



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



21st March 2025

Message from the Head Teacher

Sobell House Hospice Presentation

We were delighted to welcome Ariya Nair the Relationships Fundraiser from Sobell House Hospice to our collective worship on Monday. She came to share about the work of the hospice, hear about the extraordinary fundraising efforts of Matilda, Evelyn and Zoe and to receive a cheque for £500.00. Ariya brought with her a thank you gift for each of the girls.

Cross Country Run

On Tuesday we had our annual inter-house cross country competition. The weather was kind and the sun came out to support us! Thank you to Mrs Healy who carefully planned the routes for each class and co-ordinated the day. Hedgehog were first with a fantastic run around the football pitch followed by Squirrel Class who ran around the whole school field. Fox Class took on the whole field, the playground AND the whole field again. Finally, Owl Class completed the afternoon by running around the field and then out of school to the cricket ground and back. The whole school demonstrated resilience and harmony in droves as they pushed themselves to finish and cheered all of the other runners on. New time records were set for Hedgehog and Owl Class and the overall winners of the afternoon were **Eden**. The event couldn't have taken place without the support of the parent marshals who cheered/ran with and encouraged the children as they passed. Thank you!

Red Nose Day

Today has been Red Nose Day. Thank you to everyone who wore their jumpers/cardigans backwards and made a donation towards the Red Nose appeal. We raised £114.00.

Key Areas of Information about Aston Rowant School: clubs, activities and special events

Our vision for the school is 'enjoying fullness of life' which we aim to do by having a whole range of activities available to enrich the curriculum and make a child's time at Aston Rowant more fulfilling.

We have a variety of clubs on offer across the school year – football, choir, cross-country, dance, chess, art and maths/TTRS. Each Friday we have Forest School for the whole school and in the summer we have swimming for Year 3 and 4 and cycle training for Year 5. All children have the opportunity for peripatetic music lessons each week and we are excited to announce that after Easter all of Year 5/6 will have weekly brass lessons free of charge. We also provide activities to support basic life skills – such as first aid workshops.

Each term we have curriculum enrichment weeks for key subjects including: Science; RE; PE; Art; Music; with the addition of Anti Bullying Week; Environmental Week; Walk to School Week; UK Parliament Week; National Bird Watch Week plus Black History Month. These are supported by special focus days such as: World Book Day; British Values Day; Maths Day; Be Bright Be Seen Day; Online Safety Day; National Poetry Day; International Women's Day; International Day of Prayer and days for tag rugby and cross-country events.

We also provide regular trips for the children to bring the curriculum to life. Recently our different classes and year groups have been to: the Tower of London; St Albans' Verulamium; Bracknell Lookout Centre; the River and Rowing Museum; Lopemead Farm; Woodway Farm Racing Stables; a Chinese restaurant; a 5-day residential in Wales, walks to Five Ways; Christmas lunch at Lambert Arms and a whole school cinema trip to name but a few of our adventures.

We also aim to have experiences in school and in the last year have had: VR headsets, day with Mr Egypt and Great Fire of London, visiting authors (Steve Cole, Tony Peek and James Carter) local vets and also the Fire Brigade, Paramedics and regular Police visits.

We provide experiences beyond the school and regularly join competitions such as the Oxford University Science competition as well as one off events such as the Maths competition, Poetry Slam, OxTrail, Blue Peter Reading Badge and the Rotary Club Cop 26 poster competition.

Each year our Reception Class perform in a nativity play and KS1/KS2 alternate years for their performances. In addition, our school choir performs at the Christmas Tree Festival and each of our termly church services, also Owl Class joins the Thame Christmas Music Festival. We have a well-established link with Garsington Opera with a day of training and auditions for the Junior Company in the spring and in the summer, a workshop preparing the children before a trip to watch an opera at Garsington Opera House. This coming Thursday, Fox Class are joining schools across Oxfordshire at the Big Sing at Christ Church Cathedral and we will be one of only three schools doing a short presentation on our work on courageous advocacy.

'It may be a small school, but everyone here has big ideas.' (Ofsted 22)

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

We have had another fabulous week in Hedgehogs. We've been continuing our excellent work in science week by using investigation skills to answer questions about 2D and 3D shape. Which shapes roll the best? what properties are good for building tall towers? And much more. The children have impressed us with their perseverance to build 2D shapes into 3D shapes in a number of ways. In our topic we are enjoying looking closely at the way the caterpillars are changing. This week they hung upside down and started to metamorphosize into pupae. We can't wait to see them as butterflies. We have been really loving the beautiful weather and have been enjoying lots of outside play and child led investigations.



Squirrel Class

A welcome return of a bit of Spring sunshine has boosted our spirits in Squirrel class, as has our new story of 'Mrs Armitage on Wheels'. The children have loved reading this classic book by Quentin Blake and discovering the wacky new additions to Mrs Armitage's bicycle! We have completed some creative designs of our own too and even created our own special edition roller skates! Next week we will create our own stories using our designs. In Maths the Year 1 children have been working hard on grouping and partitioning tens and ones, with lots of practical, hands-on learning using part whole models. The Year 2 children have looked at the 10x and 5x tables, exploring the relationship between multiplication and division. We even made it outside in the sunshine to create number tracks on the playground. We also looked more closely at hot and cold places, identifying the North and South Poles on a map. Did you know that the South Pole is a lot colder than the North Pole? It was stormy weather in RE as we looked at Jesus calming the storm. We are hoping for more hot weather and no storms in Aston Rowant next week! Have a great weekend!



Fox Class

Fox Class have blown me away with their writing this week. We have embedded our understanding of using inverted commas then wrote super descriptions using a range of adverbials, exciting verbs and conjunctions. They demonstrated a great awareness of empathy that Hogarth may have felt and used a range of literary features to interest the reader. In Maths, our lessons ranged from finding equivalent amounts in kilograms and grams to subtracting fractions from mixed numbers. In Geography, we looked at the uses of rivers and discussed the problems such as pollution, flooding and drought. We have spent time learning our 4 songs in anticipation of our performance in Christ Church Cathedral next week and the children are really enjoying the songs too. In Art, shade was studied and best effects of showing it. We tried using gestural drawing with small strokes really looking at what we see rather than what we think we see. We were delighted to welcome the RE Inspired team on Thursday to look at The Good Shepherd, we even got to make our own giant marshmallow sheep! Finally, I was so impressed with the effort the whole class put into the cross country this week. They all gave 100% and demonstrated outreach by supporting each other and other members of their House. Well done Foxes!



Owl Class

What a fantastic week in Owl Class: the sun even came out for us during our cross-country run! In Maths, we measured 3D shapes accurately to find the exact volume, and then used liquid to compare volume and capacity, and to see if we could establish a link. In our English, we wrote our final newspaper report about the discovery of the Lady of Shalott, the public's reaction to the crime, and King Arthur's response to their demands. In Music we rapped along with Will Smith and used recorders to play along with the introduction of 'Fresh Prince of Bel Air', whilst in Geography we identified the greatest threat to our oceans and how we, as a society, might be able to change it. We chose to focus our efforts on micro-plastics, as we found out that the average human has enough plastic in their bodies to make a plastic spoon! The children were shocked at the longevity of plastic and how slowly it breaks down and then finds its way into the food chain. What can we do to prevent this happening anymore? Science found the children exploring the life cycle of amphibians and the stages of the adolescent offspring, from tadpole to froglet: the children were glad they won't completely change shape as we grow up!

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Photo Diary of the Week



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Photo Diary of the Week - Cross Country



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Whole School Topic - Autumn Term: Open the Book

Values: Outreach

In Collective Worship this week we continued to look at how we can outreach to others, and not just to the people we know. We looked at the story of a Samaritan man who showed kindness and compassion when he reached out to care for a Jewish man in need. As they came from very separate cultures they were not obviously neighbours, but the Samaritan showed that anyone who is in need is our neighbour whether a friend or not.

'A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.' John 13:34

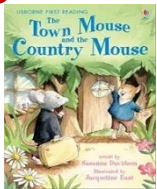
Climate Warriors' Challenge

It's Earth Hour this Saturday @ 8.30 pm (local time). Why not join this global initiative, supported by millions of people in over 190 countries around the world - along with 10million others in the UK alone- the 'BIGGEST HOUR FOR EARTH'? What will you do this Earth Hour ... check out 'This Week's Challenge' for some suggestions – candle-lit games, 'nature' poems, an 'animal' kitchen disco, carbon-busting charades, animal quizzes, star gazing... let us know what you get up to! Could an HOUR change the world? Could it remind us that time is precious? Could it be the spark we need for change? Could it remind us of our potential if we ALL act together – ALL at the same time?

Whilst lights are off ... here are some ways to enjoy marvelling at our natural world:

- A candle-lit 'seasonal' meal ... talk about your favourite animals ... and play an animal-based game?
- Share [some wonderful poems about our natural world](#) – or even write your own?
- Turn up the radio and have a kitchen disco – you could dance like different animals?
- Do some candle-lit colouring, whilst listening to some relaxing music – here are [some free animal colouring pages](#)?
- Play charades with a twist – act out different [YCW carbon-busting challenges](#)?
- Read a book about animals - by torchlight!
- How about a quiz ... here are [some excellent WWF quizzes](#).
- If you're feeling more adventurous – wrap up warm and go outside and see the stars, or if it's cloudy listen out for nocturnal animals or birds.

Book Review by Squirrel Class Aesop's Fables – *The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse*



We recently read some of Aesop's Fables as part of our writing unit, and the children particularly enjoyed the challenge at the end of each story to guess the moral or message for the reader. Here are a few reviews of our class favourite, which was 'The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse'.

"I loved the part when they snuck onto the red train by hiding in a man's bag" – Florence P

"My favourite bit was when Pipin (the country mouse) went back to his little home in the hedge and was safe & snug" – Barney

Happiness Calendar: Mindful March

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

Attendance – This week

School target 97%	97% - 100%	90% -97%	Below 90%
Hedgehog Class	69%	8%	23%
Squirrel Class	91%	3%	6%
Fox Class	85%	4%	11%
Owl Class	75%	0%	25%

Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	69	241
Eden	60	185
Galilee	71	232
Jerusalem	62	217



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Emails and letters sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
21.03.25	Email	All	Office	Book look and cake sale
20.03.25	Email	All	Office	Red Nose Day
19.03.25	Email	Fox	Office	Big Spring Sing reminder
18.03.25	Email	All	Office	PTA Easter events

March	
Mon 24 th	Maths Day New gym equipment installed
Mon 24 th	New Oxford Brookes student Miss Smith in Owl Class until May half term
Wed 26 th	Poetry Slam Final @ John Hampden Primary School
Wed 26 th	FGB – Business Meeting
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. 2:30 cake sale with proceeds 50:50 Sobell House Hospice and new school library
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	10:30 PTA Egg hunt. Book here: Easter Egg Hunt 4 April 2025
Fri 4 th	13:30 PTA Film afternoon. Book here: Easter Film Afternoon 2025
Tue 22 nd	Summer term begins
Mon 28 th	Returning Oxford Brookes students Miss Wyness and Miss Smith in Fox and Squirrel Classes until 03.07
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 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) INSET Mon 1 st and Tue 2 nd Sept
Mon 27 th – Fri 31 st Oct	HALF TERM
Mon 3 rd Nov – Fri 19 th Dec	Autumn Term (2)

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