



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



22nd November 2024

Message from the Head Teacher

Parliament Week

In a General Election year, with a new government, the recent State Opening of Parliament and Budget, politics has dominated the news in recent months. This week has been UK Parliament Week which offered us an opportunity to: learn about how our democracy works; look at our work and traditions more closely; to encourage the children to have thoughts and opinions on the pressing issues of the day and but most importantly encourage our school community to get involved. We have encouraged the children to be informed and understand how they can engage with politics to make a difference whether small or large.

Family Lives

Being a parent has never been easy. There are no manuals for it, and previous generations may not be able to provide the insight you're looking for. The family unit is more dispersed than ever, with some families living hundreds of miles from their 'core family unit'. The swift pace of societal change in the UK rapidly outstrips the knowledge of the immediate past. The result is that many parents may find themselves lost in a maelstrom of contradictory advice. For adults, time has never been more compacted.

Family Lives has produced a series of online parenting courses, to make this challenge a little easier. If interested please follow the link: <https://www.familylives.org.uk/how-we-can-help/online-parenting-courses>. Family Lives also offers a confidential and free helpline service for families in England and Wales (previously known as Parentline). They can be contacted on **0808 800 2222** for emotional support, information, advice and guidance on any aspect of parenting and family life. Their website is also a rich source of useful support and advice.

Key Areas of Information about Aston Rowant School: How does the School Provide Pastoral Support?

We provide high quality pastoral support utilising all of our team members. All staff promote a positive respect for learning by encouraging children to show respect for themselves, each other, the school environment (and beyond) and also for school resources. All teachers are trained in Mental Health Awareness and all staff trained to use the Zones of Regulation to help children manage their feelings and emotions. Children know how to use tool boxes to help them move from one zone to another. Our behaviour policy is based on our Christian values and takes a restorative approach so that children feel listened to and so that children can learn from their mistakes.

We have a Play Therapist working with a number of children individually and in small groups to nurture and support them. Play Therapy is a type of therapy where play and art materials are used as the main way for people to express themselves. We know that talking about problems can be hard. However, a child may not have the words to describe how they are feeling, or why they are behaving as they do. Play Therapy provides the expertise and time to do this through the medium of play.

Our PHSE curriculum is detailed, progressive and thorough. Pupils know how to eat healthily, maintain an active lifestyle and keep physically and mentally healthy. They have an age-appropriate understanding of healthy relationships and of the protected characteristics. The school provides pupils with meaningful opportunities to understand how to be responsible, respectful, active citizens who contribute positively to society. Using discussions and debates, helps our children know how to discuss issues and ideas in a considered way. The school teaches the children how to stay safe (including online safety) and to recognise risks to their wellbeing (stranger danger, drugs and alcohol, relationship education, social media; use of technology) Each class has a worry box or our worry monster to enable children to share any difficulties they may be facing. The school teaches children to be healthy through Forest Friday, our PHSE curriculum, sport, the daily mile and Skip2Bfit programme.

The school promotes equality of opportunity and diversity effectively through the PHSE curriculum, RE lessons, Collective Worship, British Values, supported by a variety of books in school. As a result, pupils understand, appreciate and respect difference in the world and its people, celebrating the things we share in common across cultural, religious, ethnic and socio-economic communities. Pupils engage with views, beliefs and opinions that are different from their own in considered ways. They show respect for the different protected characteristics as defined in law and no forms of discrimination are tolerated.

Finally...Parking

We have again had a complaint about parking – this time in Aston Rowant village around The Green. We encourage our children to be positive ambassadors of the school and always demonstrate our Christian values when out and about. Please can I urge all parents and carers to do the same when on the school run and park thoughtfully and considerately? Thank you.

Kind regards

Mrs France

GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY

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



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Teaching and Learning in the Classrooms this week:



Hedgehog Class

This week in Hedgehog class we have been getting stuck in to our nativity play. The children have impressed us with how quickly they have learnt lines and songs and we can't wait to show you the product of our hard work. Please do let us know if you are able to help at all with making props and scenery. In Maths the children have been looking at properties of squares and rectangles and have been applying this knowledge to do shape hunts and to make the different shapes accurately from various construction materials. We have been loving the introduction of ice in our play this week and on Wednesdays the children decided to collect ice in buckets so that we can do different science experiments including making pretend slushies!



Squirrel Class

This week in Squirrel class we have worked exceptionally hard on our writing, with the children learning about expanded noun phrases and then using these to describe the setting in our story writing. They have done an excellent job, and I look forward to spotting these in their sentences for this week's homework too. In Maths we are continuing with addition problems for Y1 and completing more complex subtractions for Y2. We have used lots of resources to help us, including counters, cubes, number lines and rekenreks. We will continue to practise and consolidate this next week. In Science, we learned lots of new vocabulary about everyday materials, and played a fun game in partners to do with describing a material by its properties. Perhaps ask your child what 'transparent' and 'opaque' mean this week?! Lastly, in history we talked about how people celebrate events, with the class linking this to celebrating birthdays each year. We also were busy creating some special Rudolph reindeer craft for the Christmas Fayre in a few weeks' time.



Fox Class

This week has been an extremely creative week in Fox Class. In English, children have created their own inventions, had other children ask them questions about it, then written an explanation as to how they work giving them an opportunity to demonstrate their growing writing skills. In Maths, both groups have been honing their multiplication skills – any opportunity for them to practise at home would be great too! In Geography, children learnt about composite and shield volcanoes then researched the three types of volcanoes using QR codes to support their website searches. In Science, we looked at switches then made a buzzer game using a battery, crocodile clips, a buzzer, a paper clip and some wire to twist into tricky patterns. The class really enjoyed playing each other's games; it really helped embed their understanding of what a switch does. In DT the class were busy making willow stars for our school tree at the Festival of Trees. Resilience was definitely required but all succeeded! Well done Foxes! As we are playing hockey this half term, could I ask that children come to school with gloves on a Tuesday please as it can be cold holding the stick? Lastly, a request for some wool and a few toilet rolls on Wednesday please. Thank you!



Owl Class

It was case of 'Lights, Camera and Action' in Owl Class this week, the children began filming their first scene of their storyboarded short films! They were tasked to create a short film featuring three styles of camera shot: a pan, a close up, and a 'talking head' mid shot. The children are as ambitious as ever, and we have rough cuts of murder mysteries to thrill, talking stationary to puzzle, and ASMR videos to calm and soothe a viewer. In English, the children have been looking at how to *show, not tell* as they describe a character: what can you glean about person from the way they stand? The way they move? How can we provide readers with clues about their personality as we describe their feature? We all wrote about the warm and friendly Mr Tumnus from the *Chronicles of Narnia*, as our first subject, and maybe a certain magical lion next week... In Maths, the children have been exploring ways to add fractions when the denominators do not match, we used the practical resources for the children to express their own fraction statements, and used bar models to highlight the equivalent fractions knowledge that helps us solve this problem. Geography saw us explore the push and pull factors that might prompt migration, with the children examining case studies of migration and the reasons behind the move. This bought up a valuable discussion to make a distinction between migrants and refugees, which the children talked about with sensitivity and aplomb. Well done on another week Owl Class!

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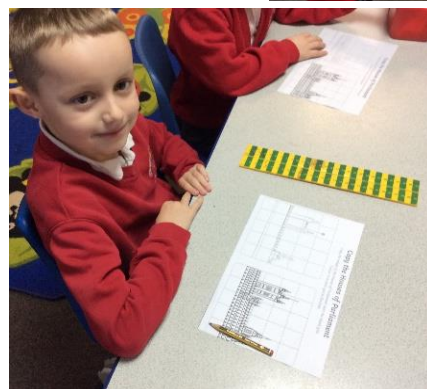
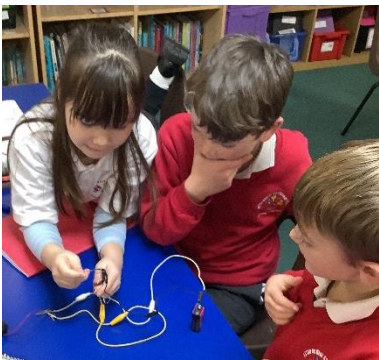
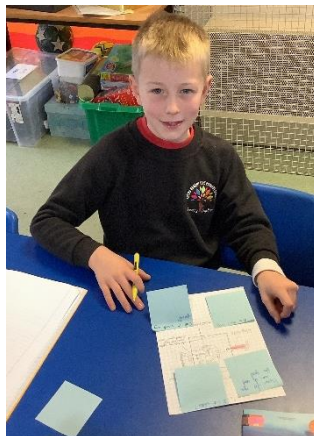
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Photo Diary of the Week



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

Values: Gratitude

Following on from Remembrance last week, in Collective Worship this week we have been looking at remembering to say thank you. Sometimes we can forget to say thank you for our food, or homes, or the little things that people do all of the time which make our lives better. We looked at St Paul's letter to the Ephesians where he says:

'Always give thanks for everything to God the Father.' Ephesians 5:20

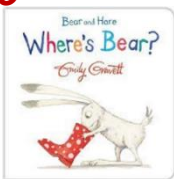
and we challenged ourselves to think about what we can show gratitude to God for. The children had quite a list!

Climate Warriors' Challenge

In addition to being UK Parliament Week it has also been World Children's Day this week. This has been an opportunity to think about how we can take action to help children around the world. UNICEF says that 'it's critical for children and young people to have the information, opportunities and platforms they need to stand up for their rights and make themselves heard'. Our children are challenged this week to 'seek out' the heating thermostat in their home, and then (along with their parent/carer) turn it down by 1 degree. You might need to wear an extra jumper, pop on a woolly hat, snuggle into a blanket, or even wear socks in bed – but it'll be helping children across the world.

[UNICEF video - children around the world talking about climate change.](#)

Book Review Where's Bear? by Emily Gravett recommended by Edward in Hedgehog Class



Edward chose to bring in *Where's Bear?* to read with Rodney. Here is what he thinks about the book:

This book is about a hare and a bear play who hide and seek. Hare finds bear really easily but bear can't find hare at all. I love this book because it is about hide and seek which is my favourite game!

Happiness Calendar: New Ways November

This month, we're encouraging you to try something new! We are focusing on problem solving and having a growth mindset in school. Being adventurous and trying new things is important, as is remembering that it's okay not to get it right first time - turning "I can't do it", into "I can't do it...yet!". This month's happiness calendar [here](#) has lots of ideas and challenges.

Attendance - This week

School target 97%	97% - 100%	90% -97%	Below 90%
Hedgehog Class	100%	0%	0%
Squirrel Class	97%	3%	0%
Fox Class	88%	4%	8%
Owl Class	75%	10%	15%

Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	48	210
Eden	56	192
Galilee	45	199
Jerusalem	52	214

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Emails and letters sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
22.11.24	Email	Owl Class	Mr Manning	The Festival of Christmas Music
22.11.24	Email	All	Mrs King	Christmas lunch by The Kids Lunch Company
22.11.24	Email	All	Mrs King	Class group photographs
22.11.24	Email	Choir	Mrs Hall	Christmas Tree Festival

November	
Wednesday 27 th	Cinema trip KS1 and KS2 Ozi – <i>Voice of the Forest</i>
Wednesday 27 th	Open Afternoon for Reception 2025
Friday 29 th	Last Celebration Assembly – volunteers requested to help put up the stage after
Sat 30 th – Sun 8 th	Chinnor Festival of Trees inc choir performance Sun 1 st at 2pm
December	
Tuesday 3 rd	Oxford University visit to Fox Class - rocks
Wednesday 4 th	Thame Festival of Music Owl Class inc rehearsal on Sun 1 st
Friday 6th	Christmas Jumper Day – bring in a donation for the PTA Christmas raffle CHRISTMAS LUNCH DAY! Book with The Kids Lunch Company.
Monday 9 th	Dress rehearsal EYFS Nativity to the whole school
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 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)

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