



**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**

**11<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

***From the Headteacher:***

### ***Mental Health in Children***

On Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October it was World Mental Health Day which aims to increase awareness about mental health and the importance of looking after it. The day is a chance for everybody to talk about mental health and emphasise how important it is to reach out if you're struggling. We will focus again on this with our Children's Mental Health Week in February. However, it is a conversation woven throughout the year. We discuss mental health regularly in PSHE, we have a Growth Mindset attitude in all of our lessons and a time to reflect on our Wellbeing Wednesdays.

Don't forget Oxfordshire Youth delivers online Mental Health Awareness Sessions for Parents and Carers of children and young people. The sessions are FREE for Oxfordshire residents. The Mental Health Awareness Training for parents and carers aims to aid understanding of relevant topics surrounding young people's mental health today. The link is: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/an-online-mental-health-awareness-session-for-parents-and-carers-tickets-296940455897>.

### ***School Photos***

You will have received the proofs for the individual and sibling photographs this week with class photographs to follow. Please note that due to the poor uptake of the service this is the photographer's **only** visit to school this year. There will **not** be another class photo in the summer, or individual Year 6 photos. So please do make the most of these fabulous images – remember the school receives a donation for every item ordered.

### ***School Day***

As a reminder the school day starts at 8:45. The gates open from 8:30 and locked at 8:40. The children will line up promptly at 8:45 and all children should be in school by this time. Children should only come to the office door in case of **an emergency** rather than as a fall back. The children must have all of the equipment that they need for the day with them when they line up. We are increasingly having coats, water bottles and PE kits etc dropped off at the office during the morning, which takes up the office team's valuable time. Please also use the post box by the front door to post any reply slips rather than knock and hand them in personally.

### ***Working Party***

There is a working party **open to all** to renovate and reenergise the EYFS outdoor space on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October from 9:30 - 3pm. There are plenty of jobs such as digging, painting, gardening, landscaping and DIY. If you are at a loose end with what to do with the children then come down and get stuck in! Coffee, tea, squash and pizza will be provided! It would be great if you could let Georgia Wilson know if you are coming or just show up on the day with your gardening gloves. Please bring gardening tools (forks, trowels and spades). We are also looking for some small logs to make a log circle if anyone has any connections, please do get in touch.

### ***Key Areas of Information: How do we share progress and growth at our school (Impact)?***

The school may let you know informally how your child is doing through informal chats at the end of the school day, through phone calls or with a note home. The school year begins with meet the teacher meetings to share expectations and give both parents and teachers the chance to meet and discuss the year ahead. The school holds a parent consultation in both Autumn and Spring so that parents can discuss how your child is doing and there is a book look at the end of the Spring term so that you can see for yourself their growth. The school provides an annual written report to parents at the end of the school year so that parents can see how their child is achieving in all areas of the curriculum.

This will look like:

- Autumn 1 meet the teacher meetings
- Autumn 2 parent consultation meetings
- Spring 2 book look and parent consultation meetings
- Summer 2 standardised end of key stage assessments, annual report to parents

An Aston Rowant initiative that we are very proud of is the children's GROWTH books. These start whenever a child begins their learning journey with us. Each term we put in it a piece of Maths, English, Science and RE and this continues for the whole time a child is with us. It is a beautiful way to capture their growth and a lasting memory for each child to take when their time comes to move on. This year we have developed it further and included a journaling element to enable each child to set their own GROWTH and values targets which they then reflect on at the end of each term. These are also available at the spring book looks.

***Kind regards***

***Mrs France***

**GRATITUDE**

**RESILIENCE**

**OUTREACH**

**WONDER**

**TRUST**

**HARMONY**



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



### *Hedgehog Class*

The children have had a great week. We are really engaging in our play and coming up with our own ideas. This week we have really enjoyed taking our volcano experiment further. We tried different combinations of the powers and liquids to see if we could cause an eruption. Eventually we found the perfect formula and enjoyed a volcanic explosion! The children decided to make rockets and towers in the building area this week. We used our work on pattern in Maths to think about how to build safe structures. We noticed that there are patterns everywhere around us. We made body patterns, letter patterns, natural patterns and word patterns. We really enjoyed our RE Inspired session exploring the story of creation. We talked about how special we are and how we are loved and important.



### *Squirrel Class*

This week in Squirrel Class Y1 have been working hard on their sentences. We have been practising the skill of holding a sentence in our heads and then independently writing the sentence down. The Y2 children have also been creating beautiful sentences and paragraphs in their story retelling. In Maths the Y1 children continued comparing numbers and also looked at number lines, whilst the Y2 children compared and ordered 2 digit numbers. We began our Black History Month learning this week and looked at the life of Sislin Fay Allen, Britain's first black police constable. The children listened to Sislin's story with real empathy and noted how brave and proud she must have been to achieve her goals. They also produced some beautiful artwork and writing about her life too. Our Science lesson was focused on our sense of hearing and the class took part in a sound investigation, shaking pots of different materials and guessing what was inside. In PSHE we have been looking at the importance of manners and read the fabulous book 'Do Unto Otters' based on the saying 'Do unto others as you would have others do unto you' but written about Mr Rabbit and his new neighbours...the otters!



### *Fox Class*

This week we renamed our class Box Class! Thank you for all the donations of cardboard, boxes, masking tape and wire. Our classroom looked more like a workshop on Wednesday! You could feel the imagination pulsing through the classroom as they got started on turning something from our text Arthur and the Golden Rope into a sculpture of their choice. In our Maths, children have all been working on their addition and subtraction skills with Year 3 understanding the relationship between knowing their number bonds 4+3 helps with 40+30 and 400+300. Whereas Year 4 are back in the world of column addition but this time with 4 digits. In English, we started the week understanding about simple, compound and complex sentences and then tried to use them in our writing this week whilst also writing an amazing creative potion poem e.g. the tear of a cloud, the lick of the ocean, the secrets of a diary. During our Reading about the skeleton, we learnt the word circumference which inspired us to learn the circumference of our own heads! In our History, we learnt about how Christianity came to Britain discussing the work of missionaries and adding them onto a timeline. In Science, we learnt about pitch and were tasked with making their own instruments, but they had to demonstrate different pitch which they duly tested to see what hertz they produced using iPads. Another Foxtastic week was had by all!



### *Owl Class*

Despite many of our class being too poorly to attend school, we made the most of the week and continued with our learning as best we could! In English, we looked at effective setting descriptions, using colour blocks to break up our sentences into main clauses, adverbial openers and subordinate clauses. The children used these combined with the short film Eye of the Storm to create some very vivid descriptions of the airship the main character pilots. In Maths we are looking at factors and multiples, and how certain values are shared between the two. The children's understanding of multiplication tables has really assisted their rapid understanding of this topic, so please do keep using Times Table Rockstars at home! In Science, the children explored how heat affects the speed of a dissolving substance, and performed their own investigative, repeated experiment to observe, record and compare their results to inform their conclusions. In RE we have also been drawing conclusions, but about the nature of charity across several faiths, including the Sikh idea of 'Sewa'. In Art, we got crafty with wire frame sculptures and began to assemble our human proportioned models to pose.

**GRATITUDE**

**RESILIENCE**

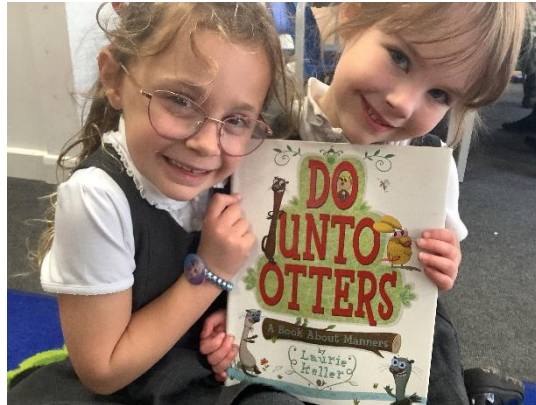
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***Photo Diary of the Week***





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

### *Values: Wonder*

This week our theme has been 'What a Wonderful World'. We have discussed the current weather, the surrounding area and what the children enjoy most about the outdoors and nature. We reflected that we are all part of God's creation, just like the trees, hills, fruit and vegetables. Christians believe that God loves us to enjoy all that he has given us. He wants us to make the most of the fresh air and the outdoors, to use our bodies and to look after each other and take time just to 'wonder'. God loves to see us, his children, running around, enjoying creation and having fun. We also reflected on how special our senses are and how we can use all of them regularly: listening to others laughing and playing or the birds singing; smelling the fragrant flowers and trees; feeling the cool breeze on our faces tasting the falling rain or snow.

*'This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.'* Psalm 118:24

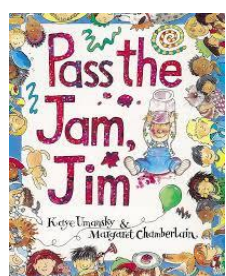
### *Climate Warriors Challenge*

It's National Recycling Week. We're encouraging our school community to ask 'but why?' ... to understand the importance of recycling and the impact they can have by this simple everyday action. Why do we bother with all this recycling, and how can it help combat climate change? Yes, it's about learning alongside inspiring action; but it is also, crucially, about enabling understanding, stimulating enquiry, encouraging discussion, provoking curiosity, promoting deliberation and explaining options, choices, and alternatives.

We're supporting the [Great Cable Challenge](#) ... if each Primary school aged child could recycle one 'copper cable' we would have saved 22,000kg of copper - bringing huge benefits to our natural world. [Find out HERE where to recycle your cables.](#)

Other links: [How we recycle GLASS](#) [How we recycle TINS](#)

### *Book Review by Hedgehog Class, Pass the Jam, Jim by Kaye Umansky*



This is a great book to have fun with rhyme and alliteration. It has lots of detailed pictures which kept the children searching for new funny things to find. The repeated phrase kept the children engaged as we looked for Jim getting into mischief. Here is what the children said:

Casper – "It was super-duper funny"

Leo – "The words were very silly"

Sienna – "Jam and ham, I liked that rhyming"

Otis – "He made a big mess"

Edward – "I liked the bit where he said bread, Fred"

Rocco – "I liked it when he ate all of the jam"

### *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%	3%	6%
Fox Class	88%	0%	12%
Owl Class	30%	0%	70%

### *Housepoints*

<i>House</i>	<i>This Week</i>	<i>Total</i>
Bethlehem	72	296
Eden	55	231
Galilee	46	230
Jerusalem	49	288

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***Emails and Letters Sent this Week***

<b>Date</b>	<b>Email/Letter</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Concerning</b>
11.09.24	Email	Fox	Office	Reminder – Fox Class trip
11.09.24	Email	All	Office	Christmas card orders & artwork
08.09.24	Email	Reception	Office	CYP019 – Reception transition letter

<b>October</b>	
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> / Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Open Evening / Morning at LWS for Year 7 intake 2025
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Fox Class trip
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Open Morning for Reception 2025
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Be Bright Be Seen Day – wear bright visible clothes
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup>	INSET Day Working Party – open to all to re-energize EYFS area
<b>November</b>	
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Open Morning for Reception 2025
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup>	I am 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 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)
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Open Afternoon for Reception 2025 14:30 – 15:30
<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>	Pantomime in school hall 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)