



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



20th December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week has been a lovely end to the term which has culminated brilliantly with the children being able to celebrate the Christmas period by creating Christingles, Christmas cards and festive treats to share with their loved ones. As always, our pupils really have evidenced our school values as they have worked together, encouraged one another, challenged themselves and shown wonder and enthusiasm in all of our activities this week. It has been a joy to witness.

Christingle Service

It was a privilege to attend our Christingle service on Wednesday. It was led thoughtfully by our Year 6 children. Hedgehog sang *Away in a Manger* beautifully and KSI gave a wonderful performance of *Come as You Are*. Fox Class played *Jingle Bells* and sang *C'est Noel* brilliantly and the Owl Christmas version of *Hallelujah* was thought-provoking and moving. Listening to the children singing *Silent Night* in the dark church lit by the Christingle candles is a magical moment that always makes my Christmas. I would like to take the opportunity to express my gratitude to Mrs Atkins for her incredible playing at the service as well as all her hard work with the choir who sang beautifully and to Maggie for working with our musicians who performed incredibly well.

PTA

I want to take a moment to say thank you to all the volunteers who work tirelessly with the PTA. The PTA funds are used to enhance the education and wellbeing of the children and also provide additional school resources for them. This term alone they have run the brilliant Christmas Market, held a Christmas wreath workshop, put on a fun Christmas film night, organised the pantomime and offered mulled wine and mince pies at Christmas events. There are new and exciting projects planned for the new year. On behalf of the staff and children I want to thank them for everything they do – we really do appreciate it. Thank you also to everyone who supports their work with your generous donations and the time given.

Attendance Matters

This week we have sent out letters for all children with their attendance levels for the Autumn Term. Please do look at your child's attendance levels. Every moment in school counts, and days missed add up quickly. For example, if a child is absent for three days over a term they could miss 15 lessons in total which may not be repeated. The higher a pupil's attendance, the more they are likely to learn, and the better they will perform now and in the future.

Stationery

We have had a number of children without the stationery items that they require for their learning this term. As a reminder KSI and KS2 children need a pencil case with: pencil, pencil sharpener, rubber, ruler, glue stick, coloured pens/pencils. KS2 also need blue ink pens (no biros). These make wonderful stocking fillers if the children are running low.

Governor News

At the end of November, we said a sad farewell to our Chair of Governors, Dr Steve Taylor, who became Chair at the same time that I joined the school as Headteacher. Together we have seen the school transform into a flourishing, enabling school which excels at offering 'life in all its fullness'. We are grateful for the hard-work, support and insight that he has given over the last 5 years. We are delighted to say that Mr Tom Sowerby has stepped up to the role of Chair of Governors. Tom has been a Governor at Aston Rowant School for 11 years and currently holds the position of Health & Safety and Safeguarding Governor. We have also welcomed Mrs Abi Tindall and Rev Jacky Barr as Governors this term and are excited to have Mr Ben Wilson join us from January.

The capacity on our Governing board increased as we moved to a VA school and we still have a couple of vacancies. The school's Governing Board comprises the Headteacher, staff, parents and a mix of volunteers with knowledge and experience in education, finance, health & safety, HR, local government and more. Together, we are responsible for the budget, policies, safeguarding and all the strategic decisions that govern and drive the school. If you would like to join us, or know someone who might be interested, then please do not hesitate to make contact.

Finally

On behalf of the whole staff team, I would like to thank you for the gifts, cards and encouraging messages that we have received this week. We are very grateful for your kindness.

All that remains for me to do is wish everybody a happy and safe Christmas and New Year. We look forward to seeing you back again on Tuesday 7th January 2025.

Happy Christmas!

Mrs France and the whole staff team

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

We have had a Christmas packed week in Hedgehog with lots of fun activities to develop our finger strength including snowman spirals, Christmas tree decorations and making popcorn garlands. We enjoyed learning how to cook safely by making gingerbread biscuits while talking about how to keep our hands and surfaces clean. The whole school enjoyed the smell of our baking and we even shared our treats with the teachers making them very happy! We have been completing writing assessments this week to see how far we've come in our phonics and fine motor control. We have made astounding progress as we begin to form sentences and captions. In Maths we've been learning how to work out how many presents Santa has left in his sack by using our number facts to 5. It has been a wonderful end to a very busy term and we are so proud of how well the children have settled into school life. We hope you have a wonderful restful Christmas break!



Squirrel Class

The last week of term has been as fun packed and busy as usual! We continued our reading and writing lessons, this week looking at the story of Stick Man by Julia Donaldson. We tracked the stick man's journey and wrote letters in role to his stick lady love. In Maths we continued our learning of shapes, focusing on 2D shapes and the class made some beautifully festive Christmas tangrams. Our afternoon learning this week has also had a fully festive theme, we measured and carefully cut strips to make paperchains and we enjoyed making our Christingles ready for the service on Wednesday evening. We also created some advent wreaths to remember why Jesus is the light of the world. I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas break, and I look forward to seeing you all in 2025.



Fox Class

Last Friday saw some unexpected guests appear in our class who left a terrible mess and poor Fox Class were left to clear it all up! We also received an email from Father Christmas as he had noticed something on his SantaCam in my classroom and attached a video. Sadly, in the video it was evident 3 very naughty reindeers had had maybe a bit too much fun dancing and playing in our room! We then wrote to Father Christmas letting him know just what they had been up. We always find a purpose to our writing in Fox Class! The class used their new science knowledge to make their very own light-up Christmas card creating a circuit and a switch on the inside of their card. We had fun and games at our Christmas party which included a special visit from Father Christmas, and we also got the chance to show him the clip of the dancing reindeers. It's been a fabulous term, full of learning and growth - the whole class have worked so hard. I wish you all a wonderful Christmas break and I can't wait to see what the children will achieve in 2025!



Owl Class

'Festive fun' was the name of the game this week, as we poured our end of term energies into party games, disco dancing and a stunning Christingle service. It was fantastic to see so many of the Owl Class parents singing along too. We also found time for 'Chris-maths' in the shape of festive co-ordinates, and we teamed up with Year 4 for a collaborative Science lesson as we designed an irreversible or reversible function machine, and researched what might happen to the input we added? For example, if the function machine heated the input by 1000 degrees C, what would happen to a mineral like gold? Would the effect be reversible or not? Would a new material be made? This was a fabulous chance for the two classes to work together and pool ideas. We also managed to finish our stuffed toys, which should be with many of you by now (or may be lurking under the tree for Christmas Day...) In Geography we finished our topic about why population changes, including the children's own ideas about what 'pull-factors' the area of Chinnor may need to attract more people to live there. Most excitingly, we even had a special visit from Father Christmas, who gave each of the children some brilliant presents. I'd like to thank all of the children for all their hard work and enthusiasm this term, and all of their families for the children's support. Please do have a wonderful Christmas break, and I will see you all next year in 2025!

GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY

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



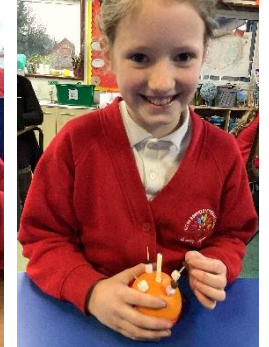
SUPPORTING
CONNECTING
INFLUENCING



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



Christingle



GRATITUDE

RESILIENCE

OUTREACH

WONDER

TRUST

HARMONY

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



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

Values: Gratitude

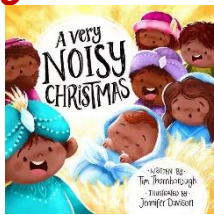
In Collective Worship this week we thought about different ways to show gratitude. We thought about who we are grateful to - who has helped us recently. We wondered how often we take the time to really say thank you and show our gratitude. We thought about creative ways that we could make others feel valued especially if they go out of their way to support or help us. We have encouraged children to do this at home and at school. We remembered that there are many for whom Christmas can be a difficult time. We looked at how sometimes the smallest things can make the biggest difference and have considered how our outreach can demonstrate our gratitude.

'A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you' John 13:34

Climate Warriors' Challenge

This holiday we are encouraging children to pause and take time to support and enjoy our wild birds – listen and recognise their birdsong, learn how to draw a robin... During cold snaps in the winter, food provided by humans could make a difference to a bird's survival. Children are encouraged to make a simple bird feeder – a Christmas wreath for birds - and then watch and wait!

Book Review A Very Noisy Christmas by Tim Thornborough recommended by Mrs France



Some people think that Christmas was a 'Silent Night'. Far from it! It was filled with shouting, singing and screaming! It was as noisy as any of our Christmas celebrations. This fun and fresh retelling of the Christmas story comes with invitations to make some noise, so that children can join in as they are read to. But it also shows children that at the heart of the Christmas story is something we should all be quiet for a moment to hear and understand: God's Son Jesus was born, so that we can be friends with God forever. Now that's something worth shouting about!

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 - Autumn Term 2024

School target 97%	Total	97% - 100%	90% -97%	Below 90%
Hedgehog Class	96.8%	68%	31%	1%
Squirrel Class	97.3%	69%	31%	0%
Fox Class	94.7%	68%	28%	4%
Owl Class	91.6%	15%	60%	25%

Congratulations to the following children for **100%** attendance: William, Otis, Phoebe, Airlie, Finetta, Harry, Leon, Arthur, Wilf, Imogen, Amelia, Alessandra, Millie, Evelyn and Bodie.

Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	23	400
Eden	22	344
Galilee	31	362
Jerusalem	44	424

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



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
20.12.24	Email	All	Office	PTA Autumn Term 2 letter
20.12.24	Email	All	Office	Wraparound booking form
18.12.24	Email	Fox Class	Office	The Nativity Story film
18.12.24	Email	All	Office	School office closed – Thursday 19 th December
18.12.24	Email	All	Office	The JR Sports Group – Spring Term 2025 Clubs

December	
Friday 20 th	Lunch bookings open up with The Kids Lunch Company for next term Kids Lunch Co.
January	
Friday 3 rd	12:00 Deadline to book lunches with The Kids Lunch Company
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)