



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



7th February 2025

Message from the Head Teacher

Holidays

We have again started to see an increase in requests for holidays. We ask that **no** holidays are taken during term time – in **any** circumstance. Term dates are published well in advance to allow every family to plan. In addition to monitoring a child's attendance percentage each week we also look at patterns in absence such as Fridays being taken before school holidays, Mondays immediately after, around a child's birthday or the same days and weeks taken each year.

In August 2024 the DFE made new rules about penalty fines for school absence. It is the responsibility of the local authority to decide when to issue Fixed Penalty Notice Fines for Absence to parents. The fines are not insignificant. The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for term time leave or irregular attendance the amount is **£160 per parent per child** if paid within 28 days. The fines rise for continued absence. It is worth noting that every child's attendance record is automatically available to the Local Authority through every school's Management Integration System.

Parking

I wonder how many of our families are aware that the green and the various grass verges in the village are privately owned? Whilst I would hope that as a school community we would always park considerately it is worth remembering that this beautiful greenery belongs to our friends and neighbours and treat it accordingly.

Safeguarding and mobile phones

Thank you to everyone who attended the Smartphone Free Childhood session today. There seems to be mutual concern about access to social media for our children and a consensus to take action. The PowerPoint is available on the website. If you would like to sign the Smartphone Free Childhood pact please do take the opportunity to do so. A WhatsApp Group will be set up for parents wishing to share their thoughts and ideas.

On this note we had an issue of online bullying with some of our pupils using Snapchat just this week. The age restriction is 13+ for: Snapchat; TikTok; WhatsApp, Instagram; Facebook and Twitter. This means that no child should access these sites until they are in Year 8 or above. Please can I urge you to monitor which sites your children are accessing.

Key Areas of Information about Aston Rowant School: How do we support mental health?

This week we have been focusing on Children's Mental Health Week. This year's theme is 'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself'. The focus has been about empowering our children to embrace self-awareness and explore what it means to them so they can build resilience, grow and develop. The work we have done this week has been designed to help children understand their emotions and grow in their ability to connect with others to form strong and healthy relationships. We used the film 'Inside Out' as a basis for exploring different emotions.

We have worked to encourage the children to express their own voice and emotions. The more we can understand about ourselves, the more prepared we are to express our emotions and take on life's ups and downs. Being self-aware means getting to know and understand what we are good at, what we find difficult, our likes and dislikes, what makes us feel joy and what may cause us sadness. It is also about understanding what makes us unique and our fears, hopes and dreams. As we build a sense of self, we grow in our ability to connect with others, as well as develop our skills and talents. It is with this basis we can form strong and healthy relationships, from early childhood right through to adulthood and are equipped to cope with the challenges that life brings our way. We have all enjoyed this journey of self-discovery!

We don't just limit our Children's Mental Health Week. We use a range of activities in PSHE to help us explore our different emotions and to grow ourselves. We also have 'Wellbeing Wednesday' to remind us mid-week to check in on how we are all doing – both children and adults. For our wider school community we include the wellbeing calendar in the weekly newsletter with links to the Action for Happiness site. Do take a look on the final page.

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

As you may know, in Hedgehog class, we have a marble jar. The children earn marbles when they have shown that they can work well as a team. Last week, the children reached their 50-marble target! They therefore got to choose a class reward, and together they voted to have popcorn and a movie. So, on Tuesday we watched part of the film 'Inside Out'. This led to a class discussion about our emotions. We talked about all the different emotions we could feel and the fact that it's okay to feel what we think of as negative emotions (sad, cross or angry). We realised that it is how we express these emotions that is important, and how we react to others. In our topic work this week we explored the world of pop art and Andy Warhol. We had a go at printing our own Warhol style prints using our hands then investigated how we can print with other objects including fruit and bubble wrap. Have a look below to see just some of our wonderful creations.



Squirrel Class

This week saw our Squirrel children beginning to write their own narrative stories in the style and voice of Percy the Park Keeper. We discussed the structure of a story, and so far, we have written the opening, build-up and problem, meaning we need to finish the resolution and ending next week. They are looking fabulous so far and myself, Mrs Surman and Miss Hanrahan are very excited to see the finished pieces! In Maths we finished off work on place value with Y1 and the children spent some time this week comparing and ordering numbers up to 25. The Y2 children also finished off their unit on money, where we practised the skill of finding change and solving 2-step word problems with £ and p. In PSHE we watched a summary of the different emotions in 'Inside Out' before exploring and acting out our own. Our science learning this week centred on identifying and classifying animal diet and nutrition, with the children learning the terms of carnivore, omnivore and herbivore. Lastly, we have finally begun creating and constructing our fire engines in DT and they're coming along beautifully – we will finish them off next week, ready to take home for half term playing! Thank you to our parents for the donations of boxes and tape. Have a great weekend and see you on Monday for the last week before the half term break.



Fox Class

What a week! I'm exhausted just writing what we have managed to cover! In Maths, both groups have worked on their knowledge of using cm, mm and converting them appropriately as well as perimeter. In English, after introducing adverbial phrases, we looked at fronted adverbials which the children grasped well. We also retold an Aesop fable, wrote a list poem and contrasted the original Cinderella to our Egyptian version using comparative adverbs. In our science we carried out an investigation about the strength of magnets: did the size or shape matter when it comes to the strongest magnet? In our History, we learnt more about mummification before mummifying our very own tomato! We made amulets to be encased in the bandages and placed them in our class tomb along with spells from the Book of the Dead! We will observe our tomatoes over the next few weeks/months! We looked at The Parable of the Talents in RE and how we can use our own gifts and talents for outreach. In PSHE we watched how different emotions express themselves in 'Inside Out' then discussed our own feelings and what these look like for us. We reflected how our strengths and struggles help us to grow and develop our self-awareness. In our DT, we started designing our Egyptian collars ensuring we tried to use a range of stitches. Some adventurous Foxes even added beads! In French, we learnt how to pronounce and write colours before playing Mrs Healy's game of Twister on her mat! Composing was the theme of our Music lesson, children learnt above the stave, and where notes sit on it. They then used 3 notes to compose their own tunes before playing it. I was very impressed! Time for a weekend!



Owl Class

It's been a really productive, busy week here in Owl Class (but when is it not?). In English we have extending our writing skills to include information and instruction writing; considering the use of writing devices such as rhetorical questions, direct address of the reader, how to construct an effective factual paragraph (using a burger, no less: ask your Owl) and when to add bullet points or numbered lists. The children have been adapting a range of sources to create their own information writing and have also been experimenting with register to see which tone is more effective when delivering instructions. In Maths, we have concluded our foray into fractions, and the children have really gotten to grips with the use of a bar model to help visualise fractions of amounts: I love a bar model, as the children will probably tell you! In music, we played glockenspiel along to Adele's 'Make You feel My Love' and then attempted some recorders-better than you might expect! In History, we looked at the evacuee experience in greater detail, hearing from evacuees about their memories and experiences, and adding more to our timelines of this era. In PSHE we debated whether we should have school uniform or not. We encouraged the children to say why they think and discussed the importance of different viewpoints and how having different opinions can help us all. We discussed the range of different emotions and thoughts we can experience when we hold different views and when we don't always agree with others. The debate was balanced, detailed and respectful. Maybe parliament could learn something from Aston Rowant School! Science found us using high tech equipment, such as torches, oranges and cocktail sticks to get to grips with how day and night form around the globe, as well as investigating different time-zones around the world. Perhaps it's 'time' for a weekend!

GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY

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



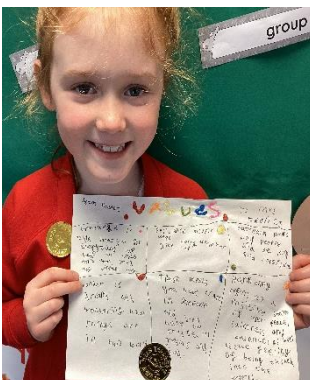
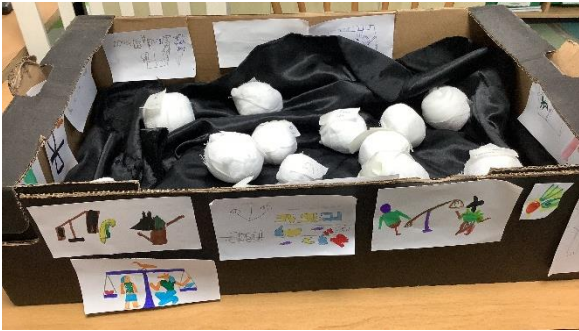
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Photo Diary of the Week



GRATITUDE

RESILIENCE

OUTREACH

WONDER

TRUST

HARMONY

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Whole School Topic - Autumn Term: Open the Book

Values: Trust

Our theme this week in Collective Worship was knowing that our friends will support us. There are some wise words in the Book of Ecclesiastes that say: 'Two people are better than one... If one person falls, the others can reach out and help.' We have spent the week thinking about what it means to be somebody trustworthy, who can be relied upon to not let others down. We reflected that Christians put their trust in Jesus knowing that he won't ever let them down. In the Bible God is compared to many things that are symbols of strength, reliability and solidness – including the rock, an anchor and a strong tower.

Climate Warriors' Challenge

'We need to move away from our 'take-make-waste system' to build a circular fashion industry... what could you design differently?' Ellen MacArthur Foundation – 'Redesigning Fashion's Future'

The textile and clothing industry emits more carbon than international aviation and shipping combined, yet in the UK, we buy more clothes per person than any other country in Europe! Dame Ellen MacArthur sailed around the world limited by 'finite' resources on her boat and has since devoted herself to accelerating the transition to a [Circular Economy – here's a simple explanatory video](#). Our children and families are challenged to tidy up their clothes cupboards so they can rediscover what they already have and think about how they can swap, patch, borrow, alter, mend, re-design, dye ...

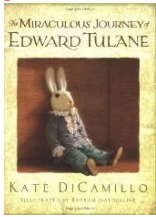
Related links:

[TED-ed talk on 'the life cycle of a t-shirt'](#) - this is eye-opening!

Explaining the [Circular Economy](#)

[Circular Economy - fashion](#).

Book Review by Mr Manning. *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* by Kate DiMillio.



This book is a very special tale of self-discovery and transformation. The story follows Edward - a much loved, but vain toy porcelain rabbit, who finds himself on an unexpected adventure after being lost. He encounters kind-hearted strangers and terrible bullies, and Edward learns about love, loss, and the importance of caring for others. DiCamillo's writing is beautiful, and the book is peppered with stunning illustrations. This book is a captivating read for readers of all ages, and explores themes of resilience, outreach, and harmony, as well as making a grown-up teacher cry a bit.

Happiness Calendar: Friendly February

This month let's focus on reaching out to connect with others and doing our best to be a good friend. Our acts of kindness and connection ripple out and impact so many more people than we realise. In stressful times people around us may be feeling the strain, so let's try to keep calm, take time to listen and show compassion. You can find this month's happiness calendar [here](#).

Attendance – This week

School target 97%	97% - 100%	90% -97%	Below 90%
Hedgehog Class	100%	0%	0%
Squirrel Class	94%	0%	6%
Fox Class	81%	4%	15%
Owl Class	85%	5%	10%

Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	72	292
Eden	65	268
Galilee	83	136
Jerusalem	66	312

Jerusalem will be having a mufti day and extended play on Friday 14th February to celebrate their two previous wins.

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Emails and letters sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
04.02.25	Email	Hedgehogs	Office	Hedgehog Class
04.02.25	Email	All	Office	Choir
03.02.25	Email	All	Office	Bird Watch

February	
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
Tues 11 th	Internet Safety Day – ‘Too good to be true?’
Fri 14 th	Bird Watch
Fri 14th	Mufti day for Team Jerusalem – last term housepoint winners
Mon 17 th – Fri 21 st	Half Term
Mon 24 th	Nurse visit for EYFS & Year 6 – Height & weight measurements 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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