwriting and takes plenty of patience and care!





MARS CLASS

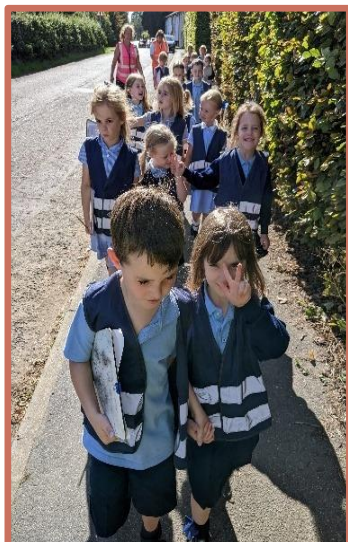
Our Village House Hunt



On Monday 22nd September, Mars Class put on their high-vis vests and set off on a tour of our village to find out about the different types of houses in Ashdon. Armed with observation sheets, the children noted down everything they could see, spotting terraced, detached and semi-detached houses as well as bungalows.

They were especially excited to find some cottages with thatched roofs and talked about why these might be some of the oldest houses in the village. How can we tell a house is old? What is it made from, and how is it different from newer homes? Asking questions like these is exactly how young historians begin to find out about the past.

Learning about the houses in their own village helps children notice how places change over time and links the past to the world right outside their front door. The children also loved spotting all the different designs and styles along the way. Well done, Mars Class!



House hunt challenge! On your next walk together, how many can you spot?

- ☐ Terraced ☐ Semi-detached ☐ Detached ☐ Bungalow ☐ Thatched cottage

Attendance Winners!

Every Day Counts!

At Ashdon Primary, we know that being in school every day makes a real difference. Good attendance helps children keep up with their learning, build strong friendships and feel happy and settled in class. Missed days add up quickly: a child with 90% attendance misses around half a day every week, which is almost four weeks of school across the year.

As a school, we always aim for whole-school attendance of 97% and above, and we can only achieve this with your support.

To celebrate great attendance, the class with the highest attendance each week wins an extra 10 minutes of playtime on Friday! The winners are announced in our Friday Celebration Assembly and shared in the newsletter.

Thank you for helping your child to be in school, on time, every day.

WINNERS
Mars Class

99.41%

RUNNERS-UP
Jupiter Class

93.04%

THIRD PLACE
Saturn Class

93.00%

OUR TARGET
97% and above

Important Dates, Events and Reminders

Thank you! A huge thank you to all our parents for your support during the two days Ofsted was in, and to all the children, who were amazing. We will share the outcome with you as soon as we can.

All of October	Black History Month: celebrating Black history across the school
Every Thursday	Piano lessons for KS2 children (in the hall)
Wed 7 Oct, 13:30	Open the Book assembly: Rebellion
Thu 8 Oct	Sports Ambassadors training at St Thomas More Primary School
Thu 8 Oct, 13:00	Mars Class visits the Library Bus
Fri 9 Oct, 09:15	Celebration Assembly
Wed 14 Oct	Saturn Class Stone Age Workshop
Now – Fri 16 Oct	Harvest collection
Fri 16 Oct, 09:15	Harvest Assembly
Tue 20 & Wed 21 Oct	Parent Consultations, 15:40–18:00 (book through Arbor)
Fri 23 Oct	Last day of Autumn Term 1



Arbor is now fully up and running and has replaced Scopay.

Thank you for your patience and support during the changeover.

Through the Arbor app or website you can now:

- Pay for trips and clubs — all payment information is on Arbor
- Pay for school lunches
- View your child's attendance record at any time
- Book parent consultations for 20th and 21st October — bookings are now open

Please turn on push notifications in your Arbor app so you never miss a message from school.