



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

18th October 2024

From the Headteacher:

Open Days

We had the first of our three 'open days' this morning for those families looking for an Early Years place for September 2025. There was a lot of positive feedback about our fabulous school and facilities. The next ones will be on Wednesday 6th November 09:30-10:30 and Wednesday 27th November 14:30-15:30. We have tried to give a variety of days and times to be as flexible as possible. If you know anyone who might be interested, then please do let them know. They can book via the school office or just turn up!

Be Bright Be Seen Day

If you are a motorist then you will know how difficult it is to sometimes see pedestrians wearing dark clothes at night or when visibility is poor. Last year, most road related accidents for children happened between 7-9am or 3-5pm on a weekday - the exact times pupils travel back and forth to school. The clocks will change during half-term and the nights are growing darker earlier, we want to raise awareness of this issue with the children. On Thursday 24th October we will be having a 'Be Bright Be Seen Day', raising awareness of the importance of being safe on the streets. We will be asking children to come to school NOT in uniform but dressed in bright clothes. We will be reminding them how important it is to wear bright clothes and fluorescent strips so that drivers can see them more easily.

Key Areas of Information about Aston Rowant School: How does the school support my child's wider personal development?

We work hard to provide a good all-round education and to promote talents and interests of individual children or as Ofsted put it, 'The school's curriculum is well thought out and aspirational.' This relates to the how we approach the national curriculum, explored in last week's newsletter, as well as the wider curriculum and our children's wider personal development.

The promotion of wellbeing and the human rights is woven through all aspects of school life. 'An exceptional culture exists where adults care and look out for every child.' Ofsted 2022. Through the curriculum (especially PSHE and RE) pupils develop a good understanding of different faiths and cultures and show respect and consideration for others. There are many opportunities for pupils to think about and express their feelings and to reflect on their learning and behaviour which helps to promote their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, which is a real strength of the school. Pupils are happy to work well together, again in the words of Ofsted, 'Pupils happily look out for each other'.

There are good opportunities for older pupils to take responsibility in school with various jobs and monitor positions such as House Captains, Worship Leaders, School Council roles, Eco Warriors, Play Leaders, Art Ambassadors etc. The school encourages pupils to be involved in making decisions (such as the school's vision and values and choosing the school charity) and contribute to school policy (such as the Behaviour Policy). This is part of the underlying respect for children that underpins the school's vision and values. 'It may be a small school but everyone has big ideas. The school's strapline of 'growing together' encourages pupils to do this' Ofsted 2022.

Pupils enjoy a wide range of experiences through curriculum days, residential trips, visits, speakers, special days and weeks, clubs, sports and music. Forest Friday allows pupils to be more confident and engage in different learning styles and methods. 'Pupils fight for climate change as 'eco warriors'. Pupils are immersed in opera, chess and charity work.' Ofsted 2022.

Through annually planned events, weekly assemblies, the RE curriculum, PHSE and music, pupils have opportunities to explore values and beliefs. They learn to respect their own feelings and beliefs and those of others. The curriculum allows children to reflect on the values and beliefs of others today, in different countries and in different periods of history. Guest speakers and visits to places of worship enhance spiritual understanding. We celebrate significant experiences such as birthdays and different religious festivals and ensure that children have the opportunity to feel special and valued. Our IT lessons coupled with Internet Safety Day and Anti Bullying Week ensure that pupils help our children feel safe when using technology and social networks.

Our pupils have a strong sense of right and wrong which is promoted in assemblies, through our rewards systems, our behaviour management and most importantly through our six GROWTH values. Pupils apply these principles to their own lives and have high expectations of each other. The School Council impacts on behaviour in school and fund-raising events and help to choose the charities we support each year—giving the children a chance to help and understand the circumstances of those less fortunate than themselves and Eco Warriors provide awareness of ourselves and the world around us.

I make no apology for keep coming back to the opening line of our recent Ofsted report, 'Every child is known and believed in at Aston Rowant.' This is the external validation of how we approach the wider personal development of each child.

Kind regards

Mrs France

GRATITUDE

RESILIENCE

OUTREACH

WONDER

TRUST

HARMONY



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Teaching and Learning in the Classrooms this week:



Hedgehog Class

This week in Hedgehog Class as part of Black History Month we learnt about Frank Bailey, who was the first black firefighter. The children made paintings of fire engines and had lots of fun building one in their play. We enjoyed exploring triangles and circles in Maths and have made shape pictures, considering carefully the properties of each shape. Two of the Hedgehogs had planted some mystery seeds a few weeks ago and decided to find out what the plant was. After some careful research they realised they had grown some cress and we wanted to find out what it tasted like, so we made cress sandwiches for everyone to try. They were very yummy and Mrs Hall was very impressed with our resilience in trying new things. Well done Hedgehogs!



Squirrel Class

Squirrel Class have been busy writing their stories in English, and they've done brilliantly well at orally rehearsing their sentence and writing it down accurately. I've been so pleased to see the children using wonderful vocabulary and their efforts of writing at length. Great job Squirrels! In Maths we have been looking at number bonds to ten and twenty, how to write number sentences and fact families. Some of us found the number sentences with the equal sign at the beginning ($10 = 6+4$) a bit tricky, so we will practise that more next week. In Geography we learned about aerial perspectives and looked at aerial photographs of our local area on Google Earth. We then labelled physical and human features that we could see. In Art this week we made basic leaf rubbings with wax crayons. We will develop this next week and create some wax resist leaf art. Our Science lesson continued our learning on how our senses help us and we looked at how firefighters rely on their senses to do their very important jobs.



Fox Class

History has been the main focus in our class this week. We learnt about Alfred the Great and if he really was great and we were joined by Sue from Wallingford Museum to give us some pre-teaching prior to our visit on Wednesday. It was such a useful visit as due to the photos she brought in, it gave the class a bird's eye view of Wallingford and how the Anglo-Saxon burghs are still evident from above. We even pretended to fire a volley of arrows at the pesky Viking invaders! During our trip, the class were a real credit to you and our school. They demonstrated such curiosity about what they were seeing and retention of the substantive knowledge they had from class. The class finished off writing their own ending of our class text before starting our new text of Beowulf. After reading the first two chapters, we thought what would a hero need in order to defeat the monster, so we labelled Ted as our class 'hero'. They love what's happened so far and can't wait to see what lies in store for poor Beowulf! In Maths, both groups have focussed on subtraction using a range of methods that can make mental maths easier. In our Science, the class were tasked in finding out which material made the best sound insulator. In just a few weeks, they are now able to show how to carry out a fair test and think through the whole process and try and predict results giving their reasons. Many scientists in the Fox Class! In Art, the sculptures are coming on and I have been so impressed with their ideas and focus. It's a joy seeing their ideas come to fruition. Finally, in Class Worship we showed our 'wonder' at the nature we enjoy just in our school grounds.



Owl Class

Now that we have all of our amazing Owl Class back and fighting fit, we have really been able to develop our understanding of our topics this week: In English, we have been focusing on suspense writing techniques, including over-describing detail, describing the physical reaction to something rather than stating it, (or 'Show, don't Tell') as well as withholding detail to keep the reader tense, as well as the classic ellipses. They used these range of skills effectively to create a short narrative about the dragon from our topic video, which were a joy to read. In Maths, Year Six explored square and cubed numbers using counters and brick cubes, whilst Year Five looked at the rules of divisibility, as well as how to multiply and divide any value by 10, 100, or 1000, the language that is developing around Maths is very exciting: the children are growing more articulate and confident in their abilities to express and explain their ideas. In Science, the children created a group project about evaporation and had set themselves the challenge to create salt crystals form on some classroom equipment (trusty paperclips!). they will be monitoring and evaluating the success of the experiment daily. In RE, the children role played as heads of international charities and were tasked with selecting an international emergency to appeal about, with the catch that it had to fit into the charities religious mission statement. Again, the discussion was really effective. In our Thursday worship we looked into the possible meanings of wonder, and wrote anonymous messages about each other, explaining why they are wonderful. A fantastic week, enjoy the weekend!

GRATITUDE

RESILIENCE

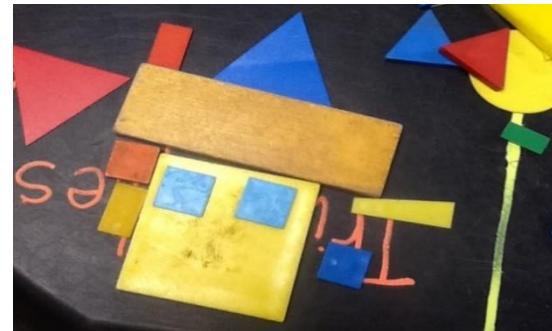
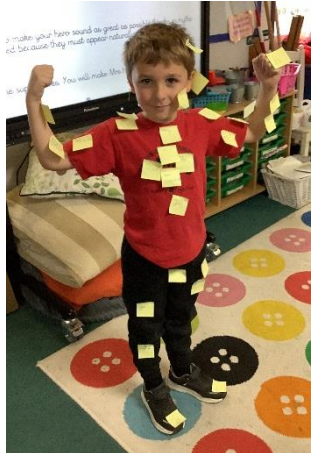
OUTREACH

WONDER

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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 we have marvelled that we are God's creation. That we were all designed and created by him. We are works of art! That we are all unique. We looked at how the Bible describes how God made human beings like a work of art – He loved creating us and He put his spirit into us. Sometimes we can feel like our lives are a bit messy, or we can't see how things will work out, or add up. Christians, and people of other faiths, believe that God has the better view on our lives, and longs to make them into something beautiful.

'I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Your works are wonderful; I know it very well.' Psalm 139:14

Climate Warriors Challenge

'WHAT YOU DO MAKES A DIFFERENCE, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make'
 Dame Jane Goodall, Primatologist and Anthropologist

Dr Jane Goodall, turns 90 this year, and is still travelling the world inspiring hope. She spells out her four reasons for hope: the amazing human intellect; the resilience of nature; the power of young people; and the indomitable human spirit. What we each can do on a daily basis can make a difference. It's not time for 'standing-by'. Dr Jane Goodall is still travelling the world inspiring people to make a difference and sharing her four reasons for hope. See her inspiring work and message using these links:

[Dr Jane Goodall - Child-friendly bio - Amazing Peoples School](#)

[Dr Jane Goodall - Reasons for Hope video \(2 mins\)](#)

Book Review – by Max, Fox Class- Which Way Round the Galaxy by Cressida Cowell



I think it's a great book with lots of thrill, excitement and laughs!

The plot: Five magical kids must deliver a magical creature back to its home however there are lots of obstacles along the way!

My favourite character is Theo Smith as he is always considered important and never scared but in the end he shows one true emotion...

Happiness Calendar: Optimistic October

October is a great time to focus on the positive and set yourself goals. This month's happiness calendar is [here](#).

Attendance – This week

| School target 97% | 97% - 100% | 90% -97% | Below 90% |
|-------------------|------------|----------|-----------|
| Hedgehog Class | 92% | 0% | 8% |
| Squirrel Class | 91% | 0% | 9% |
| Fox Class | 84% | 0% | 16% |
| Owl Class | 75% | 5% | 20% |

Housepoints

| House | This Week | Total |
|-----------|-----------|-------|
| Bethlehem | 33 | 329 |
| Eden | 57 | 288 |
| Galilee | 56 | 286 |
| Jerusalem | 42 | 330 |

GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY



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Emails and Letters Sent this Week

| Date | Email/Letter | For | From | Concerning |
|----------|--------------|-----|--------|----------------------------|
| 16/10/24 | Email | All | Office | PTA Wreath Making Workshop |

| October | |
|---|--|
| Thursday 24 th | Health & Safety annual inspection |
| Thursday 24 th | Be Bright Be Seen Day – wear bright visible clothes |
| Friday 25 th | INSET Day HELP FOR WORKING PARTY APPRECIATED |
| November | |
| Wednesday 6 th | Open Morning for Reception 2025 |
| Mon 11 th Nov – Wed 11 th Dec | Three final year Brookes University Students – Squirrel, Fox and Owl classes |
| Monday 11 th | I am 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) |
| Wednesday 20 th | Full Governing Body Meeting |
| Wednesday 27 th | Cinema trip KS1 and KS2. Details to follow. |
| Wednesday 27 th | Open Morning for Reception 2025 |
| Sat 30 th – Sun 8 th | Chinnor Festival of Trees inc choir performance Sun 1 st |
| December | |
| Tuesday 3 rd | Oxford University visit to Fox class - rocks |
| Wednesday 4 th | Thame Festival of Music |
| Tue 10 th and Wed 11 th | EYFS Nativity |
| Wednesday 18 th | Christingle in church |
| Thursday 19 th | Christmas Parties |
| Friday 20 th | Pantomime in school: Dick Whittington 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) |