



SUPPORTING
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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



29th November 2024

Message from the Head Teacher

Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch

Don't forget to wear your Christmas jumpers next Friday and donate something to the PTA Christmas raffle. Also, this is your final reminder to book Christmas lunch for next Friday as the deadline is TODAY!

Christmas Tree Festival

The Christmas Tree Festival at St Andrew's Church, Chinnor will be open from Saturday 30th November – Sunday 8th December 2-5pm with Christmas refreshments served throughout this time. Aston Rowant School have again decorated a tree named 'O Eco Tree, O Eco Tree' to celebrate our new Eco School status. The children have crafted some beautiful decorations all from natural materials. We are delighted to say that our school choir will also be performing on Sunday 1st December at 2pm. Do support us at the festival if you can.

Cinema Trip

It was a joy to take all of KS1 and KS2 to the cinema on Wednesday this week. Their behaviour was exemplary and they were incredible ambassadors for the school. Their enjoyment of the film was also inspiring. As part of us being an Eco School we went to watch *Ozi – Voice of the Forest*. It is the story of Ozi, an orphan orangutan who becomes separated from her parents when their forest home is destroyed, Ozi is taken in by kind wildlife sanctuary owners who keep her safe and slowly teach her to communicate through sign language. With the combination of her new skills and natural talent for social media, Ozi has a mission to tell the world what is happening to the rainforest before it's too late. Ozi discovers that one voice really can change the world. The film is full of hope, encouraging a new generation to speak out and use their voices to protect our precious world. The ideas and thoughts stimulated by the film have been developed through our English lessons this week.

Thank you to all of the parents who helped with transportation to make this trip possible.

Sobell House

Earlier this year we were delighted to join in OxTrail - Oxfordshire's first ever sculpture trail, raising funds for Sobell House Hospice. All the funds raised were used in their work to provide a variety of services including specialist, compassionate nursing care, bereavement support and therapy to patients and families at the time they need the support the most.

Recently one of our school families received the incredible care and support that Sobell House offers. Matilda has expressed a wish to say 'thank you' and make a donation to the hospice for all that they have done for her family. She has therefore joined with her friends, Evelyn and Zoe, to have a 'name the bear' competition and also to sell bookmarks and friendship bracelets. If you would like to support this wonderful initiative, please do look out for the team at the school gate each day next week.

Key Areas of Information about Aston Rowant School: How does the school help my child

have a voice? Pupil Voice is very important to us at Aston Rowant. The concept of 'Pupil Voice' is a school's commitment to listening to and involving our children in the decisions that affect them. It refers to ways in which the thoughts, wishes and opinions of learners are invited, engaged with and acted upon within our school setting. Article 12 of The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child states 'Every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously.'

Children are at the heart of Aston Rowant School. Understanding how they view their experiences here is vital to inform and influence how we operate. Moreover, actively inviting, and, crucially, responding to pupil voice can have a variety of benefits. Firstly, Pupil Voice can be used to encourage children to reflect on their own learning, any challenges they have faced and what they would like to learn about. This helps us assess the effectiveness of our curriculum planning and delivery.

Secondly, children working alongside the staff team, knowing that they have a key part to play, can help further develop effective relationships between pupils and other members of the school community. Our aim is for every pupil to feel valued, represented and respected. Giving children the opportunity to put their views forward, to take responsibility for representing other members of the school community and to contribute to important projects and decisions, can help develop their confidence, as well as their speaking and listening skills.

Finally, it encourages and empowers children to become 'courageous advocates' and drive projects such as responding to climate change or raising funds for Sobell House Hospice. This is how we grow together, rooted in God and enjoy fullness of life.

Kind regards

Mrs France

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Teaching and Learning in the Classrooms this week:



Hedgehog Class

On Monday, we were ever so fortunate to have a visit from the Oxfordshire Museum Service for a 'Toys and Games' workshop. Sonia led our workshop and taught us lots about toys from the past. We worked as a team to see if we could sort some toys into 'old' and 'new'. We then had a go at making our own thaumatrope! We finished up the session with time to play with some traditional toys. It was a lot of fun, so thank you to Mrs Wilson and the PTA for organising this for us. We have been enjoying exploring the properties of rectangles and 'special' rectangles in Maths and have been applying our understanding of their properties by finding them in the environment. On a side note, if anyone has any soft toy sheep or fairy lights we could borrow for the nativity play, we would be very grateful and promise their safe return. Many thanks.



Squirrel Class

We have had a brilliant week in Squirrel class and finally finished our retelling of our class text in English. Miss Smith and I are very proud of the children, who have worked very hard to complete their stories. We will move on next week to a new story. We also enjoyed looking at the story and setting of Ozi: Voice of the Forest. In Maths we have continued with addition and subtraction practise, using part whole models in Y1 and number lines/100 squares for Y2. In science this week we completed an investigation into the most absorbent material to clear up a spillage. The children predicted which material might be best for the job, with lots of brilliant observations noted by the class. Y2 also looked at how we could keep the test fair. In History this week Miss Smith taught the children about birthdays through the decades, and we looked at how birthdays have been celebrated over time, noting what has stayed the same and what is different. In RE we have been looking at New Year celebrations and this week have celebrated Rosh Hashanah, or Yom Teruah, which is the New Year in Judaism.



Fox Class

The learning and growing just keeps on coming in Fox Class! In English this week; we have dedicated the week to poetry and writing based on the Ozi (the film we watched) and how humans are destroying habitats for orangutans. They learnt about stanzas and rhyming couplets and produced some really thoughtful poetry. In Maths, we've been looking and learning about patterns in a range of times tables from 2, 5 and 10 to the 11- and 12-times tables. In Geography, the class thought about the positives and negatives of living near a volcano basing our thinking on Mount Etna in Italy. In Science, the class used a range of materials to discover which would make good conductors or insulators. They all worked so well together and the vocabulary used was brilliant. For our DT lesson, the class made mini bobble hat Christmas tree decorations which will be sold at our Christmas Fair next week. They all worked really hard and thoroughly enjoyed making them. Our recorder journey continues (!) and now they are showing great promise in playing the notes B A & G. Watch out for the Christingle for a performance!



Owl Class

Owl Class are keeping both warm and busy this week: In Science they were using tealights to burn a range of different materials and recording the effect that the heat would have on the properties of the material: what would change when it heated up? What might change as it cooled down? And most importantly to the focus of our lesson, could that change be reversed? This involved effective predictions being made, and careful recording of their notes, as well as being responsible to work near a (small) open flame, and the children performed very well. In Maths, we have been subtracting fractions from other non-unit fractions and mixed numbers, and have been 'breaking' the whole numbers to leave fractional remainders. We have used lots of practical resources to assist us visualise this, before moving onto more abstract challenges. In English, we have continued to travel further into the magical land of Narnia, with descriptive narratives crafted to include all of our senses. In addition, we have started writing environmental activism blogs, inspired by the film about Ozi the orangutan, which we were lucky enough to see mid-week in the cinema. This is giving the children a chance to have their own voice to express their thoughts, ideas and opinions. In Music, the children continue to improvise 'classroom jazz' and in DT we created decorations for the Christmas Tree festival and continued to make our stuffed felt toys: cutting accurate pattern pieces and beginning to sew.

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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

In Collective Worship this week we have been thinking about all the people who help us and reflecting on how we can show our gratitude. In the Bible St Paul wrote letters to his friends thanking God for them and all they meant to him. Paul is very specific in his reasons for thanking his friends sharing with them everything that they have done to support and encourage him. We challenged ourselves to do the same!

'Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God' Philippians 1:3

Climate Warriors' Challenge

When you hear the word 'Amazon' do you think ... books, presents ... or do you think of the South American rainforest that is one of our carbon-storing, climate change-fighting powerhouses? Our school community is challenged this week to counter the 'Black Friday' trend, by thinking imaginatively – as well as 'buying nothing'. How about an 'Amazon' animals theme for homemade presents?

Amazon links: (of the rainforest variety!)

[3 minute National Geographic movie about the Rainforest](#)

[Amazon animals -WWF](#)

[Rainforest Connection project](#) (if you don't already know about this project - it is mind blowing!)

Book Review – Ozi: Voice of the Forest by Florence Year 2



I loved watching this film, my favourite character was Ozi because she is brave and has courage. She sticks up for her friends and what's right, plus she can speak sign language, which was surprising! I rate it 5 stars and encourage everyone to watch it!

Happiness Palander: 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	69%	0%	31%
Squirrel Class	91%	3%	6%
Fox Class	88%	0%	12%
Owl Class	80%	5%	15%

Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	51	261
Eden	57	249
Galilee	57	256
Jerusalem	57	271

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Emails and letters sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
25.11.24	Email	KSI & KS2	Office	Cinema trip reminder

November	
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 inc rehearsal on Sun 1 st
Friday 6 th	Christmas Jumper Day – bring in a donation for the PTA Christmas raffle CHRISTMAS LUNCH DAY! Book with The Kids Lunch Company.
Saturday 7 th	PTA Christmas Market at Chinnor Village Hall 14:30 – 17:00
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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