



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

**[office@aston-rowant.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office@aston-rowant.oxon.sch.uk)**

**Headteacher: Mrs Helen France**

**20<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

***From the Headteacher:***

### ***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. Thank you to everyone for coming in their jeans with their school uniform. It was a visible reminder that although we all belong to one school family, and have many similarities, we are also created to be unique and special, and for some children that means that they face genetic diseases. We raised £72.00 which goes directly to the Children's Medical Research Institute.

### ***Making the Most of Maths Games***

Mathematical games have many benefits for learners. They can be enjoyable, intrinsically motivating and elicit repeated practice of skills. As well as this, they encourage problem solving, strategic thinking and build a deeper, more flexible understanding of numbers. There is a free webinar to model ways that families can use them at home and makes them easy to understand, inclusive and fun. It is on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September at 4pm. More details can be found [here](#).

### ***Smartphones in Childhood***

Parents from all of the local primary schools have been invited to attend an evening about the impact of smartphones on childhood on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm at St Mary's Church, Thame. I am delighted to say that a number of our parents have already signed up to attend. Please see the posters around school or the email sent on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> for further details.

### ***Harvest***

Our Harvest this year will be on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September. We will have a special celebration assembly that day. We also invite the children to bring in donations for our local food bank, Sharing Life. They are requesting: **cereal, soup, pasta, rice, tinned tomatoes, pasta sauce, lentils, beans and pulses**, tinned meat, tinned vegetables, tea or coffee, tinned fruit, biscuits, UHT milk, and fruit juice. Thank you in advance for supporting this very worthwhile cause.

### ***Open Days***

We will be hosting two 'open days' for Early Years for those families looking for a place for September 2025. These will be on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October 9:30- 10:30 and Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November 9:30- 10:30. If you know anyone who might be interested then please do let them know. They can book in via email to the school office.

### ***Mental Health***

More and more people are now focusing on their own mental health and that of their families. Action for Happiness is a charity founded to create a movement of people committed to building a happier and more caring society. Each month the organisation publishes a happiness calendar, September is Self-care Month. Whether you do the activities suggested on the right day or not; there are some really useful prompts. You can download the happiness calendar at <https://www.actionforhappiness.org/calendars>. A summary of the focus for each month is always included on the final page of the newsletter.

### ***Key Areas of Information: How do we structure the wider curriculum at our school (Intent)?***

Last year we included a section on the newsletter highlighting key areas of information that is useful to know. I thought that it would be useful to include it again. If you have any key questions that you would answering please do let me know. This week we are looking at how we structure our wider curriculum offer (intent), next week how we implement it (implementation) and the following week how we measure impact (assessment).

When we talk about how we have structured our curriculum offer, we call this **curriculum intent**. Curriculum intent includes the specific details of what we intend our pupils to learn at each stage in their school journey. What pupils know, remember and can do indicates how well they can achieve (progress).

We follow the **National Curriculum** to structure our curriculum offer, which this means our curriculum is ambitious for all pupils. You can find a link to the National Curriculum here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum>

There is an excellent range of subjects available at Aston Rowant. All national curriculum subjects are taught: Maths, English, Science, Music, French, Art, DT, IT, History, Geography, PHSE, R.E and P.E. PE is run by external coaches and many subjects, like RE and French, are taught by subject specialists. We hold the Primary Science Gilt Award and Music Mark for our teaching in these areas. We also read daily as a whole school and run Forest Friday each week for every year from Reception to Year 6. Our website has a curriculum page that outline what each subject looks like at Aston Rowant School and each class page has the topic web for each term. In our curriculum pages, we have also included for examples of the both the substantive knowledge and disciplinary knowledge for each subject to show how we implement these in practice. More of that in next week's newsletter!

***Kind regards***

**GRATITUDE**

**RESILIENCE**

**OUTREACH**

**WONDER**

**TRUST**

**HARMONY**



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

[office@aston-rowant.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office@aston-rowant.oxon.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Mrs Helen France

*Mrs France*

## *Teaching and Learning in the Classrooms this week:*



### *Hedgehog Class*

This week we have begun our phonics program. The children have been learning the sounds 's' and 'a'. We have practiced writing the sounds in different ways and hearing it in initial position in words. We made silly smoothies using ingredients that start with the sounds, for example strawberries, snakes, socks and sausages. The children were very excited to find a pumpkin growing in our garden. We decided to pick it and worked together to free the pumpkin and carry it into the classroom. They then decided they would like to make pumpkin pie so we problem solved how to get into the pumpkin. This child-initiated project gave us fabulous opportunities to develop our perseverance and investigative skills. In Maths we have begun sorting objects and identifying sets of the same properties. The children have been using the maths equipment in their play to compare and match objects of the same size and colour. It's been a brilliant week of learning.



### *Squirrel Class*

Squirrel class have worked incredibly hard this week. We started our phonics program and the Y1 and Y2 children listened well and practised their sounds with enthusiasm. We have also continued our writing lessons, and the class wrote sentences using the prefix -un and thank you letters to the sea. I'm excited for us all to begin preparing and writing our own versions of the story over the coming weeks. In maths we have used lots of manipulatives to explore counting on, partitioning numbers and finding one more than a given number. Our science lesson continued our learning about the human body. We labelled parts of the body and looked at how animal bodies can differ from ours, yet also be similar in some ways. In our topic of geography, we looked at maps of the United Kingdom and identified the four countries, focusing on how they are unique and naming notable landmarks. Lastly, in art we created some Christmas card designs that will be sent home in the next few days for you to purchase, should you wish to do so.



### *Fox Class*

What a busy week we have had in Fox Class! It has been very hands on! In our English lessons, the class have been writing their short stories and I have been impressed with their stamina in writing and the content too! We've worked hard ensuring we all know what nouns, adjectives, verbs and adverbs are and why they are important in our writing. Once they had been written, we also spent time reading our stories to other classmates where they gave feedback to the stories. We also used drama to retell part of the story which they enjoyed. In our Maths, we are continuing with place value and ensuring Y3 are secure with partitioning 3 three-digit numbers whereas Year 4 worked with numbers up to 10,000. In our Science, children learnt about how sound travels – this was demonstrated using string telephones that they made and also using Mrs Healy's clanger hanger! They also investigated how dolphins and whales communicate using the medium of water. In History, we learnt about how the Anglo Saxons lived and how their houses had changed compared to the Iron Age. To help understand the process, children made their own wattle and daub structures which did result in some quite messy children...apologies! We've been observing them to see how long it will take to dry. We've spent some time discussing the advantages and disadvantages of using these materials. In our Art, we have started making our Christmas cards (!) which will be coming home next week for you to purchase if you like. The class have worked so well together in all our exciting activities making it a pleasure to teach. :)



### *Owl Class*

Owl Class have been especially busy this week, as we looked into all of our topics in greater detail. In English, we challenged ourselves to find out more about who Edmund Hillary was a person, looking at his unusual childhood, his challenges and the mountains that he felt safe in. The children used this material gathered over the week to write a personal diary by Edmund, after he had just climbed Mount Cook, the tallest mountain in New Zealand, and made a fantastic effort to write about what might have given this man such ambition and drive. In Maths, the children have been comparing and contrasting numbers up to 10,000,000 and using their place value skills to perform a wide range of operations, as well as solving a powers of 10 maze challenge. Next week we will move onto a brief unit about addition and subtraction before we tackle our first unit of fraction. In History, we discussed what it means to be historically different, and if this can change over time-the children were challenged to vote who they believed to be more historically significant out of a range of famous faces, and soon realised that perhaps being well known was not enough to be historically significant (sorry Ant & Dec). In Science, the children became grizzled prospectors and used sieves the pan for gold, as we explored the most efficient way to separate a mixture. Lastly, in Art, the children handcrafted tier stunning Christmas designs that will be coming home for you to view and see if you would like to purchase a set. Well done on a busy and challenging week Owls!

**GRATITUDE**

**RESILIENCE**

**OUTREACH**

**WONDER**

**TRUST**

**HARMONY**

*Photo Diary of the Week*





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

[office@aston-rowant.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office@aston-rowant.oxon.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Mrs Helen France

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

### *Values: Wonder*

This week in Collective Worship we have been wondering being us – unique, special, created for a purpose. We have a special jar on our table in the hall, it represents the school. We also have a variety of pebbles of different sizes, colours, textures, strengths, some with chips and rough edges and some with hidden beauty. Each new member of our school community from the new starters in Hedgehog to new children further up the school, plus members of staff and Governors choose a pebble to put in the jar. Parents are also invited to add a pebble. It represents being a part of our school community. The pebbles, like us, are all unique and when put together make something truly wonderful. We celebrate the strength that comes from each and every one of us – pupils, teachers, parents and Governors. We thank God for the joy of family and community. We thank Him for showing His love for us every day. At the end of Year 6, they take a pebble with them, to remind them of the friends, learning and special times they shared at Aston Rowant Primary School.

‘O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom have you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.’ Psalm 104:24

### *Climate Warriors Challenge*

It's Global Goals week - and world leaders are at the United Nations meeting in New York. The CW challenge this week relates to saving water, and the Global Goals. This week, Young Climate Warriors are challenged to be courageous and play their part in helping reach these ambitious Global Goals. They are asked to take action to help achieve the 'Climate Action' goal by reducing their own water consumption - reducing energy used, and related carbon emissions. An average bath uses 80 litres of water – that has been pumped, treated, delivered and heated – do they 'really' need a bath?

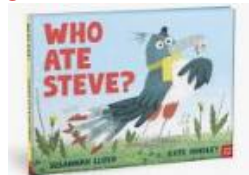
Links that may be of interest

[Hear our voices - Global Goals campaign movie 2025](#)

[Introducing the Global Goals - everyone's got a superpower!](#) - World's Largest Lesson

[Sustainable Development Goals - in more detail](#) - BBC Bitesize

### *Book Review by Mrs Biggin 'Who ate Steve?' by Susannah Floyd*



I recently read this quirky book to my daughters', and we giggled our way through it's entirety! Marcel is a bird. Steve is a worm, and he is . . . Steve has DISAPPEARED! And can he be persuaded to return that poor worm RIGHT NOW?! A delightful book with a twist that gives Marcel exactly what he deserves! If you're looking for a fun, silly and joyful read, 'Who Ate Steve' ticks all the boxes.

### *Happiness Calander: 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    | 85%        | 0%       | 15%       |
| Squirrel Class    | 88%        | 6%       | 6%        |
| Fox Class         | 92%        | 0%       | 8%        |
| Owl Class         | 90%        | 0%       | 10%       |

### *Housepoints*

| <i>House</i> | <i>This Week</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|--------------|------------------|--------------|
| Bethlehem    | 53               | 93           |
| Eden         | 43               | 70           |
| Galilee      | 30               | 73           |
| Jerusalem    | 76               | 129          |

**GRATITUDE**

**RESILIENCE**

**OUTREACH**

**WONDER**

**TRUST**

**HARMONY**



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

**[office@aston-rowant.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office@aston-rowant.oxon.sch.uk)**

**Headteacher: Mrs Helen France**

***Fmails and Letters Sent this Week***

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Email/Letter</b> | <b>For</b> | <b>From</b> | <b>Concerning</b>      |
|-------------|---------------------|------------|-------------|------------------------|
| 20-09-24    | Email               | All        | Office      | PTA Christmas Market   |
| 20-09-24    | Email               | All        | Office      | PTA Cake raffle        |
| 17-09-24    | Email               | All        | Office      | Reminder – Flu consent |
| 16-09-24    | Email               | All        | Office      | Head lice              |

| <b>September</b>                                    |   |
|---|---|
| Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup>                          | Smartphone Free Childhood (SFC) 7.30pm at St Mary's Church, Thame                               |
| Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup>                           | Individual School Photos Please contact the office regarding photos with siblings not in school |
| Friday 27 <sup>th</sup>                             | 14:30 Harvest in school celebration assembly  |
| <b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup></b>                       | <b>PTA Welcome drinks at school 15:15 – 15:45</b>   |
| <b>October</b>                                      |   |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> October          | Black History Month   |
| Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> / Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> | Open Evening / Morning at LWS for Year 7 intake 2025  |
| Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>                           | Poetry Day  |
| Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup>                           | Fox Class trip  |
| Friday 18 <sup>th</sup>                             | Open Morning for Reception 2025   |
| Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup>                           | Be Bright Be Seen Day – wear bright visible clothes   |
| Friday 25 <sup>th</sup>                             | INSET Day   |
| <b>November</b>                                     |   |
| Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup>                           | Open Morning for Reception 2025   |
| Monday 11 <sup>th</sup>                             | 11:00 KS2 remembrance service at the war memorial   |
| Tue 12 <sup>th</sup> and Wed 13 <sup>th</sup>       | Parents' Evenings   |
| Mon 11 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 15 <sup>th</sup>         | Anti-Bullying Week – Choose Respect<br>Inc Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> Odd Sock Day                |
| Friday 15 <sup>th</sup>                             | Children in Need (wear spots and dots and make a donation to this charity)                      |
| <b>December</b>                                     |   |
| Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>                             | Oxford University visit to Fox Class - rocks  |
| Tue 10 <sup>th</sup> and Wed 11 <sup>th</sup>       | EYFS Nativity   |
| Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup>                          | Christingle in church   |
| Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup>                           | Christmas Party   |
| Friday 20 <sup>th</sup>                             | PTA Pantomime in school – Dick Whittington<br>School ends 13:30                                 |

***Academic Year Calendar 2024-25***

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

**GRATITUDE**

**RESILIENCE**

**OUTREACH**

**WONDER**

**TRUST**

**HARMONY**