



**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**

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

***From the Headteacher:***

### ***Working Party***

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard on our INSET day to renovate and reenergise the EYFS outdoor space. Your support is invaluable. We are still looking for some small logs to make a log circle if anyone has any connections, please do get in touch.

### ***School Improvement***

Every school has a School Improvement Partner (SIP) who provides professional challenge and support to the school, helping its leadership to evaluate its performance, identify priorities for improvement, and plan effective change. We had our annual SIP visit to the school this week and it is fair to say that he was blown away by all that we have done in the last year. He confirmed that Aston Rowant School has made significant progress on our journey to outstanding.

### ***Health & Safety***

It's been a busy week as we have also had our annual Health and Safety inspection. Once again we were commended for our incredibly high standards and, other than investigating a hard wired fire alarm, we once again achieved 100% accreditation. Well done to the whole team, but especially Mrs King and Mrs French, for their hard work. It is important that the high standards we apply to education is recognised in everything we do throughout the school.

### ***Fun Learning at for Half Term***

If you have not yet come across it the Teach Your Monster App it is a fabulous FREE site that allows you to set fun reading, phonics and mathematics tasks for your children from home. Created by teachers the app has beautifully crafted games with friendly monsters, playful designs and out-of-this-world storytelling that children love to play whilst developing their knowledge and understanding. [Teach Your Monster: Free Phonics, Reading and Mathematics Games](#)

### ***Key Areas of Information about Aston Rowant School: How does the school have high expectations for my child?***

The school has high expectations for everyone within the school and the staff team are no exception, as seen through the SIP visit and H&S inspection this week. Likewise, our high expectations for the children are threaded through all aspects of school life. The school has a presentation policy which outlines expectations for how work in books should be set out and presented in all lessons at each stage. The school has high expectations of attendance for all pupils – as set out in our attendance policy. The school has high expectations of uniform – as outlined in our uniform policy. We constantly check to ensure that children are wearing the correct uniform and we send out uniform reminders regularly. The school has high expectations of behaviour and a clear behaviour policy. The school is constantly praised by visitors or when the children are on trips for the good behaviour of the children. There are lots of rewards to encourage and promote good behaviour. There are clear sanctions too. Behaviour expectations are constantly shared with children and there are frequent reminders in class and in collective worship.

*'Pupils happily look out for each other. They affirm that bullying has no place here, and know that adults would sort out any issues right away. In lessons, pupils work hard. Around school, they do the right thing. Pupils speak eloquently to visitors.'* (Ofsted, 2022)

The school has high academic expectations for children. We assess all of our children termly and this is tracked on an internal tracking system. We look every term at which children might need support in a particular area of the curriculum either from the teacher in class or by a teaching assistant. This may be long term or for a short period. We set age-appropriate homework (including reading, phonics, spellings and multiplication tables) so that parents can support children at home. We have curriculum pages on our website and termly curriculum newsletters for parents so that parents can see what their children are learning in school and support as necessary. We use the School Led Tutoring Fund and the Pupil Recovery Premium to support Pupil Premium children in maths, reading and writing. We ensure that SEND pupils are supported through interventions, IEPs and EHCP targets. National data last year shows that at all phases of the school that Aston Rowant pupils attain in line with national attainment and in most areas is better than national results. Progress (or GROWTH) from KS1 to KS2 is also in line with (or better than) national progress. Feedback from secondary schools and past parents and pupils evidences that Aston Rowant pupils settle well into their new secondary schools because they are well prepared and that they go on to achieve well in the rest of their learning journey.

*'It may be a small school, but everyone here has big ideas. The school's strapline of 'growing together' encourages pupils to do this. The headteacher cultivates an ambition for every child to achieve well with no limits placed.'* (Ofsted, 2022)

***Kind regards***

***Mrs France***

**GRATITUDE**

**RESILIENCE**

**OUTREACH**

**WONDER**

**TRUST**

**HARMONY**



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



### Hedgehog Class

What a brilliant end to a fantastic term. The Children have come so far over the last 7 weeks and we can see the difference in their learning. This week we have been exploring position and direction in Maths. The children have really enjoyed playing a picture game where they describe their picture to a friend who then tries to draw the exact same picture. They were great at listening carefully to the instructions and using positional language to describe their pictures. In play the children have been choosing to build rockets making plans, collecting materials and researching moon landings on the computer. We read a book in ERIC about a classroom that had a pet rabbit so lots of the children decided to make hutches to keep some class pets in. It was lovely to see them persevere and have original ideas in their play this week. We really hope you have a lovely half term break and come back feeling refreshed and energised!



### Squirrel Class

What a fun end to our half term with the 'Be Bright Be Seen' awareness day today! It was so lovely to see the children in fun, coloured clothing and we talked about the importance of being seen on the road. This week we have been reading some funny stories by different authors and spotting similarities and differences. The children have been superb at spotting features such as repetition, rhyming and morals in the stories. In Maths we have looked closely at number bonds and fact families, consolidating our number facts and working out how to use these facts to solve more complicated maths problems. We have also practised our times tables on TTRS. In Geography this week the children looked at maps and symbols, creating their own symbols for a map and planning a route for Goldilocks to collect her porridge. Well done to the children on a fantastic half term and enjoy the well deserved half term break!



### Fox Class

What a fantastic half term we have had! It's been topped off this week where children have brought in their half term projects and it was lovely to hear the children talk about why they chose to do what they did and how they made them. We also had the opportunity to listen to a few children's 500 words stories. I don't envy the judges who have to choose winners! In our English we learnt about show not tell then attempted to include this feature in our new chapter of Beowulf. They have certainly enjoyed this Anglo-Saxon tale! In Maths, Y3 have been learning how to use column addition and subtraction without any exchange...as yet. This will come! In Y4, children have learnt how to be efficient in their subtraction, when to use column subtraction, when to count on or a little trick when subtracting a number with lots of zeros! Ask them to show you! We finished our last History topic with the Battle of Hastings thus ending the Anglo-Saxons rule understanding the issues with choosing a new king prior to the invasion and reasons why the Normans won. In our Science, children were able to demonstrate their growth in knowledge by carrying out a quiz and discussing their understanding of volume and pitch. You have probably seen their amazing artwork that has now come home. Each sculpture was linked to our Arthur story, and I was so proud of how they took cardboard, masking tape and paint and transformed them into super pieces. Everyone deserves a week off to rest, recharge then return for another half term jam packed full of new learning opportunities!



### Owl Class

It has been a fantastic first half of term with Owl Class. I have been blown away with just how much progress each child has made in only eight weeks. What a hard-working bunch! Even though it was the end of term, they still kept up their high standards of determination- completing another suspenseful narrative Big Write about what happened after the end of our topic film 'Eye of the Storm'. It was lovely to read twenty different, inventive alternative endings, a testament to their imaginations. In Maths, we have been exploring forms of multiplication, and have been recapping both Grid and Formal method of multiplying. The children have really understood the 'how' of this operation, this will put them in good stead for next term when we begin to look into fractions and multiplicative relationships. In RE, we ended our unit about charity and faith by focusing on what the children were passionate about, and how they might actually be able to action a change: as one child put it "kind thoughts won't feed a hungry person, will they?" We decided that we all need to 'be the change that we want to see in the world'. What a remarkable set of young people we have. In science, we ended our solutions and mixture topic by creating salt crystals, which in true Science style, manifested slightly differently than we had planned, as the crystals formed up the string suspending the paperclips, rather than on the paperclips! In History, many of the children were able to use their own research from home to state their case for who should be on the next £10.00 note, providing reasons of their own for their Briton was historically significant and resonant with today's society. Well done on a busy, fast paced week, Owl Class, and enjoy your break!

***Photo Diary of the Week***





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

### Values: Wonder

This week we have looked at the importance of having fun! We looked at enjoying life and savouring the wonderful things that we have been given. We have set the children a challenge about how they can enjoy creation over the half term using all of their senses, how they can 'wonder' and what they want to give thanks for.

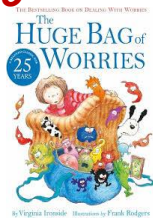
*'The heavens declare the glory of God.'* Psalm 19:1

### Climate Warriors Challenge

Hidden, underground networks of fungi are silently helping plants and trees to lock away carbon and combat climate change. Recent research suggests fungal networks beneath our feet may store over 13 gigatons of carbon, roughly equivalent to 1/3 of our global annual carbon emissions! Maybe fungi are a powerful and underappreciated ally in the fight against climate change? We can help to protect fungal networks and healthier soils, by supporting organic and sustainable farming practices.

In half term our children are encouraged to have fun exploring in the woods – and challenged to find and identify some fascinating fungi (without touching them!), to find a tree to hug, and to find the biggest, brightest orange leaf. If they're feeling arty, they can collect leaves and seeds to create 'leaf fireworks' or 'woodland emojis'.

### Book Review The Huge Bag of Worries by Virginia Ironside



We know that children can worry about different things and not always have the words to voice these concerns. This is a story about a little girl called Jenny whose worries follow her where ever she goes. They are with her at home and at school. They are in a big blue bag that she carries around with her. She tries lots of ways to get rid of the worries but they always come back. This is a great book to open up conversations about different worries or feelings that children might have and what might help them work through them.

### 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	84%	0%	16%
Fox Class	88%	0%	12%
Owl Class	80%	0%	20%

### Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	57	386
Eden	65	353
Galilee	67	353
Jerusalem	59	389

Congratulations to **Jerusalem** for winning this half term's houspoints challenge.

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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>
24.10.24	Email	All	Office	Wraparound bookings for next term
24.10.24	Email	All	Office	Lunch orders for next term
21.10.24	Email	All	Mrs Hall	EYFS Working Party

<b>November</b>	
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Open Morning for Reception 2025
Mon 11 <sup>th</sup> Nov – Wed 11 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Three final year Brookes University Students – Squirrel, Fox and Owl classes
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 20 <sup>th</sup>	Full Governing Body Meeting
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Cinema trip KS1 and KS2. Details to follow.
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Open Morning for Reception 2025
Sat 30 <sup>th</sup> – Sun 8 <sup>th</sup>	Chinnor Festival of Trees inc choir performance Sun 1 <sup>st</sup>
<b>December</b>	
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Oxford University visit to Fox class - rocks
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Thame Festival of Music
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 Parties
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Pantomime in school: Dick Whittington School ends 13:30
<b>January</b>	
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup>	INSET day

***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)

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