



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



14th February 2025

Message from the Head Teacher

Bird Watch

Thank you to Mr and Mrs Turton who led our school bird watch this morning as part of The National Big Bird Watch. We saw 14 different types of bird including wrens, rooks, longtail tits, goldfinches, chaffinches, blue tits, robins, redwings and jackdaws.

Poetry Slam

We are delighted to be working with other Thame Partnership schools to run a Poetry Slam competition. The idea is to promote both writing and performance, encouraging our aspiring poets to focus on what they're saying and how they're saying it. The children were challenged to write or choose a poem, learn it off by heart and perform individually or in groups of up to three to the whole school. It is fair to say that we were absolutely blown away by the performances of all of the children. Every child voted and the winners chosen by the children to represent Aston Rowant School are: KS1: Phoebe, Annie and Elsie and KS2: Millie and Evelyn. These children will perform and compete in front of an audience from other schools later in the term.

PE Lessons

We have seen a rise in parents informing us that their child will not be doing PE on a particular day. Please note that parents cannot withdraw their child from PE lessons in school as it is part of the National Curriculum and therefore mandatory for all children to attend, unless there is a documented medical reason which is supported by a doctor's note. We will always be supportive of a child who is poorly or struggling with a physical complaint, however, they will be expected to join in as much as they can, even if it is just the warm ups and stretches, and will observe the rest of the PE lesson so that they continue to learn.

Key Areas of Information about Aston Rowant School: How do we support Internet Safety?

Tuesday was Internet Safety Day - championing online safety for all children. Each year we cover an online issue or theme that reflects the things young people are seeing and experiencing online. This year the theme was 'Too Good to be True?' - looking at the issue of scams online and for young people and understanding how to keep themselves and others safe as well as what support is available to them. In order to be as safe as possible when using devices connected to the internet, we teach children to follow the SMART rules (Safe, Meeting, Accepting, Reliable, Tell). Ask your children and see if they can remember them.

In KS1 we shared a story and song about Smartie the Penguin who receives a tablet for his birthday. The story is about the situations he finds himself in as he starts to use his new device. He finds a pop-up wanting him to spend money, then his brother goes on his tablet and he also plays a game online too. We discussed what children would do in each scenario.

In KS2 we opened up discussions and debates in each class asking: How is changing technology like generative AI going to impact the approach of scammers? What role can the government and internet industry take to tackle this threat? What changes would you like to see online to help protect yourselves moving forward?

For parents it is worth asking yourselves the following questions: Do you know what your child is doing on their computer or iPad? Do you know which sites are safe? Are you aware of all of the dangers of your child having a mobile phone? Are your children sending messages on x box? Is your child watching videos on YouTube? What are the dangers of Apps? What social media is suitable for my child? How much screen time is acceptable? What are the latest online dangers?

Andrew Hall, National Safeguarding Advisor, recently highlighted manipulative marketing in mobile games. Children are increasingly becoming major components in the online games industry. Many games are deceptively pay to play, whilst claiming to be free. For most of these apps the download is free but most of the gameplay is locked. Free in the context of apps is a flexible term and money-making tactics can be hard to detect even for adults. The use of bright colours, distracting music and other methods can be highly persuasive in gaining players. Better Internet for Kids has crafted a learning module designed to explore digital marketing tactics. You will learn why companies use these tactics and how they can impact your child and their rights. You will also learn how you can support your child to spot and avoid these issues, as well as where you can seek help and support. If interested, please follow the link: <https://better-internet-for-kids.europa.eu/en/learning-corner/parents-and-caregivers/marketing-games>

PJA Quiz

Finally, I want to take a moment to celebrate the success of Friday's quiz night. Thank you to everyone who worked so hard before, during and after the evening to make it such a great event. Also, to Mr & Mrs Havenhand-Beal for their fun, engaging and challenging questions. I am delighted to say that the team raised just over £1,500 – which is incredible – thank you. Personally, I am delighted that my chocoholic tendencies finally came into their own!

Kind regards

Mrs France

GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY

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Teaching and Learning in the Classrooms this week:



Hedgehog Class

With another half term under our belt, it is hard to believe that our little hedgehogs are already halfway through their time in reception! This week, our last piece of artwork to explore has been Henri Matisse's *The Snail*, and we had a go at creating our own versions. Focusing on our cutting skills, we cut 4 sided shapes in different colours to create our own snail collages. Alongside this we read the book *Matisse's Magic Trail*. A book about a snail called Matisse who goes on an adventure creating artwork across a school playground. This inspired us to paint pebbles which we will use to decorate our own outdoor space. This term, our art topic has given Hedgehogs lots of practice at developing their fine motor skills and we can really see the impact of this on their pencil control and handwriting.

Any spare toys or games? We have recently had a sort out of some of our toys and games, many were tired and worn. So, if anyone has any toys, games, puzzles or dolls etc that your children have grown out of, and are suitable for 4–6-year-olds, we would love a refresh in Early Years. Any donations would be greatly received and can be handed to a member of the EYFS team.



Squirrel Class

The end of this half term sees the end of our Great Fire of London unit, and I must say what a success it has been! The children have produced some amazing writing, timelines, drama, poetry and not forgetting...the fabulous fire engines! It has been wonderful to see the children take complete ownership of the design and creation of their vehicles and see how the topic has inspired their creativity. We also have come to the end of our Percy the Park Keeper unit and the class completed book reviews of their favourite story in the series. We also watched an episode of the cartoon version of One Snowy Night as a class treat. In maths Year 1 have been reviewing number bonds to 10 but also spotting patterns in how this helps with number bonds to 20. In Year 2 the children have been looking at equal groups and adding equal groups, laying the foundation for our unit on multiplication. We talked about the concept of commutativity in maths – ask your Y2 child to explain what that means! We also finished off our learning in music and used the glockenspiels to play along with our leading track titled 'In the Groove'. We loved the story about Smartie the Penguin for our Internet Safety Day and have great ideas about how to stay safe online. Lastly, in Science we discussed pets as part of our animal topic, and the children collected data about the most and least popular pets in our class. We then recorded this data as a tally chart. We have definitely all earned a well-earned rest this week!



Fox Class

Ancient Egypt has certainly been a hit with our class this half term. I've loved seeing their half term projects come into school and the children having the opportunity to speak about them with the class asking questions; such a range of ideas from Lego pyramids, honey cake to word searches. Brilliant! In English, we took what we knew and created twisted traditional tales all based in Egypt. The whole class loved changing a traditional tale and wrote some fabulous stories from: Puss in Egypt, The ugly crocodile to the three clever camels and the naughty crocodile! They were all able to include fronted adverbials and understood how much expanded noun phrases changed what the reader read. In our Maths, both groups have now understood and measured the perimeter of a range of shapes. Next half term we will have fun and games with fractions! In Science, we researched the uses to magnets in day-to-day life from electromagnets in stereos to magnets in nail varnish (who knew!). As a chance to showcase their knowledge in History, children worked in groups and made videos explaining what the Ancient Egyptians believed. The whole class beavered away in DT and completed their Egyptian collars demonstrating their rage of stitches and applique. Finally, we joined in the Great Big Assembly for Internet Safety Day and made our own SMART posters. It's been an exciting half term, and everyone deserves a week off to recharge, recover and reenergise for the next! Happy half term!



Owl Class

As we close the book on this half term, the children have been reflecting on their understanding of our History topic: 'How did WWII affect the lives of people in Britain?' and combining it with their information and instruction writing skills in English to produce a 'How to' guide for a child who is being evacuated. They worked so hard to balance the tone of their writing between factual and authoritative, with a softer, reassuring and child-friendly tone as well as including the specific writing devices that the genre requires. In Science, we measured time using our own hand-crafted sundials-despite there not being that much sunshine! The children orientated their sundials with compasses, and spotted how the length of shadows differed across the day, and were able to make accurate predictions about where the shadows might fall at specific times, and also discussed the disadvantages of sundials (no sun? no clock!) As part of Internet Safety Day, the children had a very measured debate about whether AI should replace teachers and experimented with Chat GPT in a controlled environment to see how generative AI works. In Maths, we completed our unit of multiplying and dividing fractions by integers, mixed numbers and other fractions, and have embarked on a decimal-based voyage of learning, which we will continue after the break, before exploring the links between fractions, decimals and percentages. But for now, I hope you all enjoy your well-earned half term break, Owl Class!

GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY
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SUPPORTING
CONNECTING
INFLUENCING



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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

In the Bible there is a book of wise sayings called Proverbs. This week we looked at one of them that says, 'No one who gossips can be trusted with a secret, but you can put confidence in someone who is trustworthy.' Proverbs 11:13 We discussed how being trustworthy can be difficult. It is often tempting to pass on gossip, especially when we think others will want to hear it. But we all need to be people that others can trust. We looked at how we can make that true of ourselves and thought about asking: Is it true? Is it kind? Is it helpful? Is it anything to do with me? It's quite a challenge!

Climate Warriors' Challenge

We like to set half-term and holiday challenges that involve getting outside, taking the opportunity to explore our extraordinary natural world, and reinforcing our link with nature. Your challenge for next week is called 'X' marks the spot. Treasure that has been buried underground since last spring is beginning to emerge. Dainty dancing snowdrops, amethyst crocuses, bluebell shoots, and maybe even the odd daffodil trumpet in bloom. Can you draw a map and mark on it all of the treasure that you find?

You might like to #ShowTheLove2025 – share a green heart on Valentine's Day – and throughout February – showing your support for urgent action to protect the climate and nature. #ShowTheLove2025 is organised by The Climate Coalition - the UK's largest group of people dedicated to action against climate change. Representing over 100 organisations and over 22 million individuals, As Young Climate Warriors we are proud to be a member!

Links:

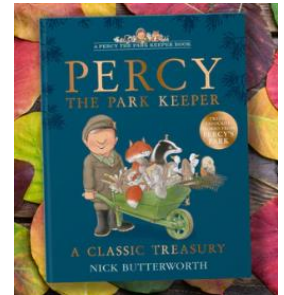
[A blank 'Treasure map' - for children to mark up with 'treasure'](#)
[#ShowTheLove2025 campaign](#)

Book Review Percy the Park Keeper Series by Nick Butterworth

Squirrel class have recently been reading some of the much-loved and quintessentially British stories of Percy the Park Keeper, a cheerful chap who oversees his local park with the help of his animal friends. The class have been simply enthralled by the enchanting world of Percy and his park. Below are some reviews from the children.

The Rescue Party: 'This story is about a little rabbit that falls down a well but in the end there is a funny surprise! I'd recommend it to my mummy and children aged 1 to 8 years old.' Review by Amelia, Year 1.

One Snowy Night: 'Some animals are so cold on a Winter's night that they ask Percy to stay in his warm hut. Percy is kind so he said yes. I would recommend the book to my cousin Poppy as she is a good reader.' Review by Imogen, Year 2.



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	84%	8%	8%
Squirrel Class	72%	0%	28%
Fox Class	73%	4%	23%
Owl Class	60%	0%	40%

Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	42	340
Eden	53	323
Galilee	61	344
Jerusalem	21	343

Congratulations to Galilee who have won this term's housepoint challenge.

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Emails and letters sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
14.02.25	Email	All	PTA	Library fundraising - sponsored walks
14.02.25	Email	All	Mrs King	The Kids Lunch Company - website & orders
14.02.25	Email	KS1 & KS2	Mrs Healy	Dance club
14.02.25	Email	KS2	Mrs Healy	Netball club
14.02.25	Email	KS2	Mrs Healy	Cross-country club
14.02.25	Email	All	Mrs Healy	World Book Day
13.02.25	Email and note	Year 6	Mr Manning	SATs challenges for half term

February	
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
Wed 26 th	Netball lunchtime club resumes for KS2
Thu 27 th	Cross-country lunchtime club starts for KS2
Fri 28 th	Dance club starts in Hall for KS1 & KS2 – email office to sign up
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 SATURDAY 1st MARCH 2025 at MAIDEN ERLEGH CHILTERN EDGE, READES LANE, SONNING COMMON. READING RG4 9 LN (see attached PDF for more details)
Tue 4 th	Children's sponsored walk to raise library funds
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
Mon 24 th	Miss White, student, starts in Owl Class until 21st May.
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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