



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



28th February 2025

Message from the Head Teacher

Financial Education

We are proud to announce that we were awarded the HSBC Smart Money Award for 2024 after completing the HSBC Financial Education programme. The programme focused on finance within the real world, how to manage money and develop financial independence and offered important life skills and information to enable children make informed decisions as they grow up.

Supporting Maths at Home

I am delighted to say that we have access to a free online session for parents with children in Years 5 and 6. The course explains the current teaching methods used to help parents feel more confident in supporting their children. The subjects covered include: column addition and subtraction, multiples and factors, long multiplication and long division. The course is on Teams each Monday 7:00- 8:30pm 3rd to 31st March. To book a place please contact Oxfordshire Adult Learning on 01235216278 or search 'Family Learning' on www.abingdon-witney.ac.uk.

Maths Challenge

Next Monday Year 5 are taking part in an online, inter-school Maths competition to apply their mathematics knowledge and teamwork skills to solve problems and answer challenging questions, putting their reasoning skills to the test. There are hour-long heats which comprise of a set of 4 equally weighted rounds. These rounds will include:

- questions with multiple parts
- problems in context
- visual estimation

There will also be some puzzles for teams to complete in school in advance of their heat. Success in the challenge relies on much more than mere mathematical calculation. Teams will be challenged with problem-solving, reasoning, estimation, visualisation, and arithmetic from across the mathematics curriculum. We will let you know how they do!

Key Areas of Information about Aston Rowant School: How do we teach Maths and Financial Education?

The aim of Maths is for all pupils who leave primary school to be fluent in addition, subtraction, long multiplication and division, and be able to work with fractions, decimals and percentages. The change of emphasis from when many of us were at school comes in the focus on Maths Mastery – an initiative that focuses on fluency, reasoning and problem-solving. The idea is that we develop children's core understanding then build in opportunities for investigation once they've mastered the basics. Younger children may use objects and pictures (such as LEGO bricks or dots on a page) to physically represent the numbers they're manipulating, and then once they're secure in their knowledge, the props are removed and we encourage the children to implement and utilise these skills independently. Older children have techniques modelled before tackling questions that utilise and apply these techniques in a variety of situations and contexts.

There is also clear progression in maths teaching, with a careful build-up across the years, starting with the simplest methods and moving on to more complex operations like long division. For example, in Reception and Year 1, children use number lines and objects to represent numbers. In Year 2, they begin to use empty number lines, and get to grips with counting on and counting back in Years 2, 3 and 4. Once children have mastered these skills, they can begin to use more formal written procedures. Some of the terminology may be unfamiliar, such as BODMAS, the grid method, the bus stop method, partitioning and chunking, but we do encourage you to understand the language of maths to develop consistency between home and school.

Across all of the years we use word problems to help children see how maths is applied in the real world. It also develops the ability to make choices, interpret, formulate, model, and investigate different situations, and communicate solutions effectively.

Mental maths is also key and a firm knowledge of number bonds and multiplication and division facts are essential, especially as calculators are no longer allowed in Year 6 SATs. We start with physical props in the classroom so children can visualise the numbers they're working with, and this helps embed the knowledge so they can then solve problems mentally, we then develop this with programmes such as TTRS. Mental maths is a key skill to have and a great one to also nurture at home.

Finally, financial education is any activity that helps children develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes they need to manage money well, make informed financial decisions and achieve their goals. We cover a wide range of topics, responding to the needs of children, from recognising notes and coins, basic budget management and saving, to understanding the difference between needs and wants, the link between money and work and keeping money safe. Great life skills for the future.

Watch out for World Maths Day and our exciting activities on 26th March.

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 have had a fabulous start to the new term in Hedgehog class. As we begin to explore our new topic of 'Spring into action' we have been looking at the different seasons. We went on a walk around the grounds to see what signs we could find to show that we are moving from Winter to Spring. We began to look at life cycles and asked some very interesting questions including "Which animals have a life cycle?" We decided to make a wormery to see if worms lay eggs or change into another animal! We also began our exciting potato growing project. In Maths we practiced the skills of quickly recalling 1 less than a number to 10 using a number line and the ten green bottles song, used a systematic approach to explore numerical bonds that make 8 or 9. The children really challenged themselves to show this in lots of different ways. In our writing we have begun to write shopping lists to take to our role-play garden shop. It has been a wonderful week and the children have come back raring to go!



Squirrel Class

We are back with a sense of excitement for a new half term! In English we have a new set of books to inspire us, looking at traditional tales and fables that have been told for centuries. We look closely at some of Aesop's most famous stories and delve into discussing the morals and messages for the reader. This week we have read the story of the 'The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse' and used the text as a springboard for our descriptive writing. In our maths learning the Y1 children have been looking at doubles and near doubles, using these facts to help with mental addition and subtraction strategies. Our Y2 students have been learning at multiplication, looking at the difference between making equal groups by grouping and sharing. Our science unit is focused on materials and their uses, so we looked at why objects can be made from multiple materials. Our new topic for geography is Hot and Cold places, so the class looked at atlases and we identified the seven continents of the world, as well as the five named oceans. Lastly, in art this week we learned about an artist called Charlie French and made visual notes in our sketchbooks – a new skill for us all, and one we hope to practise more of in future.



Fox Class

I hope you all had a relaxing half term break. The children have certainly come back raring to go with their learning! In Maths, both groups are focussing on fractions from identifying unit fractions and non-unit fractions to working with mixed numbers. All have grasped the concept well which will hold them in good stead as we delve deeper in the next few weeks. In English, we have started our new text The Iron Man which the class are already loving. We drew images of what the text told us to help us visualise the size of the giant and also took time to appreciate how important the start of a book is. We looked at the beginnings of several texts and children chose which ones they preferred and explained what it was about the style, wording or structure they liked. In Geography, we kick started our topic by learning about the water cycle and made our own which you may be able to see in our window. We are going to observe what happens to the water inside the bags throughout the weeks to come. In Science we looked at our first matter – solids - and had three questions to answer when testing a range of materials to see if they were a solid, liquid or gas. We used hoops to initially sort before testing out the materials for ourselves. In Art, this half term we are looking at still life and our focus this week was on Paul Cezanne. We spent time appreciating a variety of his works before using chalk pastels to recreate parts of his paintings. We used solid colour as well as blending to achieve a more realistic picture. In Music we have started to learn our songs that we will be singing in Oxford Cathedral later in March. There are actions too so don't be alarmed if you see them practising at home too!



Owl Class

After half-term break, Owl Class have come back in fine fettle and form and jumped straight into their learning for their new topics: in maths, Year 5 have been rounding decimals up to three decimal places, and Year 6 have been using short division to find the fraction equivalents of a range of decimals, as well as beginning to make the links between fraction, decimals and percentages ready for our work later this term. In English, we have started to explore the dramatic and moody Lady of Shalott, which the children have responded so well to: they were shocked by the ending! They are beginning to talk about symbolism and themes across the poem, creating story maps and character profiles and annotating posters to help them all write about the mood of the piece, before they had a go at creating their own tagline and 'blurb' for the book itself. In Geography, we began to look at the role of oceans and how humans have used them, exploring the idea that they are the true lungs of the world, and learnt a catchy song to help us recall the names of the five oceans. In Science, we found ourselves dissecting roses (not the chocolates) and understanding how plants can reproduce either sexually or asexually: we also took some cuttings to plant out to see if these will take root to grow.

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Photo Diary of the Week



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Whole School Topic - Spring Term: Open the Book

Values: Outreach

We have a new value for this term which is Outreach. In Collective Worship this week we looked at the word compassion, which is a **combination** of two words, 'com' which means *with* and 'passion' which can mean suffering. Compassion therefore means being with someone who is suffering or sad, trying to understand how they might be feeling and showing that you care about them.

'Clothe yourself with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.' Colossians 3:12

Climate Warriors' Challenge

This week you are challenged this week to help make their parent/carer a hot drink (maybe for breakfast!)) – reducing carbon emissions by only boiling the necessary amount of water. Whilst sipping or supping ... we would like you to think about what you would like to do as courageous advocates to promote climate change.

This challenge also links to 'having a cuppa' and carbon emissions related to kettles ...including links to

[TV pick-up phenomenon](#) - National Grid

[TV pick-up quiz!](#) - Energy Savings Trust

Book Review from Millie, Fox Class 'Artezans – The Forgotten Magic' by LD Lapinski



Edward Crane has always feared he won't have any magic at all. He is part of a magic Artezans family, but he is adopted. His actual sister isn't so worried because everything seems to work out perfectly for her. When Ed finds out he has magical powers he is relieved. It's set in the Scottish Highlands in a 'wee' coastal village called Covensea along the Moray Firth inlet. I loved the author's imagination - is magical just like the story and Scotland itself. There were a lot of pages with lots of words on though. I think people that like adventure stories and big books would love this. I give it 4.5 out of 5.

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	69%	8%	23%
Squirrel Class	94%	0%	6%
Fox Class	88%	0%	12%
Owl Class	75%	0%	25%

Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	62	62
Eden	44	44
Galilee	65	65
Jerusalem	49	49



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Emails and letters sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
25.02.25	Email	All	Mrs King	Compass log in error
25.02.25	Email	All	Mr Manning	Science Week
25.02.25	Email	All	Mrs Healy	Masked reader videos
24.02.25	Email	All	Mrs France	Sponsored walk/sponsorship form

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
Tue 4 th	2, 3 & 5K Sponsored walks for all children
Wed 5 th	World Book Day – Fictional 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 – 14:30 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
Fri 4 th	13:30 PTA movie afternoon

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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