



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 March 2025

Message from the Head Teacher

Key Areas of Information about Aston Rowant School: How do we promote Science

Each year we have an annual Science Enrichment Week which we link to the National Science Week. This year the theme is 'Change and Adapt' - providing fabulous opportunities for the children to expand their understanding of changes of matter, changes to physical forces, as well as changes or adaptations to living bodies in plants, animals or humans.

Our week began by joining a Science Live Lesson to find out what it takes to become an astronaut. British Astronaut Tim Peake, who spent 173 days living on the ISS, was online and discussed a whole range of topics including understanding the effects of space on astronauts' bones to explaining how astronauts manage food and hydration. It was out of this world (sorry!)

The staff team then ran many exciting events through the week, including themed, hands on, practical (and sometimes messy!) science activities each day of the week for each class such as: using helpful micro-organisms like yeast to inflate balloons; creating artificial stomachs to see how food is digested; exploding marshmallows in a bell jar, having a hair raising time with a Van de Graaff generator; creating our own lava lamps; making elephant toothpaste; participating in evolution yoga; designing an Aston Rowant monster; joining in a whole school graph challenge; creating our own plastic from milk and many other fun and challenging activities.

On Thursday Mrs Atkins and a team of parents, delivered a workshop to KS2, which had a range of exciting practical and visual representations of Change and Adaptation. We are grateful for the time and effort that they put into the workshops. The children used ultrasound waves to identify the heartbeats of lambs in the wombs of our visiting ewes and to watch blood vessels open and close in humans (courtesy of our very own vet and paramedic!). A 3D model ear depicted the shape and structure of ears and slinkies demonstrated how sound is conducted through the cochlear bones. A resonator and Chladni plates modelled how scientists can use sound to predict earthquakes-even sounds that we cannot hear. We used a wave machine and instruments to demonstrate and record how soundwaves travel and watched the wavelengths on the iPads before observing wave-patterns in a ripple tank. Finally, we used our school data loggers to record different noises we created in decibels. We would also like to take the opportunity to thank our friends at The Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe, who lent us the vital equipment for this day as well as for a number of our science topics through the year.

This week is underpinned by the science teaching we do through the year, as we believe in child centred learning and teach each science unit in a fun and stimulating way. We seek to promote and nurture curiosity and wonder. Children are encouraged to generate their own questions and to make mistakes on the path to discovery. Teachers plan lessons using the objectives from the Early Learning Goals for Reception and the National Science Curriculum for KS1 and KS2. Our science curriculum includes hands-on activities, games, and experiments that help the children learn and develop critical thinking skills. Wherever possible teachers plan science lessons and activities to link to the other topics that the children study. The teachers also make links to other subjects such as maths, English and PE to help the children make greater progress. Opportunities for science teaching and learning occur every day, and we encourage scientific thinking and questioning throughout the curriculum through:

- Scientific knowledge and understanding: observing, studying and explaining the physical world.
- Working scientifically: using different methods of scientific enquiry to understand the world around us.
- Science in action: how science can be used and its impact on our day-to-day lives.

Finally, we are proud as a school to continue to hold the Primary Science Gilt Award. PSQM Gilt is only awarded to schools where established and effective science leadership, high quality science teaching which is evidenced through sustained and consistent quality scientific learning across the school. We have held this award for six years now and are currently in the process of renewing it. The award is given following a year-long process that includes an audit, action, and reflection on our science teaching and learning by both the school and an external body. The Primary Science Quality Mark (PSQM) is designed to set every child on a path to a life filled with exciting opportunities, by giving them access to high quality primary science education. Or as we say – growing together and enjoying fullness of life.

Young Enterprise

Congratulations to Mikey, Year 2, for his entrepreneurial spirit. He sourced some calendars which he has been selling this week after school. He has raised £24 which he wants to donate to Forest Friday projects.

Magic Moment

A local walker knocked on the office door this week. Whilst he was out walking last week two of our pupils stopped and chatted to him about our school, our various enrichment weeks and all about World Book Day. He is a retired teacher and was so impressed by the attitude of the children and their enthusiasm for what we are learning and doing in school he made a point of coming to tell us in person and has donated some books to the school. I couldn't be more proud of our school community.

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

What an exciting week full of questions and observations from a class full of enquiring minds! We have been conducting lots of experiments to promote a sense of awe and wonder which has guided the children towards our own child led investigations. We have looked at the properties of water through the skittles experiment and walking water. As a class we brainstormed other questions we might have. One of the children asked why do things fly? We thought maybe it was because they were light, so then we decided to blow up some balloons. This led us to try all sorts of experiments. One child asked how we could make it stay up, so we explored static electricity which led another child to investigate what happens if we create different durations of friction. Does the balloon stay up for longer? Our caterpillars are growing nicely and on Wednesday we played a fun game to learn how insects camouflage to adapt to their environment. In Maths we have been learning about doubling and have made doubles butterflies. We investigated number patterns that occur in doubles and began some quick recall skills. What another fabulous week from the Hedgehogs!



Squirrel Class

British Science week has been a huge hit with the Squirrels! We have completed some amazing experiments and learned so much, and feel inspired by the different aspects of our exploring and learning. We kicked off the week with a 'No huff or puff balloon experiment' and joined the Big Live Space Assembly with British astronaut Tim Peake. We also made a start on our class growth chart as part of our school comparison. We also started a 'Naked Egg Experiment' and made our predictions, but we'll have to let the eggs rest for a while in their different liquids (milk, cola and vinegar) and see the results of that next week. We also really enjoyed seeing the ultrasound of the pregnant ewe! We did manage to fit in some other learning, and the class completed their retells of our class story, and also sent thank you postcards in role as Pipin the mouse. In maths the children in Y1 have been practising counting in tens and the Y2 children have been reviewing doubling and halving, the 10x table and division and odd and even numbers. Lastly, our art lesson this week was looking at the work of Vincent Van Gogh and Paul Cezanne and the inspiration behind their artwork. The children looked at different paintings and we took notes in our sketchbooks of our favourites. A super week by all accounts!



Fox Class

Science has figured highly this week – rightly so – and we had managed to carry out 5 investigations just by Wednesday (desert island water purifying, tabletop glaciers, peristalsis replication, exploding bags and lava lamps!) alongside our normal learning! In English we learnt/recapped our knowledge about inverted commas, and everyone enjoyed singing the song! It really does help when using them! We also used rhetorical questions when writing a letter and focussed on a wide range of adverbial phrases. In Maths, we have learnt about equivalent fractions and adding/subtracting mixed numbers and improper fractions. We have learnt about where rivers are found around the world and also focussing on our country as well. The atlases came out and they enjoyed pouring over the pages searching for longest rivers. In Science, pets were handed out to look after (ice cubes) as we were finding out about melting and freezing. They had to observe their pets and estimate how long they would last. We also carried out an investigation into how the temperature affects the melting process. The class enjoyed using the data loggers to record the temperature. For Art, we used a range of different pencils H to B to find out the different effects we can achieve when looking at texture. It has been a joy to be surrounded by a classroom of scientists this week! Thank you also to all the parents who supported the learning opportunity on Thursday. It was awesome!



Owl Class

Even amidst the Science Enrichment Week, Owl class have still found time for growing their understanding and knowledge across all our topics: In English, we interviewed several witnesses from Camelot and embedded their direct quotes into our news reports, giving us a chance to recap the difference between direct and reported speech, as well as polishing our transition word skills to help our sentences flow. In Maths, we have been looking at using formulae to solve the volume of 3D objects, and using liquids to find the link between volume and capacity: a soggy but effective lesson! In Geography, the children applied their news report writing skills as they interviewed the Great Barrier Reef about what it is like to live alongside humans; mixing in independently researched facts about the impact on the reef from overfishing and human footprint. In our regularly scheduled Science lessons, we took a closer look at the life cycle of a mammal and how this differs from the life cycle of plants; including the inherited characteristics of parents for offspring. In DT, we began to design our own steady-hand games and recapped our understanding of circuitry to create some buzzers. We must mention all of our Science Enrichment Week fun too, as we ran five mini-investigations that included pulleys, exothermic reactions, and a life size height graph (although not all at once). Once again the children's sense of wonder and desire to learn has impressed me so much.

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



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Photo Diary - Science Enrichment Week



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Autumn Term: Open the Book

Values: Outreach

In Collective Worship this week we looked at having the courage to care. We encouraged the children to think about what they could do, perhaps at home, to show their kindness and love for others. Sometimes we are tempted to think that a problem is too big for just one person to solve alone or when we face difficulties or worries that we are all alone, but if we can reach out to others we can work together to make life a little easier.

'Whatever you did for one of your brothers you did also for me.' Matt 25:40

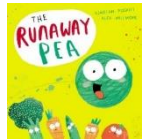
Climate Warriors' Challenge

Our magnificent, mighty oceans, covering 71% of our planet, are struggling with the impacts of climate change, as well as being crucial in helping us to combat it. Our oceans annually absorb a quarter of global carbon emissions – with phytoplankton and zooplankton playing a huge role in this. 'Blue Carbon' projects – protecting, restoring and promoting seagrass meadows, mangrove swamps and salt marshes, could also help it absorb even more. Your challenge this week is to learn more about our oceans - pioneering advances being made in the relation to 'blue carbon', seaweed farming and ocean plastics removal; and to help your family reduce your 'consumption' of plastic packaging.

Related links:

- [What is Blue Carbon?](#) Conservation International
- [Project Seagrass, Wales.](#) BBC Bitesize (jump to the Project Seagrass video)
- [Seaweed farming.](#) WWF - excellent children's 'explainer'
- [Ocean Cleanup project.](#) Cleaning up the Great Pacific Garbage Patch.
- [Odyssey Innovations.](#) Paddle for plastic
- [Notpla](#) Earthshot - 'plastic' from seaweed
- [Aird Fada, Scotland.](#) Seaweed farm

Book Review - 'The Runaway Pea' reviewed by Jemma in Hedgehog Class



Jemma chose to bring this book into class as one of her favourites, and this is what she thinks about it:
This book is so so funny! The pea runs away on an adventure and things go wrong. He even burns his bottom on the toaster!

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%	0%	15%
Squirrel Class	94%	0%	6%
Fox Class	89%	0%	11%
Owl Class	75%	5%	20%

Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	47	172
Eden	40	125
Galilee	46	161
Jerusalem	49	155

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Emails and letters sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
14.03.25	Email	Year 5	Mr Manning	Cycle Training
14.03.25	Email	All	Office	Reminder – place lunch orders
12.03.25	Email	All	Office	Primary Newsletter
12.03.25	Email	All	Mr Manning	Workshop
11.03.25	Email	All	Office	Young enterprise – calendar sale
10.03.25	Email	All	Office	Kids Lunch Company – new ordering system
10.03.25	Email	Fox	Mrs France	Big Spring Sing – Christ Church Cathedral trip

March	
Tues 18 th	Interhouse Cross Country afternoon 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	Year 5 Cycling – bike check. Each Friday. 13 th June Highway Code Test. 20 th June Test.
Fri 28 th	Parents' Book Look – 14:30 to look through your child's work. No Celebration Assembly. Cake sale – proceeds 50:50 Sobell House Hospice and School Library Project
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	09:15 Spring Service in Church
Wed 30 th	FGB – Business Meeting
May	
Thu 1 st	Mock SIAMS
Wed 7 th	VE Day celebration – street party, parents and carers welcome
w/c 12 th	SATs Mon- SPaG Tue – Reading Wed – Maths 1 & 2 Thur Maths 3
Sat 17 th	PTA adult sponsored walk for school library
June	
Wed 11 th	PC Ben visit KSI
Wed 18 th	Dance Festival @ Lord William's Dance Studio
Wed 25 th	Opera First Workshop Owl Class

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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