



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 March 2025

Message from the Head Teacher

Parking

We have received a number of complaints from the school's neighbours regarding inconsiderate parking by parents accessing the school in the mornings and afternoons, including parking in the turning circle outside school and parking across private driveways. I appreciate that it can be very difficult to park near the school, however, please remember that the school is located in a residential area and we need to respect our neighbours and their properties. The School Council and other children have also raised the issue of parents leaving cars idling and the smell of fumes that this generates in the playground. Please see my parking letter sent out this week outlining the positive steps that we are taking to resolve these issues.

Cricket Club Grounds

We are proud of the relationship that we have with Aston Rowant Cricket Club. They regularly allow us to use their car park for coaches for our school trips, for part of our cross country run and they have also offered us the use of their car park and bar for our upcoming sponsored walk. In recent discussions about using the car park to help aid parking at school drop off/pick up times, they mentioned concerns about how children use their facilities outside of the school day. Sadly, some of our children are being allowed to play/climb on the nets and hoardings after school and have damaged them. Please do support us in ensuring that our children always behave in a way that we expect from an Aston Rowant School pupil both inside and outside of school.

Key Areas of Information about Aston Rowant School: How do we invest in our facilities?

Although we are a small school on a tight budget, we work hard to ensure that our facilities and learning environment are continually being reviewed and improved. Last year we created the Rainbow Room, installed a Trim Trail on our field and installed more energy efficient heating in the main school block. This week we were excited to have an outdoor gym installed on the field and we have also just ordered 30 new laptops for the classrooms and a new Interactive Whiteboard for the hall.

Following our transition from VC to VA we have recently placed four separate bids with the Diocese for 90% of the funding for: a new fence along the Moors Path; to repair hall roof; completely re-do the groundworks outside Hedgehog Class and implement a fully integrated fire system. We are delighted to have recently received positive outcomes for all four of our bids. This significant and much needed funding will enable long term investment in our school and enables us to complete projects that we simply could not do on our own. We are awaiting an imminent start date for the repairs to the hall roof. The EYFS groundworks and fire alarm will be installed over the summer holidays and the new fence may be as soon as May half term.

The new fence will, I know, not be a change welcomed by everyone. From an aesthetics and 'community feel' viewpoint we understand the difficulty of the change. However, currently we are not compliant with government guidelines which state that schools should have a 2-metre-high secure fence such as metal railings, vertical bar fencing, or welded mesh panels for the boundary of the school. In addition, the school's current perimeter fence presents a safeguarding risk to our students and staff. It is currently possible for children to escape over the fence and the tragic murders in Southport last summer reinforced the necessity to keep intruders out. As can clearly be seen, the current school fence has been in a state of disrepair for a number of years with many of the slats broken or missing and many more are rotten. So, the need to replace it is evident and the responsibility to now make it compliant and safe is unquestionable. Receiving the funds for this is both timely and essential.

Less controversial is the new library project. Laura Purse, Mrs King and I are working with New Garden Rooms to design our new library which will be unique, eco-friendly, sustainable and a beautiful reading and working space for the school. As part of our continuing commitment to being an eco-friendly school we have chosen a company that is committed to Race to Zero and are actively seeking to reduce the carbon footprint of all their materials and operations. We look forward to updating you on our progress on the project.

Sponsored Walk

On the theme of the new library project don't forget our sponsored walk on 17th May. It is a 7-mile scenic trail route through Aston Rowant and onto the nature reserve with a delicious cream tea at the end. Please do share details about the walk with your neighbours and friends, as it is open to the community, or consider supporting us along the route. Parking is available at Aston Rowant Cricket Club, extra cream teas will be available at school for non-walkers and the bar at the cricket club open at the end of the day. We would love to make this a fun filled community day whilst raising money for our new library.

Reasons to be Proud

Finally, I want to express our enormous pride in Phoebe, Elsie and Annie and also Millie and Evelyn who represented us in the Poetry Slam Competition and performed brilliantly and also Fox Class sang and talked about our work on courageous advocacy at the Big Spring Sing at Christ Church Cathedral. They were all incredible ambassadors for the whole school.

Kind regards

Mrs France

GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY

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Teaching and Learning in the Classrooms this week:



Hedgehog Class

After a fantastic day full of Maths on Monday, we continued throughout the week with learning about 3D shapes and repeating patterns. We have looked before at simple ABAB patterns, but have now grown this to include more complex patterns. In English, we listened to the story of The Little Red Hen. We have been retelling the story and created our own puppets to act it out. This will help us next week when we plan to write parts of the story independently. We have also been patiently watching our class caterpillars and waiting for the next stage when they start to build their chrysalises. Hopefully this happens soon!



Squirrel Class

A busy penultimate week to the term with lots of fantastic events! Firstly, we enjoyed the wonderful World Maths Day celebrations on Monday, with lots of hands on and practical activities and some cross class fun too. We especially enjoyed all the fun of the fair at the end of the day. We also continued with our stories in English, reading the second story featuring Mrs Armitage titled 'Queen of the Road'. We spotted similarities and differences between the two stories we have read and the children designed their own set of wheels for Mrs Armitage – bespoke roller-skates! In science lesson this week we completed a mini experiment in our table groups, investigating the stretchiest material. The children took on different roles to complete the experiment and worked nicely in their teams, showing problem solving skills and growth mindset. Lastly, three members of our class took part in the final poetry slam at John Hampden School and performed with great confidence and flair. We are so proud of you!



Fox Class

Fox Class have excelled themselves this week. They have been able to demonstrate what they have learnt this term in terms of maths and reading skills. They have shown resilience, and I am proud of them. We have also had normal lessons too! In Science, we looked at evaporation and condensation and carried out an investigation into how long it takes for water to evaporate from our fingers by testing different temperatures of water and by blowing hard or soft. In Art, children used clay to produce clay tiles detailing the features of a piece of fruit. A lot of care and focus was shown in producing these. Two members of our class performed at the Poetry Slam at John Hampden School and did an amazing job. They spoke with confidence and clarity and were a credit to the school. We also had an amazing experience singing in Christ Church Cathedral Oxford. When we turned the corner and entered the quadrangle the air was filled with oohs and aahs! It was such a memorable experience and they sang beautifully.



Owl Class

Owl Class have been breaking down action sequences to understand how to write a suspenseful and dramatic action sequence: this meant roleplay, as we choreographed a scene together and broke it down into simple action bullet points, before building the sentence back up with adverbial openers, figurative language similes and even onomatopoeia. The children will be putting this action writing to good use later in their topic. In Science, they experienced the life cycle of a bird, although very briefly, as they acted out the stages of hatchling (curled up, unable to move to fledgling (taking short flights out of the nest before returning home again) all the way to an adult bird leaving the home and setting up its own nest. then, the children had to draw comparisons between the lifecycle of a mammal and a bird, and draw up similarities and differences between the two. In Maths, after a brilliant Maths Day on Monday, the children also all completed their assessment papers and showed a really disciplined attitude to their work, as well as beginning our recap topic of percentages. In PE, Owl went head-to-head with Fox Class in a mixed year group football session. Lastly, I feel I should mention the brilliant costumes for the long-awaited Pirate Day, which the children earned with their hard work and good manners: we mixed in a range of fun activities into our regular learning, which included the ever popular -and competitive- Pirate Game (using co-ordinates and the four operations to complete for gold-AArr!) and the energetic game of Pirate Ships. Well done Owl Class.

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Photo Diary of the Week



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World Maths Day

On Monday the whole school took part in World Maths Day, carrying out various different task, all with a link to maths.

Maths in Art

All the classes had a look at a different type of art in which we can see maths. Hedgehog Class looked at Mondrian and learnt about rectangles. They had a good look at the special rectangle we call a 'square', and what makes it square. Then they had a go at creating their own Mondrian inspired artwork using rectangles. Squirrel Class also looked at 2D shapes in art, exploring how shapes can fit together and then trying to create patchwork patterns. Tessellations were explored in Fox Class. They created their own shapes which closely fitted together, in a repeated pattern without gaps or overlapping. Owl Class studied curves of pursuit, which involved careful drawing and measuring to explore what happens when one point moves towards another moving point.



Team Challenges

Both KS2 classes took part in a team challenge. This involved working in teams of three or four, to solve a variety of maths problems. The problems required the children to use all the different areas of maths they have been taught in class so far. Some were visual problems that made them think a little 'outside the box', some involved estimations and reasoning but they all needed the children to work together as a team.

Hedgehog Maths Challenges

Hedgehog Class had lots of opportunities to use their maths skills throughout the day, and took part in some maths challenges. They tried building and measuring the tallest towers, using maps to find hidden numbers, and they loved the 'Secret Stars' challenge. Here, they had to go on a hunt for hidden stars then use the magic pens which revealed a maths question.

Fun at the Maths Fair

The highlight of the day was our 'Fun at the Maths Fair' sessions. Both Fox and Owl class organised fairground stalls, which all included some element of maths. They ran their stalls for Hedgehog and Squirrel class who had an amazing time! The stalls included: Hook-a-duck, Tin Can Alley, Hoopla and even a 'Shooting Stars' stall, where the children earned point for shooting stars with Nerf Guns. It was a real pleasure to see how nurturing the KS2 children are as they worked alongside the younger children.



On top of this, we also ran a TTRS/Numbots Challenge throughout the day. The winners for the most correct answers in each year group were: Caspar (YR), Chloe (Y1), Oscar (Y2), Digby (Y3), Esme (Y4), Max (Y5) and Zachary (Y6). Well done all of you!

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Whole School Topic - Autumn Term: Open the Book

Values: Outreach

In Collective Worship this week we looked at how Jesus shows kindness and compassion to those in need during his time on earth. We also looked at the story of the Lost Sheep who is rescued by the shepherd. We looked at how Jesus is the Good Shepherd who comes to find us and bring us back to him and he did this through his death on the cross.

'I am the way, the truth the life. No-one goes to the father except through me. John 14:6

Climate Warriors' Challenge

Batteries are a fundamental part of the solution to combating climate change – both in terms of our transition to electric vehicles and in allowing us to store renewable energy until it is needed. This week's challenge encourages children to think about batteries and the raw materials needed to make them. They are encouraged to take 'charge' of the used batteries at home and make sure they are recycled. Every single person counts, every single battery counts.

Fun links to try:

[Innovative Singaporean recycling plant](#)

[How the humble battery can save the world](#)

[Learn how fruit peel is used to recycle lithium batteries](#)

[Are batteries made of sand the future of clean energy?](#)

Book Review The Cheat Book by Ramzee reviewed by Matilda in Fox Class



I would describe this book as brilliant and amazingly brilliant! I loved it because it had great wording and was very comic book-like. It didn't contain any confusing words. I would definitely recommend this book and I'd give it 5 out of 5!

This book was one of the Oxfordshire Book Award books sent to us to read and enjoy. It certainly seems to have done this for Matilda! (Mrs Healy)

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	88%	0%	12%
Fox Class	93%	3%	4%
Owl Class	80%	10%	10%

Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	79	320
Eden	93	278
Galilee	87	319
Jerusalem	97	314



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Emails and letters sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
28.03.25	Email	All	Office	PTA Sponsored Walk letter & poster
26.03.25	Email	All	Mrs France	Parking
26.03.25	Email	Year 5	Office	Cycle training reminders

April	
3 ^{1st} – 4 th	RE Enrichment Week – <i>What is Courageous Advocacy?</i>
Tue 1 st /Wed 2 nd	Parents' Evenings
Tue 1 st	Fox Class walk to Fiveways
Wed 2 nd	Year 3/4 Netball fixture at John Hampden School 15:45
Fri 4 th	Spring Service in Church 09:15
Fri 25 th	Cycle training up to 20 th June
Tue 29 th	Year 3/4 Swimming lessons start up to 8 th July
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
Wed 14 th	Smartphone Free Childhood - parent meeting with local councilors
Sat 17 th	PTA sponsored walk for school library
Mon 19 th – Fri 23 rd	Walk to School Week
June	
Wed 11 th	PC Ben visit KS1
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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