



**Aston Rowant C+E Primary School**  
**School Lane, Aston Rowant, Oxon OX49 5SU**  
**01844 351671 [office@aston-rowant.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office@aston-rowant.oxon.sch.uk)**  
 Headteacher: Mrs Helen France



## *Message from the Head Teacher*

### *World Day of Prayer*

Today is the World Day of Prayer, an international, inter-church initiative, led by women, to share the hopes, concerns, and prayers of women from around the world. This year the women from the Cook Islands shared their faith and spoke about their lives and worship before God and in their community. They chose Psalm 139:14 as their verse for the day: 'I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made'. At the closing of their church gatherings, the elders always say these powerful words of encouragement to all who have gathered: '**Kia mau te serenga! Kia mau te napena! Kia mau!**' It means 'hold on tight to who you are, in all aspects of your existence!' We are wonderfully made by God, and we should cherish all the aspects of who we are.

### *World Book Day*

Celebrating all the aspects of who we are was at the forefront of our World Book Day celebrations as our theme was Heroes and Villains. We had Miss Trunchball, Matilda, The Highway Rat, Fantastic Mr Fox, The White Witch, Evil Pea and Queen Esther (my favourite Biblical hero!) and many more. We have made Top Trumps, written comic strips, drawn super hero art and had incredible masked readers share with us. Do look at our new website for more details and photos of our incredible day.

### *Key Areas of Information about Aston Rowant School: How do we inspire a love of reading?*

Reading is the gateway to learning. Reading for pleasure is an important habit for children to develop. Some children may love reading naturally, but some may require a little more encouragement and support. There are many different factors that affect a child's reading ability and many different ways to inspire a love of reading.

Pupils who struggle with the basic mechanics can quickly fall behind. Being able to read accurately by the age of 6 has a strong correlation with future academic success. So, getting phonics teaching right is essential. We do this in different ways including:

- providing targeted help for identified pupils from an extra adult during the phonics lesson
- organising pupils into groups for phonics lessons according to the grapheme-phoneme correspondences they know
- regularly reassessing pupils so they are in a group where they can make the best progress
- providing extra practice, in addition to phonics lessons, for children who need the most support

Once children have the tools to help them read, we look to develop a love of reading and a lifelong appreciation of reading for pleasure. We have a multi-faceted approach.

- Promote reading: Our newsletter has weekly book recommendations, and both children and adults write book reviews for the newsletter and book corners in each classroom and promote a culture and expectation of reading within the school.
- Daily reading: Every child develops at their own pace. Some children may master vocabulary sooner than others, but regular daily reading, even in short bursts, increases everyone's chance of being a proficient reader.
- Independent reading: We encourage children to read independently. These quiet times also help children learn to self-regulate their emotions and decompress. After every lunchtime the whole school has ERIC (Everyone Reading in Class)
- Shared reading: We encourage children to discuss their books and talk about what they like and dislike. This encourages critical thinking, improves communication skills and inspires them to read the books that their peers have been reading.
- Book Swaps: each World Book Day we do a school wide (including adults) book swap
- Reading out loud: We encourage the children to read out loud at every opportunity. This not only improves communication and presentation skills but also improves their listening skills. Reading and sharing in Collective Worship is one part of this.
- Reading spaces: Having a designated quiet space for children will have a positive impact on their mental health and their learning capabilities. Each classroom has a dedicated corner of the room which is cosy and comfortable; somewhere that you would want to spend a few hours reading.
- Reading role models: Witnessing any adult reading for pleasure can inspire a child to read. We have signs around on each classroom and office door sharing what every member of staff is currently reading and are seen to read when we can.

### *Library*

As part of our commitment to driving reading standards we are looking to build a new library at Aston Rowant school. Firstly, thank you to Laura Purse for all of her hard work in overseeing this project. Secondly, thank you to everyone who took part in our sponsored walk this week as part of our fundraising efforts for the library. As it stands, we have raised an amazing £3,460!

### *And Finally...*

Congratulations to Max S, Alexander and Flo P who all took part in the inter school cross country on Saturday coming 3<sup>rd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> respectively in their different year groups. They were a real credit to Aston Rowant School as were their supporters.

### *Kind regards*

*Mrs France*

**GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY**

*Growing together, rooted in God, enjoying fullness of life. (Colossians 2:1-7)*



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## *Teaching and Learning in the Classrooms this week:*



### *Hedgehog Class*

Another fabulous week in Hedgehog class! The children have been exploring number facts to 10 and using our fingers to derive the pairs of numbers using the language of parts and wholes. In English we have been exploring more of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle and this week saw the arrival of our baby caterpillars. We have been learning about the changes that will happen over the coming weeks and we are very excited to see them grow. In our music we are looking at the concepts of dynamics and duration. Exploring different ways to play our percussion instruments. We are going to use these effects to create a springtime soundscape over the term and to add sound effects to our retelling of our class story. In our play we had a great idea to turn our waterplay into a potions factory. The children independently made signs and set up an office to take orders, creating labels for their potions in case we accidentally used the wrong one! We then decided to start reading the chapter book "*Georges Marvellous medicine*" By Roald Dahl. So far we think Grandma is a nasty piece of work! Thanks Hedgehogs to a brilliant week!



### *Squirrel Class*

Another super busy week for Aston Rowant children as we marched (literally!) into March, but the Squirrels have worked (and walked!) hard and made us super proud as usual. This week in English the children have listened to different versions of our leading text '*The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse*'. They have now begun to write the story in their own words, using adjectives to describe. I'm very excited to see how these stories turn out next week. In maths the Y1 children continued with their learning on subtraction, using number bonds and by counting back. The Y2 children continued work on multiplication, with a focus on the 2 times tables. In science we continued to explore materials, and we read the story of *The Smartest Giant in Town*. We then evaluated George the giant's new clothes and looked at the materials used and how they were suitable for their job. In Art lesson this week the children explored expressive painting using primary colours, but using found objects instead of paint brushes. The results were amazing and so creative and unique!



### *Fox Class*

What a week! Fox Class have worked and played hard this week! In Maths, we've looked at Fractions on a range of scales and mixed numbers alongside improper fractions. In English, we wrote as the Iron Man trying to reassemble his body, used paragraphs to structure a wanted poster and learnt how to create atmosphere and suspense. In our Geography, our focus was on how rivers are formed and in groups, children made their own river from the upper course to the lower course ensuring all the features were in the correct course of course! It was a delight to hear them use their new vocabulary such as meander, oxbow lake or delta when discussing what they were making and choosing what materials would make them effective. In Science, we learnt about liquids and gases and how we could identify them. The joy of pressing a syringe when the end was held enabled the class to see that gases can be compressed. In addition, pouring a range of liquids into different containers showed that the volume doesn't change but the shape will. We have continued learning our songs for the Spring Sing and the lyrics make good conversation pieces especially the one about climate change. Can I thank every parent who supported the Masked Reader reading as it gave the children such joy seeing each video, guessing who the reader was and listening to the stories. We'll be watching them for many weeks to come. 😊



### *Owl Class*

It was a super busy week, with plenty of learning squeezed into wonderful World Book Day based activities: in Maths, Year 5 have been finding the perimeter and area of Penny the Pandas' zoo enclosure, which is a compound shape made of several rectilinear shapes, as well as working out the cost of grassing the new enclosure. Year 6 are developing their use of formulae in area, including finding the area of any triangle, as well as stretching their mastery of area in a series of SAT-style problem solving questions. In English, we recapped how to switch from active to passive voice, ahead of our newspaper report into the mysterious death of the Lady of Shalott, and had a visit from the fictional character of 'Otto the farmer' who was an eyewitness as the Lady arrived in Camelot. The children grilled him with a range of their own pre-planned questions and used these responses to create short 'Breaking News' bulletin about the discovery of the body. In Geography, the children learnt about the Great Barrier Reef, and it's important role in defending the coastline of Australia, before researching the rare forms of life that it supports and debating whether the reef should be exploited for its natural medicinal properties or not, and creating a 'diamond-nine' of the most important uses of the Reef itself. This lesson really made the children think about placing the needs of natural world over our own. Forest Friday found us enjoying the natural world using clay and found foliage to create impressions in the surface for us to fill with watercolour paints later this term. In ICT we began to create our card based databases around our own specialist topics, and quickly found out how bulky and unwieldy this is, and planned to make our own electrical database next week.

**GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY**

*Growing together, rooted in God, enjoying fullness of life. (Colossians 2:1-7)*



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## *Photo Diary of the Week: Sponsored Walk and Cross Country*



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## *Photo Diary of the Week: World Book Day*



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## Whole School Topic - Autumn Term: Open the Book

### Values: Outreach

There are many stories in the Bible about Jesus noticing the needs of others and showing compassion. Once he went off in a boat to find a place away from the crowds where he and his disciples could rest. But when he reached the shore, on the other side of the lake, there were yet more people wanting him to help them and heal those who were ill. Jesus reached out to them and showed his love through his outreach and compassion. We thought about how to do the same to others.

*'When Jesus saw the crowd his heart was filled with compassion, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.'* Mark 6:34

### Climate Warriors' Challenge

Electric lighting is fundamental to our way of living today, and we are enormously grateful for Edison's perseverance, but could we use it more sparingly? This week's challenge is to 'zap the lights' at home – can you rely on the sun's light when you wake up, switch off unnecessary lights – and reduce our electricity-related carbon emissions? Harnessing solar energy can play a substantial role in reducing our global carbon emissions, and whilst taking action at home this week you are also encouraged to investigate solar energy projects around the world. Every 1.5 millionths of a second, the sun releases more energy than all humans consume in an entire year... definitely scope for more solar energy projects!

Inspiring links:

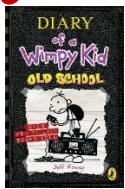
14yr old [Vinisha Umashankar has invented a 'solar-powered ironing cart'](#);

A [street in North London is creating a 'local power station'](#)

An 11-year-old Tanzanian boy tells the [story of his new 'SolarAid' light](#); and

Thailand is home to one of the [world's largest floating solar farms](#).

### Book Review



**'Diary Of a Wimpy Kid: Old School' reviewed by Zachary, Year 6**

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Old School is really funny and entertaining, as the main character Greg has to survive without devices when his town turns off the internet! He struggles a lot without his devices, and is forced to play the sort of games his Dad used to do, like hopscotch. Luckily, his Grandad moves in, making things even crazier, especially when the family all go camping and meet the mysterious Silas Scratch. Greg's disasters made me laugh, especially when everything goes wrong (like it always does).

### Happiness Calendar: Mindful March

This month let's pause, breathe and really take in what's all around us. You can find this month's happiness calendar [here](#).

### Attendance – This week

School target 97%	97% - 100%	90% -97%	Below 90%
Hedgehog Class	85%	7%	8%
Squirrel Class	88%	0%	12%
Fox Class	81%	8%	11%
Owl Class	80%	0%	20%

### Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	53	115
Eden	41	85
Galilee	50	115
Jerusalem	57	106

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## *Emails and letters sent this Week*

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
07.03.25	Email	Fox Class	Mrs Healy	Small glass jar request
07.03.25	Email	All	Mrs Healy	The Importance of Reading
04.03.25	Email	All	Mrs King	Sponsored walk success

March	
10 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup>	National Science Week – ‘Change and Adapt’ Fri 14 <sup>th</sup> Mr Astronomy visit for KS2
Tues 18 <sup>th</sup>	Interhouse Cross Country in school
Fri 21 <sup>st</sup>	Red Nose Day – wear your jumper or cardigans back to front for a donation to Comic Relief
Thurs 27 <sup>th</sup>	Fox Class to Oxford Cathedral - Spring Big Sing - ‘Courageous Advocacy’
Fri 28 <sup>th</sup>	Parents’ Book Look – 14:30 to look through your child’s work. No Celebration Assembly.
<b>Fri 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Cycle training for Year 5 – bike checks in school</b>
April	
31 <sup>st</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup>	RE Enrichment Week – <i>What is Courageous Advocacy?</i>
Tue 1 <sup>st</sup> / Wed 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Parents’ Evenings
Fri 4 <sup>th</sup>	9:15 Spring Service in Church
Fri 4 <sup>th</sup>	13:30 PTA movie afternoon
Wed 30 <sup>th</sup>	FGB – Business Meeting
May	
Thu 1 <sup>st</sup>	Mock SIAMS
Wed 7 <sup>th</sup>	VE Day celebration – street party, parents and carers welcome
w/c 12 <sup>th</sup>	SATs Mon- SPaG Tue – Reading Wed – Maths 1 & 2 Thur Maths 3
Sat 17 <sup>th</sup>	PTA Adult sponsored walk for school library
June	
Wed 11 <sup>th</sup>	PC Ben visit KS1
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup>	Dance Festival at Lord William’s Dance Studio
Wed 25 <sup>th</sup>	Opera First Workshop Owl Class

## *Academic Year Calendar*

Spring 25	
Tue 7 <sup>th</sup> Jan – Fri 14 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Spring Term (1)
Mon 17 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 21 <sup>st</sup> Feb	HALF TERM
Mon 24 <sup>th</sup> Feb – Fri 4 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Spring Term (2)
Summer 25	
Tue 22 <sup>nd</sup> April – Thu 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Summer Term (1)
Mon 26 <sup>th</sup> May – Fri 30 <sup>th</sup> May	HALF TERM
Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup> June – Tue 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Summer Term (2)
Autumn 25	
Mon 1 <sup>st</sup> Sept – Thurs 23 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	Autumn Term (1)
Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 31 <sup>st</sup> Oct	HALF TERM
Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup> Nov – Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Autumn Term (2)

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