



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



31st January 2025

Message from the Head Teacher

The Point of Behaviour

There is always a point to behaviour – it communicates a need; it has served a purpose in the past; it is habitual; it is the result of an emotional trigger, and it is a way of attaching and connecting to others. Point5 is a behaviour consultancy service which helps to unpick and understand the point of behaviour and works out how to move forward to best support the child, class, staff team and school. They ran workshops at our INSET days in January both this year and last year where they discussed practical strategies and offered resources which support adults to work with children whose behaviour is challenging.

We are delighted that they are offering an Online Workshop for Parents on Responding to Behaviour on Thursday 13th February, 9.30-10.30am. Tickets for this workshop are only £5.93 (£4.99 plus the Eventbrite fee) and can be purchased via Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1144081792439?aff=oddtcreator>

Key Areas of Information about Aston Rowant School: Smartphone Free Childhood

Smartphones have a ubiquitous presence in modern life across all ages. The latest Ofcom statistics suggest that a fifth of 3 and 4 year olds own a smartphone in the UK, a quarter of 5-7 year olds and by the age of 12 it is 89%. Every year the age of first smartphone-ownership is getting younger.

Without a doubt smartphones have transformed our lives and offer us all easy access to information, instant communication, and convenient tools for learning. However, there are also potential drawbacks, particularly for young people, such as addiction, distraction, cyberbullying, and compromised privacy. Interestingly, a recent poll of 10,000 parents found that 94% think smartphones are harmful to children and over half of them believe that having a smartphone changed their child's personality. So, if smartphones aren't necessarily a good thing for children, why does almost every child have a smartphone? And is there a realistic alternative to children having one?

The answer to why so many children have a smartphone is often 'because everyone else has'. Resisting the peer pressure to get a smartphone is almost impossible if every other child in your child's class has one. No parent wants their child to be left out and isolated from their peer group. The powerful network effect of these devices means that many parents and young people feel like they have absolutely no choice in the matter. The answer to whether there is a realistic alternative is yes, but it may not be as 'cool' and will by definition mean that its owners are not accessing the social media sites that their peers are.

There is merit in approaching the challenge and decision making process collectively. Making such key decisions alone can feel impossible when the peer pressure is intense – but a group of parents working together means that they can make an informed choices knowing that they are supported by other adults making similar choices and their children will know that there are children their age who do not have a smartphone too.

Smartphone Free Childhood is a growing movement of 150,000 parents across the country who are coming together to wait to get their children smartphones. There's a Smartphone Free Childhood WhatsApp community in every county in Britain, where parents can find support and advice about how to protect their children from the risks of smartphones and social media.

Technology clearly has huge benefits and creates amazing opportunities for each generation. Smartphone Free Childhood is not about demonising technology or reducing its use but rather ensuring that children should benefit from the right platforms in an age appropriate way and with their mental health and cyber safety being paramount. Certainly, safeguarding concerns are rising due to addictive-by-design algorithms and inappropriate content of smartphones. We cannot be complacent and assume 'it won't happen here'. Sadly, I have had discussions in my office regarding serious issues of mental health, online bullying and even grooming of our pupils all related to smartphones. It can happen here. It does happen here.

The Smartphone Free Childhood network is gaining local and national support. All the schools in the Thame Partnership, including Lord Bill's, are looking at the implications of the network for our schools. A representative of our group recently met with Freddie van Mierlo, MP for Henley and Thame, to discuss the initiative. He agreed to champion it in parliament.

Whatever approach you decide to take for your family, we respect your choice, and it is a choice. Every family and every child is different. What is important is that it is an informed choice, rather than a rite of passage, and it is an issue that can be raised and discussed without embarrassment or judgement. As Aston Rowant School very proudly has a vision of 'Growing Together' this is an issue that we would like to raise and work through together.

To that end we have a brief meeting on Friday 7th February at 2:50pm after a shortened Celebration Assembly to share information and ideas. Please join us if you can. The PowerPoint will also be available on the website afterwards.

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

We have been busy as usual in Hedgehog class. Our 'Pick a Picture' journey took us to Japan this week, as we focused on the contemporary artist Yayoi Kusama. Often referred to as the 'Polka Dot Queen', Kusama works with dots. So we have gone a bit dotty this week! First, we had a go at printing dots to decorate our Chinese New Year snakes. We then used clay to make our pinch pots, which we plan on decorating with dots too. In our Maths lessons we spent the beginning of the week taking a short look at combining numbers to a total of eight, using Lego bricks. The rest of the week, we have been learning about length and correctly using the words longer/shorter and longest/shortest.



Squirrel Class

Squirrel Class have been busy this week as we continued our learning about Percy the Park Keeper and his animal friends. Miss Hanrahan has been delivering fun lessons on adverbs and adjectives, ensuring that the class know how to use these accurately in their sentences. Next week they will write their own version of a Percy story, planning their work carefully and creating an exciting adventure for all the characters. In Maths lessons the Y1 children have moved on to learning about number lines, filling in gaps and estimating numbers that are missing. Y2 children have continued learning about money, specifically calculating totals and finding change. In History we continued our learning on the Great Fire of London, and the children are creating newspaper reports about the fire. In RE we learnt about Joseph and how God grew him into the leader that he needed to be. In PSHE we thought about the UN Rights of a Child and each reflected on a different article and what it means for us. Finally, we learned about wheels, axles and axle holders in DT this week, in preparation for creating our fire engines next week!



Fox Class

What a week we have had in Fox Class! The main focus has been on the ancient Egyptians. Firstly, thank you to everyone helping to contribute to our fabulous Mr Egypt day. I have organised many 'experience' days in my teaching career but this was a very special day. The class had the opportunity to spend a day with a real live Egyptologist who totally captured their imagination with his enthusiasm and knowledge. We all learnt so much and having the chance to touch artefacts from 3000 years ago was magical along with the stories associated with them. I was so proud of the knowledge that they could recall from their previous learning. In our actual History lesson this week, we learnt about how and why pyramids were built, and we rounded off the lesson by making our own....out of sugar cubes! In our English, the class finished their biographies about Howard Carter and started our new book Cinderella of the Nile. A very different type of text but it will give them the chance to showcase their narratives skills. In our Science, having the magnets out was great fun and they loved investigating which materials were magnetic or non-magnetic. In RE we looked at the parable of the Sower and what this teaches us about how we do and don't grow. Finally, in our Maths we have now started studying length with mm, cm, m and km but of course we also learnt Ancient Egyptians maths too!



Owl Class

This week we have had an exciting week thinking problems, puzzles, solutions ... as it was world puzzle day on Wednesday. However, the highlight of the week must be the visit from Mr Egypt. He shared fascinating stories and facts about the Ancient Egyptians. We even got to hold unique artefacts including a rare coin used by Alexander the Great. We also learnt about the curse of Tutankhamun's.... In English we wrote newspaper articles about our incredible day. In Maths we have mastered multiplying and dividing fractions. Who knew KFC could help our Maths! Keep – Flip – Change. Ask us if you are unsure! In History we became evacuees! We donned our luggage labels, gathered our suitcases and were sent off into the unknown. Our experiences were very different ranging from those who were evacuated to live with a doctor in the countryside to those working on a quarries and mines! In PSHE we learnt about anti-social behaviour and how we all have the right to live happy, safe and healthy lives no matter who we are or where we are from. We have made some fabulous posters to display around the school. Finally, in PE we enjoyed cross country in the sun on Thursday and had a netball match on Tuesday before rain stopped play. We were then challenged to name a sport starting with each letter of the alphabet. I wonder if you can do it...

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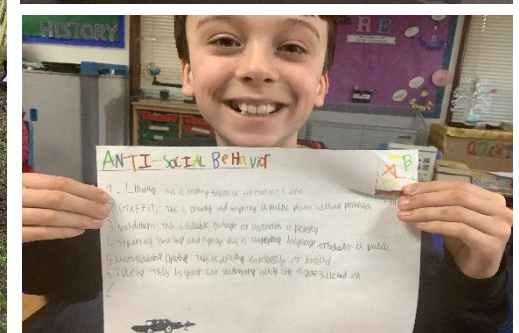
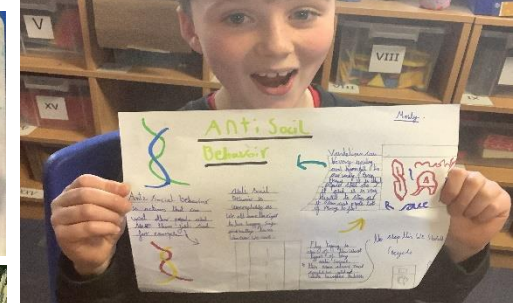
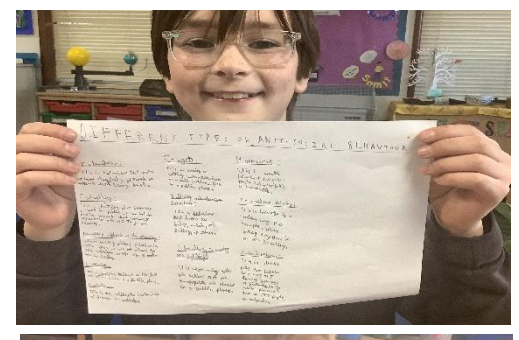
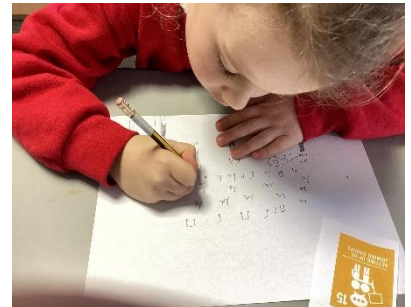
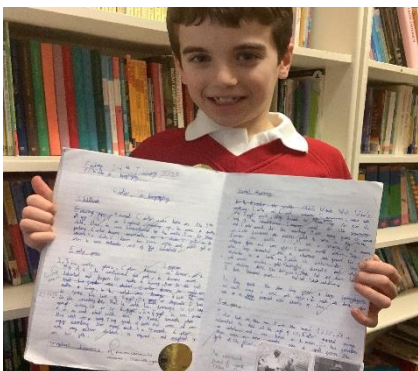
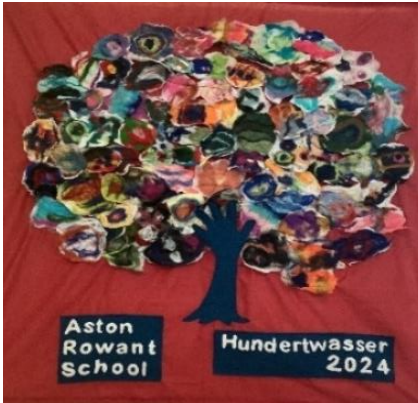
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Photo Diary of the Week



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Whole School Topic - Autumn Term: Open the Book

Values: Trust

This week we looked at what it is like to standing on God's promises. We read the story of Jesus and his disciples who were in a small fishing boat when a storm rose up. The disciples were really afraid about the situation that they were in. Jesus was calm even in the face of difficulty and trusted God. We noticed that Jesus asked the disciples two questions: *Where was your faith? Why didn't you trust me?* We talked about how it can be difficult to trust when we are worried or frightened but that we can trust in God in every situation because he is always with us.

'Do not fear for I am with you.' Isaiah 31:41

Climate Warriors' Challenge

Earth is in injury time. Can the spirit of sport help change the score? The global football industry produces carbon emissions equivalent to the total emissions of Denmark – over 30m tonnes of CO₂, with travel being the main culprit. Rhydian Cowley – 2024 BBC Green Sport World Athlete, Lesein Mutunkei, Innes FitzGerald, Morton Thorsby, Pat Cummins are all athletes speaking out about climate change. Let's hope more and more join them - their influence could be huge.

This week let's get outside – head to the park - play football, set up an obstacle course, drink hot chocolate under a tree, or spot animal prints in the mud. Time outside in nature, away from screens and digital technology - from which related carbon emissions are growing year-on-year - can help improve our well-being, as well as being beneficial for our planet.

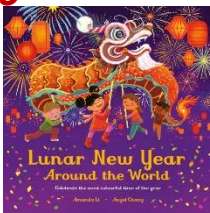
Related links:

[Lesein Mutunkei's 'Trees4Goals' initiative](#)

Forest Green Rovers 'the greenest club in the world' - [Cam', a young fan, explains why.](#)

[Innes Fitzgerald 'Green Sport Award winner' - explaining her 'climate change' decision](#)

Book Review Lunar New Year Around the World by Amanda Li



This week is Chinese New Year. The most colourful time of the year is celebrated in communities around the world, and you can now discover how it's celebrated through the eyes of the children who live there. Meet families in China, Vietnam, Singapore, Thailand and Indonesia, as well as in bustling cities like San Francisco, London, Sydney and Toronto and join them in their celebrations at home and on the streets in parades, lantern festivals and in temples. Packed with fascinating facts, young readers will love finding out all about different Lunar New Year traditions in this gorgeously illustrated picture book.

Happiness Calander: Happier January

How can we start this new year happier? This month, we're encouraging everyone to focus on small steps to try to boost happiness - for ourselves and others around us - to spread kindness and hopefully inspire others to do the same. You can find this month's happiness calendar [here](#).

Attendance – This week

School target 97%	97% - 100%	90% -97%	Below 90%
Hedgehog Class	92%	8%	0%
Squirrel Class	97%	3%	0%
Fox Class	92%	0%	8%
Owl Class	75%	0%	25%

Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	48	220
Eden	52	203
Galilee	53	201
Jerusalem	61	246

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Emails and letters sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
31.01.25	Email	Reception	Office	NCMP and vision screening
31.01.25	Email	Year 6	Office	National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP)
31.01.25	Email	All	Office	Cancelled Celebration Assembly
27.01.25	Email	All	Office	FACE Newsletter and timetable
27.01.25	Email	All	Office	Oxford Brookes Science Bazaar
27.01.25	Email	All	Mrs France	Point5 Online Workshop for parents

February	
3 rd – 9 th	Children's Mental Health Week – 'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself'
Tues 4 th	Internet Safety Day – 'Too good to be true?'
Weds 5 th	Netball Club trial at lunchtime with Mrs Campbell
Friday 7 th	Internet Safety – Smartphone Free Childhood overview 2:50 in hall (after shorter collective worship)
Friday 7 th	KBAR Quiz – All proceeds going to school
Mon 10 th	FGB
Fri 14 th	Bird Watch
Mon 17 th – Fri 21 st	Half Term
Mon 24 th	Nurse visit for EYFS & Year 6 – Height & weight measurements (NCMP) plus vision screening for EYFS
Friday 28 th	Dance Club starts in Hall
March	
Sat 1 st 9:30 - 4:00	Oxford Brookes Science Bazaar. An exciting day of interactive activities, workshops, and shows for 5 -16 years olds! FREE event - booking advised due to popularity.
Sat 1 st	Inter-school cross country run
Wed 5 th	World Book Day – Heroes and Villains
Fri 7 th	International Women's Day – sport for girls run by JR Sport
10 th – 14 th	National Science Week – 'Change and Adapt'
Tues 18 th	Interhouse Cross Country in school
Fri 21 st	Red Nose Day – wear your jumper or cardigans back to front for a donation to Comic Relief
Thurs 27 th	Fox Class – Oxford Cathedral - Spring Big Sing - 'Courageous Advocacy'
Fri 28 th	Parents' Book Look – 2:30 to look through your child's work. No Celebration Assembly.
April	
31 st – 4 th	RE Enrichment Week – <i>What is Courageous Advocacy?</i>
Tue 1 st /Wed 2 nd	Parents' Evenings
Fri 4 th	9:15 Spring Service in Church

Academic Year Calendar

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)
Autumn 25	
Mon 1 st Sept – Thurs 23 rd Oct	Autumn Term (1)
Mon 27 th – Fri 31 st Oct	HALF TERM
Mon 3 rd Nov – Fri 19 th Dec	Autumn Term (2)

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