



Aston Rowant C+E Primary School
School Lane, Aston Rowant, Oxon OX49 5SU
01844 351671

office@aston-rowant.oxon.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Helen France

13th September 2024

From the Headteacher:

It was fabulous to gather together in church at the start of the year to welcome all of new starters, both in Hedgehog and across the school, to our Aston Rowant family. Thank you to our friends and parents who also joined us, it was lovely to have a full church. Owl Class led the service brilliantly and we loved their 'What Makes Us Us?' poems. Fox Class shared a beautiful Fox Class Poem with art work and Squirrel's Giant Teddy Collage was incredible. Hedgehog children are so settled and confident it was great to see.

House Teams

Our House Team system facilitates the opportunity for vertical learning when children across all the year groups come together for special events or activities, it can also foster friendly competitive spirit along the way through various inter house competitions or the gaining of house points.

We are excited to confirm that Ruby and Laila-Beth (**Bethlehem**), Monty and Soraya (**Jerusalem**), Joshua and Riley (**Galilee**) and Joanie and Zachery (**Eden**) will be our House Captains this year.

Housepoints are totalled each week by the House Captains and announced in the Celebration Assemblies. At the end of each half term the winning house collectively chooses their reward. Individual housepoints are also totalled. When individuals reach 25 housepoints they stand for a round of applause in the Celebration Assembly, for 50 housepoints they receive a sticker, for 75 housepoints they receive a certificate and for 100 housepoints a special gold badge that can be worn as part of their uniform for their whole time with us at school. Housepoints are reset for individuals at the end of each term.

Roles and Responsibilities

We are delighted to announce that Devon is our School Council leader this year working with Max (Owl), Asher and Matilda (Fox) and Airlie and Annie (Squirrel). Bradley will be Eco Warrior Leader working with Aurora and Ellie (Owl) with Ted and Millie (Fox) and Flo H and Sloane (Squirrel). Aava and Oliver are our Chief Librarians and our Year 5 children will rotate as Playground Leaders. The Year 6 children will also be our Worship Leaders for every act of Collective Worship and will rotate the days they lead.

Parent Reps

We are looking for volunteers to be parental representatives for each class again this year. The main aim of the parental meetings is to use the voice of our parents to help us achieve the best possible outcomes for our children. It is an opportunity for the Headteacher to share information about the school development priorities and for the parent representatives to share feedback from their class. Information shared is always thematic rather than an opportunity for individual circumstances to be discussed.

Safety in the Playground

We have noticed that a few children who are arriving late to school are being lifted over the gate into the playground. There are a number of key reasons this is unacceptable. Firstly, any late arrivals must go through to the office so that their presence on the school premises is noted. If a child is lifted into the playground after the gate is closed a member of staff may not be aware that they have arrived, which raises an obvious safeguarding concern. Secondly, whilst we are aware that our fence is low, and are working towards replacing it, we work hard with the children to identify it as a 'hot spot' or danger zone and something that should not be climbed under any circumstance. Lifting children over it does not set a good example and goes against the work we are doing in school to teach children about safety. Thirdly, there is an obvious health and safety risk in lifting a child over a fence both for the adult and child. Finally, one of the key strengths of our school is our high standards in all areas of school including school work, uniform, attendance and punctuality. Parents and carers play a key role in setting a positive example and ensuring primary-aged pupils attend school regularly and arrive on time. Please work with us to help keep our children safe, keep the school running smoothly and maintain our high standards in all areas. Thank you.

Jeans for Genes

Jeans for Genes is a national fund-raising event which supports the Children's Medical Research Institute and helps find cures for children's genetic diseases. Next Friday the children can wear jeans for the day but with their school polo shirts and jumpers. The children are encouraged to bring a £1 donation each on the day, which goes directly to the Children's Medical Research Institute.

Children and Back to School Social Media

In recent years it has become a tradition for parents and children to post 'back to school' content, to Facebook and Instagram. However, this practice comes with unseen dangers. Wayne Denner has written about this issue extensively in his blog. In a short but worthwhile read he exposes some of the potential issues, lurking in the e-space. Can I encourage you to read the article at: <https://www.waynedenner.com/protect-your-child-the-hidden-dangers-of-posting-back-to-school-photos-on-social-media/>

Kind regards

Mrs France

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Teaching and Learning in the Classrooms this week:



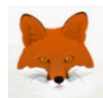
Hedgehog Class

Firstly, we would like to say a huge well done to Hedgehog class for the way they have settled in so quickly to school. There is so much to learn in the first few weeks and the children are coming on brilliantly, already demonstrating their ability to listen and follow instructions as well as acting kindly towards their fellow students. We are very proud of them and look forward to a busy term getting to know them and beginning their exciting new learning journey. This week as part of our 'Getting to Know You' topic we have been exploring our environment both inside and outside. Learning how to 'choose and do'. The children have been thinking carefully about what they want to get out of their play and then choosing the correct equipment and resources to complete their chosen task. They have made zoo enclosures, car parks, puppet shows and held a birthday party for Larry. We have begun some simple phonics sessions, developing our listening skills to distinguish rhyming sounds. We look forward to welcoming in the children full time from next week.



Squirrel Class

It's been a brilliant first full week, with all the squirrels working hard and learning new routines and expectations. I'm very proud of the children and we have had lots of stickers and house points awarded already. Well done Squirrels! We started our English learning journey and read a book by Tom Percival called 'The Sea Saw' and the children have been very enthused by the moving story. We have used the story to talk about our own favourite toys and written lost toys posters using adjectives and question sentences. We have also started our maths lessons this week and both Y1 and Y2 are reviewing place value. In Y1 we have been reviewing how to sort objects and count efficiently using a tens frame. The Y2 children have been reviewing tens and ones with dienes blocks and place value charts. In art this week we created a giant collage teddy together to represent the teddy bear in our class story, and the children showed fantastic teamwork and creativity. In science we talked about the human body and the 5 senses, thinking about the parts of the body that help us be sensitive to the world around us. A wonder-filled first week!



Fox Class

We have had a fabulous first full week in Fox Class. The whole class have demonstrated great listening, focus and teamwork which is so lovely to see. In Maths both year groups have kickstarted their learning with place value ensuring and embedding their knowledge of working with hundreds and thousands. I have enjoyed listening to their explanations of how they know answers which enables them to embed their understanding and also support those who need a little more practise. In English we have started reading our new text 'Arthur and the Golden Rope' and already we have written character description and planned and written a short story! In History we have learnt about who the Anglo Saxons were, where they came from and why they came. We have also added some dates onto our class timeline embedding previous learning from earlier history topics to help children understand chronology. In Science we learnt how sound is made and children had the opportunity to try out a range of investigations in order to support their understanding. In Art, after watching and analysing some illustrators' work, we used our sketch books using watercolours and crayons. Children enjoyed the freedom of experimenting with colour, medium and sketching. Year 3 started their French journey this week and after discussing what languages children may already know, we learnt how to greet each other and also the importance of looking at mouth of speaker whilst learning a language. It was also lovely to see parents at our Meet the Teacher meeting both in the class and online! Have a restful weekend!



Owl Class

What a fantastic first full week back for Owl Class: the new faces have settled in incredibly well, and we have begun our new topics with enthusiasm and huge amounts of effort. It was lovely to see so many of you at the Meet the Teacher earlier in the week. In English, the children decided on the most important features that a good diary entry should have, and then put that to the test with their first Big Write of the year, writing a diary entry about a moment in their own lives in which they overcame a challenge. This resulted in some surprising recounts of dance competitions, football finals and even huge bowls of mashed potato. In Maths, the children have been refreshing their knowledge of place value and number skills, before putting that to the test in an interactive Escape Room challenge! Luckily everyone made it out in time for Science, where the children began their investigations into mixtures by creating their own learning question and method to find an answer. It was fantastic to hear the children speaking with such clarity and understanding of the scientific method. In History, we began to find out just who is on our banknotes, and why, as we begin to decide who Owl Class believe should be on the next £10.00 note. We discussed about just what it takes to be deemed 'historically significant' and what the criteria should be for our new candidates. In Art, we began look at the human form in proportion, and how we might be able to translate a 2D sketch into a 3D sculpture. It's going to get messy in Owl Class...

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Photo Diary of the Week





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Whole School Topic - Autumn Term: I Spy with My Little Eye

Values: Wonder

This week in Collective Worship we have been reflecting on the new school year and encouraging one another to feel positive about change and new beginnings. We considered how we are feeling about the start of this new school year: what we are looking forward to and anything that we are nervous about. We also played 'spot the difference'. Mostly, things are the same at school as they were when we were last here, but some things have changed, so things may feel different. We reflected that we often like things that stay the same, because they feel familiar and comfortable. Sometimes, we feel unhappy about change because it can make us feel unsettled. However, change is important. If everything always stayed the same, life would be very boring! Change is how we grow and develop; it can be very exciting. Christians believe that because Jesus died and rose again, we can all have a fresh start with God, like we have a fresh start at the start of this new school year. The Bible tells us that change can be good - it's how we grow and develop - but also that God never changes; he is always the same and we can hold to him as a constant even in times of change.

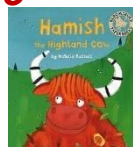
Hebrews 13:8 says, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today, and forever."

Climate Warriors Challenge

We're starting the academic year thinking about electricity. How does your home compare to the 8kwh UK daily average? Did you know August 2024 was the 'greenest month' for electricity in the UK – ever! Maybe focusing on the positive and beautiful will elicit more attention, gain more traction, and help spur us on to take care of our planet, more than hearing about heatwaves, droughts and floods ... that's where our Young Climate Warriors come in!

Try this link for inspiration: [Gridwatch - **LIVE** snapshot of UK electricity being produced by renewables.](#)

Book Review Hamish the Highland Cow by Natalie Russell, recommended by William, Reception.



This week, William brought in *Hamish the Highland Cow* to share with the rest of Hedgehog Class. William said that this is a nice short story and that it was very funny.

In this book, Hamish the Highland Cow has very long hair which he never washes or brushes but does like to store his toffees in it! His friends decide that it is time he had it cut, so take him on a trip to the hairdressers.

Happiness Calendar: Self Care September

Self-care isn't selfish. It's essential. It is an investment in you. You can find this month's happiness calendar [here](#).

Attendance – This week

School target 97%	97% - 100%	90% -97%	Below 90%
Hedgehog Class	100%	0%	0%
Squirrel Class	94%	0%	6%
Fox Class	96%	0%	4%
Owl Class	95%	5%	0%

Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	40	40
Eden	27	27
Galilee	43	43
Jerusalem	62	62

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Emails and Letters Sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
13-09-24	Email	Year 6	Office	Open Evening at Lord Williams's School
13-09-24	Email	Year 5 & 6	Office	Open Evening at Icknield Community College
11-09-24	Email	All	Office	Primary School Health Nursing Newsletter
11-09-24	Email	All	Office	The JR Sports Group – Autumn Clubs
10-09-24	Email	All	Office	Flu vaccinations and consent
10-09-24	Email	All	Mrs France	School arrivals

September	
Thursday 19 th	Flu Vaccinations
Thursday 19 th	Open Evening at Icknield Community College for Year 7 intake 2025
Friday 20 th	Jeans for Genes Day (wear your jeans with your uniform and make a donation to this charity) 09:00 PTA meeting in Hall 14:30 First celebration assembly in school for parents
Wednesday 25 th	Smartphone Free Childhood (SFC) 7.30pm at St Mary's Church, Thame
Thursday 26 th	Individual School Photos Please contact the office regarding photos with siblings not in school
Friday 27 th	14:30 Harvest in school celebration assembly
October	
Tuesday 1 st / Wednesday 9 th	Open Evening / Morning at LWS for Year 7 intake 2025
Friday 18 th	Open Morning for Reception 2025 09:30 – 10:30
Thursday 24th	Be Bright Be Seen Day – wear bright visible clothes
Friday 25 th	INSET Day
November	
Wednesday 6 th	Open Morning for Reception 2025 09:30 – 10:30
Monday 11 th	11:00 KS2 Remembrance Service at the war memorial
Tue 12 th and Wed 13 th	Parents' Evenings
Mon 11 th – Fri 15 th	Anti-Bullying Week – Choose Respect Inc Tuesday 12 th Odd Sock Day
Friday 15 th	Children in Need (wear spots and dots and make a donation to this charity)
December	
Tuesday 3 rd	Oxford University visit to Fox class - rocks
Tue 10 th and Wed 11 th	EYFS Nativity
Wednesday 18 th	Christingle in church
Friday 20 th	Christmas Party School ends 13:30

Academic Year Calendar 2024-25

Autumn 24	
Weds 4 th Sept – Thurs 24 th Oct	Autumn Term (1)
Mon 28 th – Fri 1 st Nov	HALF TERM
Mon 4 th Nov – Fri 20 th Dec	Autumn Term (2)
Spring 25	
Tue 7 th Jan – Fri 14 th Feb	Spring Term (1)
Mon 17 th – Fri 21 st Feb	HALF TERM
Mon 24 th Feb – Fri 4 th Apr	Spring Term (2)
Summer 25	
Tue 22 nd April – Thu 22 nd May	Summer Term (1)
Mon 26 th May – Fri 30 th May	HALF TERM
Mon 2 nd June – Tue 22 nd July	Summer Term (2)

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