



SUPPORTING
CONNECTING
INFLUENCING



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



8th November 2024

Message from the Head Teacher

Remembrance Day

This week, the children have been learning about why we commemorate Remembrance Day. We linked it to our value of gratitude, recognising the sacrifices people made for the freedoms that we enjoy today. On Monday, KS2 will have a short service at the War Memorial at church.

Thank you to everyone who has supported our Poppy Appeal to raise funds for essential welfare work for our service men and women, veterans, and their families. Thank you also to Year 6 for selling the merchandise each day. We will let you know how much was raised soon.

Anti-Bullying Week

Next week is anti-bullying week with a theme of 'Choose Respect' - empowering children to not resort to bullying, even when they have disagreements and reminding adults to lead by example, online and offline. Odd Socks Day is taking place on Tuesday 12th November, with the whole school community encouraged to wear odd socks to celebrate what makes us all unique.

Children in Need

Next Friday is Children in Need. The children can come in their spots or dots, or Children in Need merchandise, and donate towards this fabulous cause. Your donations and generosity will help to support local charities and projects providing essential frontline help to children and young people in communities throughout the UK.

Key Areas of Information about Aston Rowant School: How does the school support children through bereavement and difficult times?

You will be aware that our school community has recently suffered a bereavement. We as a school are deeply saddened by this loss and our thoughts are with the family and friends at this difficult time. We are also sensitive to the fact that other children and families have faced bereavement and loss in the past and some are currently experiencing challenging situations.

One of our main aims in school is to provide support to the staff and children by ensuring that the usual routines are in place and by maintaining a calm atmosphere. We also ensure that children are given the time to talk, ask questions and process what has happened. The expression of feelings resulting from bereavement is an essential part of the grieving process and support is in place to assist our children with this.

During this difficult time, we are being supported by SeeSaw in school and this will continue as necessary during the next few weeks.

We have a bereavement and loss page on our website. This will help you to support your children with questions and feelings they may have and will signpost you to a number of key resources. The Winston's Wish and Child Bereavement UK links are particularly helpful.

Knowing what grief is and understanding what the common responses to a death are, can be the first steps in helping a child or young person make sense of what they're going through. We talk to children about bereavement and loss as part of our regular cycle of PSHE lessons. As with all PSHE teaching, the development of skills is of central importance. The main focus when we teach about bereavement is in encouraging children to find helpful ways to express their feelings and thoughts and in knowing where to look for help. Children are encouraged to consider how they can safely express their own questions, concerns and thoughts around loss and bereavement in a safe environment. We also look how they can support others to do the same. In addition, we help them to understand how and where they can get help for themselves or their friends inside and outside school, as well as ways in which they can help their friends or others who have experienced a bereavement.

There is also a huge variety of great books available which you can explore to help the child or young person that you are supporting. We have a list of recommended books on our website and we have attached a copy with this newsletter for you. We particularly recommend 'Badger's Parting Gifts' and 'When Someone You Love Has Died: Talking to Young Children About Death', both of which are in this week's book review section.

As always, we will look after each other and offer care and support to all of our children, staff and families in our Aston Rowant School community.

Kind regards

Mrs France

GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY

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Teaching and Learning in the Classrooms this week:



Hedgehog Class

Firstly we would just like to say a huge thank you to parents who generously volunteered their time to the working party at the end of term. We now have a wonderful new sandpit and mud kitchen. We would also like to thank Mr Payne for the kind donation of logs for our reading garden. There is still much to be done so if you are able to assist with any practical tasks like furniture building, painting or digging please speak to Mrs Hall or the office. The children have had a fabulous first week back. In Maths we have been subitising with 4 and 5. The children can spot number patterns and quickly recognise these numbers in different arrangements. We have begun our topic on Toys by turning the role-play area into a toy shop and looking at how different toys move.



Squirrel Class

A new half term and a busy start for the Squirrels. We began reading a new story called 'The Storm Whale' and the children have really enjoyed the text. We spent this week learning new vocabulary from the text and using these words accurately in sentences. In Maths we have been reviewing bonds to 10 and 100 with lots of practical activities and games. For our Science learning we looked at everyday materials and how they are used in our environment. The children then sorted objects and items according to their material. Most excitingly, we put our toddler photos to good use this week! We discussed the meaning chronology, and the children created a personal timeline of their life so far. We will look further into this in the coming weeks, looking at family history and special events. Lastly, we looked at windmills and their structures for our DT lesson, and the children created paper split pin windmills.



Fox Class

What a start to a new half term and new topics! The whole class loved learning about the layers of our planet especially when they got to make their own version using plasticine! I'm sure they will not forget what they are and also a key fact about each. In our Science we have started our Electricity topic understanding about mains and battery powered appliances. We then discussed the advantages and disadvantages of each for example why would we not have a mains-powered torch. In our English we have been taking time to understand what an explanation text is. Using our oracy skills, children individually had to explain to their groups how something worked or why something was like it was. It was a great opportunity for them to see how important it is to be clear and concise. In Maths, the 2 groups have been working on their addition and subtraction skills with exchange and working with area for the first time. In our DT, we talked about information design as a precursor to our designing an electrical poster to inform in the next few weeks. Computing this half term is about connecting computers and our first lesson was focused on digital devices and how they all have inputs, processes and outputs. We used this idea and had a go ourselves using maths as our input and process. A very busy start back!



Owl Class

Owl Class have been thinking a lot about our new value of gratitude this week, as we handled an amazing trove of World War II uniform and equipment to help inspire our writing as part of Remembrance week. These thought-provoking items led into a conversation about those servicemen and women who make sacrifices for the freedoms we enjoy today, and how grateful we are for their efforts. We also used the items to inform our persuasive writing as we created our own online auction posts, and wrote a biased newspaper report. In Science, the children found different ways to test the hardness of a range of materials using scratch test, and were faced with holding the trust-worthiness of their findings into account: how reliable were their findings? What variables would have to be considered to ensure we do a fair test? In Geography, the children were shocked to see the rate of population growth in the last 100 years, and we explored reasons behind why populations might 'boom' at certain times, and linked these to historical events. In PSHE we explored a number of mindfulness techniques including breathing hands; belly buddies; body scan; spidey senses and mindful safari. We also linked mindfulness to our value of gratitude – colouring gratitude bubbles.

GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY

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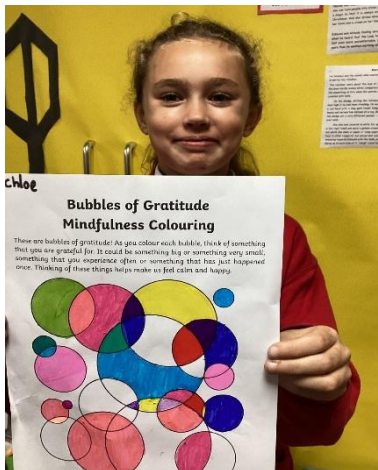


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Photo Diary of the Week



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

Values: Gratitude

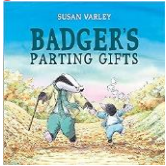
This week in Collective Worship we have looked at the importance of remembering and the importance of showing gratitude for things people have done for us, even if we don't know them or if they are no longer with us. We considered how a poppy helps us to remember important things that have happened to other people, those who have served and died in wars, and wearing one can be our way of both remembering and showing gratitude. We thought about how we remember people who we have lost, by sharing memories and recognising their legacy in the lives they touched and shaped during their time with us.

'Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.' 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

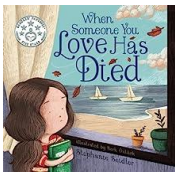
Climate Warriors Challenge

This week you are challenged to stand in awe of the machines and inventions that have revolutionised life in the home - but also to realise that some of these same machines are the worst 'energy guzzlers'. We are continuously challenging all of our children to be problem-solvers. Their challenge this week is to avoid using two of these 'guzzlers' this week – the 'dryers' (the tumble dryer and the humble hair dryer) - and think of creative alternatives. Here's an [ice scientist drying her clothes](#)

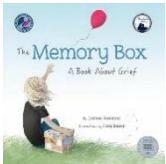
Book Review



Badger's Parting Gifts by Susan Varley. Badger is so old that he knows he must soon die, so he does his best to prepare his friends. When he finally passes away, his friends are very sad, but one by one, they recall the special things he gave them during his lifetime. By sharing these fond memories, they realise that although he is no longer with them physically, he will always be in their hearts. A sensitive book that deals gently and clearly with issues of loss and death for young children.



When Someone You Love Has Died: Talking to Young Children About Death by Stephanie Seidler. An award-winning, heartfelt, and compassionate children's picture book that gently addresses the topic of death and the experiences that come with it. Through sensitive storytelling and beautiful illustrations, this book offers reassurance and comfort while guiding young readers through the process of understanding and coping with their emotions during a difficult time.



The Memory Box: A Book about Grief by Joanna Rowland. Written from the point of view of a child this book allows each reader to imagine the loss of someone they've loved - a friend, family member, or even a pet. The main character creates a memory box to keep mementos and written memories of her loved one to help with the grieving process. A guide in the back includes information to help children manage grief and offers suggestions on how to create a memory box.

Happiness Calendar: New Ways November

This month, we're encouraging you to try something new! 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%	6%	0%
Fox Class	84%	4%	12%
Owl Class	80%	5%	15%

Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	87	87
Eden	65	65
Galilee	65	65
Jerusalem	86	86



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Emails and letters Sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
08.11.2024	Email	All	Office	PTA Thank you to Mr Harry Jones
07.11.2024	Email	All	Office	PTA Autumn Events
06.11.2024	Email	All	Mrs France	Parking at Kingston Blount
05.11.2024	Email	All	Mrs France	Pastoral note from Mrs France
05.11.2024	Email	All	Office	Parent Consultations

November	
Mon 11 th Nov – Wed 11 th Dec	Three final year Brookes University Students – Squirrel, Fox and Owl classes
Monday 11 th	11am 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 Afternoon 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
Saturday 7th	PTA Christmas Market – Chinnor Village Hall 14:30 – 17:00
Tue 10 th and Wed 11 th	EYFS Nativity
Friday 13 th	PTA Christmas movie from 15:15
Wednesday 18 th	Christingle in church
Thursday 19 th	Christmas Parties
Friday 20 th	Pantomime in school: Dick Whittington School ends 13:30
January	
Monday 6 th	INSET day

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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