



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



6th December 2024

Message from the Head Teacher

Christmas Tree Festival

The Christmas Tree Festival has once again been a big success. Aston Rowant School's tree, *O Eco Tree, O Eco Tree*, was very well received with all of our homemade eco decorations. The festival is still open tomorrow and Sunday if you have not yet had chance to visit. Our fabulous school choir performed Christmas carols, songs and readings last Sunday – they were amazing and made us all incredibly proud. Thank you to Mrs Atkins for her hard work in leading and playing, to the children for their beautiful and memorable performance and to their families for giving up your time to attend and make it a special afternoon.

Thame Festival of Music

It was a privilege to attend The Festival of Music on Wednesday with our Year 5 and 6 children. The evening was a wonderful mix of carols, the performance of 'Rock Around the Flock', the teachers performing 'It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas' and full audience participation of 'The 12 Days of Christmas'. I was proud of the enthusiasm of our children, their exemplary behaviour at the rehearsals and performance, their commitment to learning the words and of Joanie, Devon and Laila-Beth for their enthusiastic reading and Aava for being a soloist. The money raised from this event has gone to Thame Youth Project.

Nativity

The stage is up, the beautiful backdrop prepared, the songs rehearsed, the words learnt and the costumes have been tried on. We are ready to go! The Hedgehog Class performances of 'Nativity Rock!' will be on Tuesday 10th and Wednesday 11th December at 5:30pm. The PTA are providing mulled wine and mince pies for a donation – so please come prepared!

Key Areas of Information: How does the school help my child have a sense of identity?

As a school we promote a sense of identity and belonging by having a supportive climate, fair policies and interactions, and a physical environment that is conducive to learning. The greatest validation of our success in achieving this came from Ofsted. 'It is easy to spot an Aston Rowant pupil. Pupils happily look out for each other. Pupils say it does not matter if a person looks different to another. They go out of their way to make everyone feel welcome.'

Research shows that a school's culture, along with safety measures, significantly influences pupils' perceptions of belonging. Fairness, both in policies and interactions, plays a crucial role in creating a supportive environment. The culture of caring for and nurturing one another starts the moment a child and their family joins the school and continues throughout their learning journey with us and beyond. Our school culture is 'Once part of the Aston Rowant family, always part of the Aston Rowant family'. This is very clearly seen in the number of our former pupils who want to come back to help on their INSET days and holidays or who come to our services and events or make a point of chatting to staff at the school gate.

The power of peer relationships should not be underestimated. Positive social interactions and peer support play a direct role in fostering feelings of acceptance and closeness. Friendships forged during extracurricular activities are particularly influential. Our 'House' system allows the children to feel connected and to support each other and provides opportunities for vertical learning. We have a number of inter house days or events ranging from tag rugby competitions and sports day to world book day and curriculum enrichment activities. Our involvement with Thame Partnership provides opportunities for inter school competitions and festivals which all help the children get involved in local activities with other schools.

A sense of belonging impacts children's academic outcomes, including academic achievement, classroom engagement, motivation, and attendance. Participation in extracurricular activities is also a key factor in enhancing school belonging. Our curriculum looks at other communities in our world and societies from the past. We promote internationalism and encourage children to be global citizens. Our trips, visits and curriculum days allow the children to experience contrasting localities to the one they live in. British Values are embedded in assemblies and special event days and displays. We participate in traditions such as UK Parliament Week. French is taught throughout the school in KS1 and KS2. Every year we celebrate Black History Month. Displays around the school reflect different languages and cultural backgrounds. Children are prepared for life in modern Britain and to be active citizens of the future through our Rights Respecting Curriculum and our global curriculum,

This all prepares our pupils for their future life as adults. Pupils leave Aston Rowant School with a strong sense of identity and equipped with the social and emotional skills in readiness for secondary school and their adult life beyond.

A Teddy called Autumn

Congratulations to Sienna, Hedgehogs, who correctly named the bear and to Matilda, Evelyn and Zoe for raising £245.00 for Sobell House. Thank you to everyone who supported this fantastic enterprise. A wonderful legacy and thank you to the hospice.

Kind regards

Mrs France

GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY

Growing together, rooted in God, enjoying fullness of life. (Colossians 2:7)



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



Teaching and Learning in the Classrooms this week:



Hedgehog Class

This week in Hedgehog Class we have been learning about time in our Maths. We have sorted events into night-time and daytime and ordered a typical daily routine. The children then performed a verbal recount in front of the class using appropriate vocabulary to talk about time. We have been polishing our nativity performance and are speaking beautifully. We tried on our costumes and we all looked fabulous. We can't wait to show you our play next week. We are still in desperate need of fairy lights and lanterns for atmosphere. If you have any going spare, please could you bring them in next Monday. Thanks. Nico the Elf has been getting up to more mischief. This week he has challenged us to wrap some tricky shaped presents for Santa and make letters in the snow.



Squirrel Class

The first week of December has arrived and we are in full Christmas mode! The children have been working hard on their items to sell for the Christmas Market. We have also been practising our festive song for the Christingle service in a few weeks' time. In English we have started a new story called The Storm Whale in Winter, which is the sequel to our previous story. The children have loved revisiting all the characters and hearing about a new adventure. In Maths Year 2 continue with the addition and subtraction learning, reviewing how to exchange and regroup when crossing ten. Year 1 will also be continuing with addition and subtraction learning, in particular subtracting within ten using a number line. In history this week the children discussed fashions and trends, thinking about objects that would be useful to put inside a time capsule for others to find in the future. It was interesting to hear their ideas about what might stay the same and what might be different.



Fox Class

We have had an explosive week in Fox Class this week! On Tuesday, 2 scientists from the Oxford University Earth Sciences department came to visit us to talk about volcanoes and rocks. I felt so proud of the whole class. They were able to explain what they already knew about volcanoes from their learning this term and Year 4 were able to remember the different types of rocks from previous learning using the rap and actions we had made. Now that was a special moment! The class had the opportunity to investigate different types of volcanic rock and ash and found out which part of the volcano these rocks came from. There was also lots of fun when we went outside to see the effect of pressure inside a volcano and watched little cannisters erupt from the ground. They were very unpredictable as to when they would erupt, how high they would go and where they would go! Some children even got to try on a volcanologist's suit whilst we all got to try on the glove which only had 3 fingers! In addition to the visit, we have squeezed in other learning! In English, children have been writing recounts, a short narrative and a diary ensuring they used a singular possessive apostrophe and conjunctions. In Science this week, the class carried out a comparative test to investigate the effect of adding more bulbs into a circuit. They noted down what happened each time to the bulbs as more and more were added keeping all other aspects the same. The Christmas tree bobble hat decorations made by the class are amazing and I hope you all manage to pick one up at the PTA Market this weekend.



Owl Class

It's been musicals week here in Owl Class, as we put the final flourishes on our carols and Christmas musical 'Rock Around the Flock' to participate in the Festival of Christmas Music, held for the 43rd year in Thame. We joined eight other schools in harmony with a fantastic evening of festive sounds. The children have done an incredible job of memorising so many intricate songs and dance moves, it really is a testament to their resilience and adaptability. Well done, Owls. Music aside, the children have been creating narratives featuring dialogue that moves the story forwards, themed around our Chronicles of Narnia topic. Direct speech can be a tricky skill to learn and combine with the narrative storytelling skills we have already learnt, but the children are determined and have made super progress: Miss McNiff and I enjoyed reading each one! In Maths, we have finished our first fractions module, and are turning our eyes to multiplication and division skills, whilst in Science we have explored irreversible changes, such as burning or rust. In DT we found some time to 'heat things up' by using our pyrography pens to create some 'rustic' looking Christmas decorations. After all, it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas...

GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY

Growing together, rooted in God, enjoying fullness of life. (Colossians 2:7)



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



Photo Diary of the Week



GRATITUDE

RESILIENCE

OUTREACH

WONDER

TRUST

HARMONY

Growing together, rooted in God, enjoying fullness of life. (Colossians 2:7)



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



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

Values: Gratitude

This week in Collective Worship we looked at the challenge of giving thanks when times are difficult. We looked at the story of Paul and Silas in jail, even though times were tough they still sang! They trusted God even when facing difficulties and were thankful for everything that he had done for them. We looked at challenges we may face but also reflected on all of the things that we can be thankful for.

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:16

Climate Warriors' Challenge

Approximately half of packaged supermarket products contain palm oil ... including bathroom products like shampoo, soap, shower gel, shaving foam, make-up, deodorant, toothpaste ... with over 200 different names for 'palm oil'. Whether as part of our routine shop, or as Christmas gifts, we all have many opportunities to 'cast our votes' when buying bathroom products. This week's you are challenged to become detectives in your bathrooms – to see how many products contain palm oil. It is not always easy to spot – so some clues are provided! Find out [which everyday products contain palm oil](#) with this interactive WWF webpage. Sustainable palm oil production substantially reduces its impact on climate change. It avoids deforestation, avoids drainage of peatlands, and avoids use of fires to clear the land. Maybe it's an opportunity to check out the labels before buying 'Christmas' bathroom toiletries?

[Alternative names for palm oil](#) - Orangutan Alliance

[Which everyday products contain palm oil](#) - WWF

[How palm oil is threatening orangutans](#) - BBC Newsround

[Palm oil app - for scanning bar codes in the supermarket](#) - Chester Zoo

Book Review **First Term at Mallory Towers** by Enid Blyton. Reviewed by Millie and Evelyn, Y4



It's about a girl that is going to a boarding school. She makes friends quickly but manages to cause mischief too! Also, she is very short tempered. We both like this book because it is exciting, and you don't know what's going to happen next. It would be a great book for children who may be going to a boarding school or starting a new school but especially those who like reading about naughty children! We would give it a 4.5 star rating out of 5.

Happiness Calendar: Do Good December

This month, we're encouraging you to carry out small acts of kindness. Kindness is contagious, and helping others has been proven to make us feel better too! Focusing on being generous with our time and attention rather than money - is free and better for everyone, as well as our planet! This month's happiness calendar is [here](#).

Attendance – This week

School target 97%	97% - 100%	90% -97%	Below 90%
Hedgehog Class	85%	0%	15%
Squirrel Class	91%	9%	0%
Fox Class	84%	0%	16%
Owl Class	85%	5%	10%

Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	54	315
Eden	43	292
Galilee	26	282
Jerusalem	45	316

GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY

Growing together, rooted in God, enjoying fullness of life. (Colossians 2:7)



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



Emails and letters sent this week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
06.12.24	Email	Squirrel	Mrs Biggin	Modelling clay/salt dough request
04.12.24	Email	All	Office	Chocolate milk sale for Sobell House Hospice
03.12.24	Email	Hedgehog	Mrs Hall	Pyjama party
02.12.24	Email	All	Office	Road closure tomorrow
02.12.24	Email	All	Office	Bags2School – Weds 11 th Dec 9:00

December	
Sat 7 th	PTA Christmas Market 14:30 – 17:00
Tue 10 th and Wed 11 th	EYFS Nativity
Fri 13 th	PTA Christmas movie night 'The Star'
Wednesday 18 th	Christingle in church
Thursday 19 th	Christmas Parties
Friday 20 th	Pantomime in school: Dick Whittington PTA raffle draw and carols with brass band School ends 13:30
January	
Monday 6 th	INSET day
Tuesday 7 th	Children return
February	
3 rd – 9 th	Children's Mental Health Week in Internet Safety Day on Tues
March	
Wed 5 th	World Book Day celebration
10 th – 14 th	National Science Week
April	
31 st – 4 th	RE Enrichment Week
4 th	Spring Service in Church

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)

GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY
Growing together, rooted in God, enjoying fullness of life. (Colossians 2:7)