



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



13th December 2024

Message from the Head Teacher

Nativity

We are incredibly grateful to Hedgehog Class for their three wonderful performances of 'Nativity Rock!' this week, one to the whole school and two to family and friends. It is hard to believe that the majority of children in the class are only 4 years old. They remembered their lines and the words for the songs and performed with such confidence that it was a privilege and joy to watch. I am so proud of each and every one of them. I am also grateful to Mrs Olsen, Mrs Hall, Mrs Boddy and Mrs Ansell for all of their hard work in encouraging and inspiring the children to perform. Also, thank you to the parents and carers for supporting the children and helping with the costumes, learning their lines and providing lights for the stage.

Christmas Party

We are looking forward to our Christmas party and a visit from Father Christmas in school on Thursday 19th December. The children can come to school in their smart party clothes (not jeans and hoodies), however, please note that the children will still have outdoor break and lunchtime so will need a warm coat and sensible footwear.

Christingle Service

Our Christingle service is on Wednesday 18th December at 6:00pm in the church. As a church school it is important that we maintain our strong links with our local church, and therefore I ask that all children attend, in full school uniform, unless they have a prior commitment. The service will be led by Owl Class and all children, including the choir and our musicians, will be joining in various parts of the service. It is a wonderful opportunity to join together to sing carols, hear the Christmas message and end by lighting our Christingles. The PTA will be serving mulled wine before the service, donations welcome.

Last Day of Term

This is a school uniform day. It is deemed a full day of school as the children are present for morning and afternoon registration. Please ensure that your children are in school on this day.

We are looking forward to watching Dick Whittington. Oh yes we are! It will be for all of the children in our school hall from 9:30am. Thank you to the PTA organising this treat. It is a fabulous way to end the term with the whole school family coming together to enjoy an experience that is educational as well as entertaining and unforgettable.

The PTA hamper raffle draw will take place on Friday – they look spectacular again this year so do make sure you have tickets. Parents and carers are warmly welcome to join us from 1pm in the playground for the hamper draw and also to enjoy carols with the children and a local brass band. You can then collect your children from the school gate at 1:30pm

Key Areas of Information about Aston Rowant School: Performing Arts

Performing Arts form an important part of a broad education, with strong personal development at the core or as we say at Aston Rowant – enjoying fullness of life! Through Performing Arts children can embrace all subject disciplines and social activities, and thanks to the confidence and communication skills that they foster, children are empowered in whatever path they choose to follow into adulthood. Using Performing Arts for learning and development allows children to experiment. They can explore different ideas and concepts, try out different points of view, and reinforce their own thoughts. It's an opportunity to explore stories, recreate and re-enact situations, to understand different characters and use different perspectives to reach conclusions. The opportunities to develop a growth mindset and demonstrate resilience using the Performing Arts are endless. They also give children opportunities to shine in different ways from other subjects.

We are delighted to confirm that we will continue a cycle of performances for all of our children. Each year the nativity will continue to be performed by our Reception children. Following the enormous success of *A Big Green Adventure* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* KS1 and KS2 will also continue to put on performances - but due to the obvious pressure this puts on timetabled lessons this will be done on a cyclical basis. At the end of the Summer Term 2025 KS2 will present another amazing open-air performance. KS2 then get a rest in the summer of 2026 when they will have their residential trip to enjoy and KS1 will have a chance to perform. It means that all children will be in four performances during their time with us: once in EYFS; once in KS1, once in LK2 and once in UKS2. All I can say is that if previous productions, and Hedgehog's performance this week, are anything to go by we have a lot to look forward to!

Kind regards

Mrs France

GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY

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Teaching and Learning in the Classrooms this week:



Hedgehog Class

We are so very proud of Hedgehog class and everything they have achieved to overcome their nerves and perform an exciting and well-polished nativity play this week. They delivered their lines beautifully and sang their hearts out. Well done Hedgehogs! In other news the children have been exploring number bonds within 5 in maths including the tricky concept of 1 less. They made snowmen to recreate the song 5 little snowmen to illustrate this. In phonics we have been looking at polysyllabic words and how to cover part of the word in order to blend them more easily. The children have been enjoying some Christmas crafts to really develop their fine motor skills including Christmas trees and snowman spirals. It's been a fabulous fun week!



Squirrel Class

The penultimate week of the term has been jam packed with lots going on but we continue to keep learning! In maths this week we looked closely at shape for both Y1 and Y2. We reviewed the names and properties of shapes, exploring the language of faces, edges, vertices (3D) sides, corners and lines (2D). Next week we will continue to look at the properties of shape, bringing in learning around parallel and perpendicular lines and symmetry. In English learning this week we wrote postcards in role and reviewed expanded noun phrases. We also explored how to structure sentences in the past tense. For our science learning we conducted another experiment, but this time to find the best material for a waterproof bag. The children worked in mixed year groups, and it was lovely to see them observing, noticing and questioning together. We talked lots about how to keep our experiment fair and how to check if our initial predictions were correct. History this week saw us look more closely at world timelines and how big events are organised and remembered. We also calculated how old the children would be at the start of the next decade and the children were amazed to realise they would be in 'big school' then! Lastly, in music we used the glockenspiels to play alongside our class song, 'Ho Ho Ho' and the class did brilliantly!



Fox Class

The end of term is fast rushing towards us but still we keep learning! In our SPaG lesson on Monday, Mrs Healy foolishly write some text but completely forgot to add in any punctuation especially capital letters and full stops. The class used highlighter pens to highlight what they thought each sentence should be then rewrote the text using the correct punctuation and spellings. It was a really useful exercise for children to understand that a sentence is essentially one idea consisting of a verb and a noun. We made a beautiful set of rainbow sentences between us all! After watching the Buster the boxer advert, children enjoyed creating their own toy for a pet then worked on using a variety of persuasive devices to entice buyers! In Science, we looked at how to be safe when around electricity focussing on different room around the home. In DT, in groups the class worked on their posters which will have a light bulb and a switch based on a topic of their choice. They are creating this knowing that their audience will be Squirrel class so they need to think carefully about wording and the use of appropriate pictures. In PSHE we looked at a range of emotions and we express these. We considered how we convey how we are feeling in words but also in our body language. Can you work out the different emotions shown on the photo page?



Owl Class

It's been another busy week in Owl Class as the children completed their end of term assessments for their first 'big term' in Owl. This could have been a daunting task for the children, but they have taken it in their stride. Elsewhere, in English, the children wrote a dual narrative between Edmund and the White Witch, concentrating on the difference between the characters inner voices and outer voices; often we say one thing, and think another. How could the children show the inner workings of the White Witch as she tries to convince Edmund to betray his siblings? In Maths, we have worked on formal multiplication and solved a range of word and reasoning problems to really cement out skills in this area, before delving into division skills next week. In Geography, we used the census details from the last forty years to chart the growth of Chinnor, and the changes and effects this has had on the area, and will look in particular at the impact of local wildlife and pollution next week. In Science, things heated up as we safely burnt a range of materials to provoke irreversible changes and examined the effects: does an irreversible change mean the material is destroyed? DT found the children fully absorbed in constructing their soft toys, and finally, in Music, there was festive fun as we learnt Jingle Bells on the glockenspiels, and again as Year 6 were able to ring the handbells!

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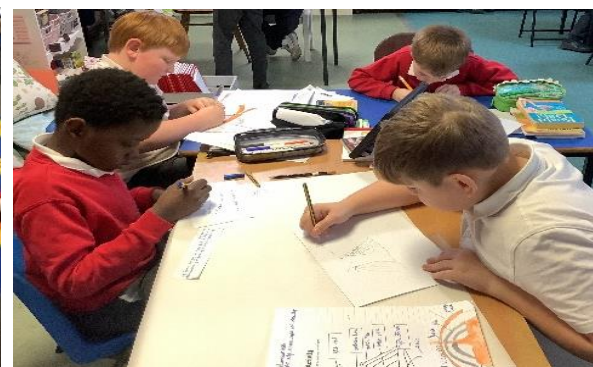
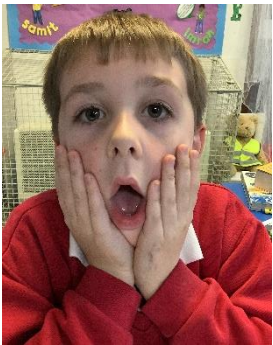
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Photo Diary of the Week



GRATITUDE

RESILIENCE

OUTREACH

WONDER

TRUST

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Photo Diary of the Week - Nativity Rock



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

Values: Gratitude

This week in Collective Worship we asked if the children had heard the phrase ‘count your blessings’. We discussed how when we remember all of the things that we have to be thankful for our days seem brighter and even when we face tricky times we can have hope.

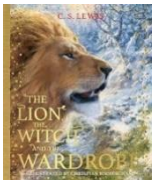
Even when the way goes through difficulty, I'm not afraid when you walk at my side. Your trusty shepherd's crook makes me feel secure. Psalm 23 (The Message)

Climate Warriors' Challenge

‘Nothing in the world is quite as adorably lovely as a robin when he shows off, and they are nearly always doing it.’ Mary Lennox in ‘The Secret Garden’ by Frances Hodgson Burnett.

At this time of year, we are encouraging children to pause and take time to support and enjoy our wild birds – watching the robins ‘showing off’ and listening to their birdsong. Our challenges over the next few weeks will involve getting outside and exploring our natural world. Connecting with nature as a child is considered an essential building block in valuing nature into adulthood, and then choosing to strive to protect it.

Book Review **The Chronicles of Narnia; The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe by Oliver Year 5**



‘This is only one of the seven outstanding books by C.S. Lewis. I love this book because it is full of adventure and there is always something exciting around the corner. I also like how there are loads of different books in the series that link together to tell a bigger story, but you can read them in almost any order, so don't worry. This is a book that I think will be one of your favourite reads, even when you are a grown-up’.

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	92%	0%	8%
Squirrel Class	94%	0%	6%
Fox Class	80%	4%	16%
Owl Class	70%	5%	25%

Housepoints

<i>House</i>	<i>This Week</i>	<i>Total</i>
Bethlehem	62	377
Eden	40	322
Galilee	49	331
Jerusalem	64	380



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Emails and letters sent this week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
16.12.24	Email	All	Office	Afterschool club pick ups this week

December	
Wednesday 18 th	Christingle in church 18:00
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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