



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



Message from the Head Teacher

Key Areas of Information about Aston Rowant School: How do we support children of all faiths and non?

This week has been RE Enrichment Week. This is part of our regular pattern of curriculum enrichment weeks but also supports our legal provision of the statement of entitlement as a Church School. But what does it mean to be part of a church school?

In 1811 the Church of England set out to establish schools for children of every parish in the country. The schools were to educate the poor of the parish, and not specifically Christian children. From the outset schools were to be both 'distinctively Christian' and also inclusive of all community members. The same remains today, Church of England schools welcome everyone – Christian families and families of all faiths and none. They are inclusive while not compromising their Christian foundations.

As such, Christian beliefs and values underpin the daily life of Church Schools - the Christian ethos of Church Schools are not an 'add on' but instead enhance the teaching of the National Curriculum. Pupils should leave a Church School having had the opportunity to experience and understand Christian beliefs and the Christian narrative. The vision for the Church of England's Education Board is around Jesus's offer of enjoying "life in all its fullness". The school's leadership team are required to formulate and implement a clear theologically rooted Christian vision for the school which empowers children and gives the school community a model to live by. Hence our strap line of 'Growing together, rooted in God, enjoying fullness of life' based on Col 2:1-7.

Church Schools have a role in nurturing those of Christian faith and provide a freedom to speak openly about their beliefs. For those of personal faith there are opportunities to model and share their own beliefs, whilst not imposing these on others. The impact and effectiveness of this distinctive Christian character is specifically monitored through the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) – like Ofsted but specifically for Church Schools. One of the inspection questions is 'How does the school's theologically rooted Christian vision enable pupils and adults to flourish?' - it is quite a challenge!

For all schools, a time of 'assembly' is a legal requirement. In Church Schools this time should be spent in an act of 'collective worship' which is distinctively Christian in its content. It should be a special time when all children and members of staff have the opportunity to come together and celebrate the Christian character of the school by sharing prayer and reflection, engaging with Bible stories and songs, celebrating festivals and welcoming visitors from the local parish. Worship should be invitational, inclusive and inspiring, engaging with its diversity as it builds positive relationships with families and local communities.

Religious Education (RE) is a compulsory subject at all state funded schools and academies. For Church Schools the National Statement of Entitlement states that the teaching of Christianity should make up two thirds of the RE curriculum. For KS1 the minimum number of hours of RE taught in a school year is 36 hours, the equivalent of 45-60 minutes per week and for KS2 the minimum number of hours is 45 hours, which is equivalent to 75 minutes per week or 60 minutes a week plus our RE Enrichment Week. As a Church School we support children of all faiths and none by teaching religious education (RE) that is inclusive and academically rigorous. We do this by offering:

- **Inclusive curriculum:** we teach about Christianity and other faiths and world views.
- **Broad religious literacy:** we use RE to help children understand how religion and beliefs affect people's lives.
- **Informed choices:** we use RE to help children make informed choices about religion and non-religion.
- **Personal reflection:** we give children opportunities to reflect on their own position, personal beliefs and attitudes.

We will have our next SIAMS inspection in 2025-26 which will measure how we are doing with all of these elements.

Spring Service

It was a joy to have our Spring Service this morning in church. Thank you to the children and their teachers for their fabulous contributions and to Year 6 for leading it so beautifully. Thank you Mrs Atkins for playing and leading the choir and also to our parents for attending and to those who were able to walk with us to and from the church.

Cake Sale

Thank you to everyone who kindly provided cakes for our cake sale last Friday. Thank you also to those who generously bought tea, coffee and cake and offered donations too. We are delighted to say that we raised £258 for Sobell House and the library.

Easter Egg Hunt

Thank you to the PTA for kindly providing the Easter eggs for our annual Easter Egg Hunt. The children all loved searching for tokens in exchange for chocolate and the weather was glorious! Also, thank you for running another fun filled film event today.

Happy Easter!

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 a fabulous final week. This week we have been enjoying the sunshine and planning weddings in our play. In our RE project, we have been courageous advocates for the world by thinking about environmental issues. We decided to focus on saving energy and make sure that the school turns off lights when they are not needed. We made posters with vibrant and attention-grabbing slogans. We wrote letters to the classes at Aston Rowant imploring them to turn off their lights. We became light monitors and checked the lights daily and were really encouraged to see a drastic improvement over the week. Well done Hedgehog class! In preparation for our spring service, we practiced an Easter poem and learned how to use watercolours to design our own Easter eggs. We hope you all have a fantastic Easter break!



Squirrel Class

The last week of term and we Squirrels have very much enjoyed the warmer weather. This final week was our RE enrichment week, and the children have enjoyed learning how to be courageous advocates. A story titled 'A No Money Day' by Kate Milner has sparked the class to action, inspiring them to help those in our local community who may need to make use of foodbanks. The class wrote letters to Mrs France, created posters and have discussed how we can logistically facilitate a donation box in our school. Watch this space for further updates! In Maths this week, we have spent time ensuring that the children in Y2 have an accurate strategy for subtraction and addition calculations. The Y1 children finished off their work on place value to 50, also looking at number lines to 50 and one more and one less than a given 2-digit number. In Geography we located the equator on our atlases and discussed how it divides the earth into the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. We also looked at how this impacts climate for countries around the world. In our music lesson we explored the difference between pitch and rhythm and practised our class song 'Round and Round'. The class have also really enjoyed trying out the new gym equipment that was installed last week. Happy Easter to you all and see you upon our return for the summer term in two weeks!



Fox Class

What a glorious week of weather we've had! It was perfect for our walk on Tuesday with Mr and Mrs Eaton (local residents) who took us to 5 Ways to discuss the stream and habitat helping the children grow their knowledge of rivers. Mr Eaton was complementary of their behaviour, knowledge and questions asked. It was a pleasure to take them! In English, the class wrote the next chapter of The Iron Man and were able to show me a super range of features that we had covered this term. In Maths, we continued our learning of decimals and volume and capacity. In Science, we finished our States of Matter topic looking at the water cycle and how climate change is affecting it. In Art, the tiles made last week in clay were painted using acrylic paint and not one t-shirt got covered! They experimented making different colours and were extremely proud of their results. We also spent time thinking about a topic that matters to us that we want to advocate for courageously. We have chosen road safety. Watch this space for all our ideas and projects! A great week's work and a well-deserved holiday is needed for all! Have a restful and rejuvenating Easter and I look forward to seeing you in two weeks.



Owl Class

In the middle of all of this glorious sunshine, Owl Class have continued to display the fabulous work ethic and attitude that we know them for. In English, they created a flashback narrative that told the story of what they thought happened after the events of The Lady of Shallot, using dramatic and suspenseful language as they adapted sentence structure to create tension or excitement in the reader. They also had to manipulate the classic story structure into something more circular than linear, and include the flashes back and forwards in their story. In Maths, we have been combining all our knowledge from the past few topics to find the equivalent fraction, decimals and their percentage counterparts, as well as practising how we can break down reasoning questions into smaller, more manageable chunks. In Science, the children finished their Life Cycles and Reproduction unit with a session all about the life cycles of insects, which finished with a gripping game of insect top trumps! In Geography, we completed our unit, Earth's Oceans and recorded our singing voices for the country-wide 'Voice of the Water' project, as part of our anti-plastic waste focus this term. I hope all of you enjoy your well-earned two-week break, and I will see you after Easter, ready and rested!

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Photo Diary of the Week



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RE Enrichment Week

A week that provides time and space for spiritual flourishing

Theme: Courageous Advocacy

'Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.' Proverbs 31:8-9

Courageous advocacy is the act of speaking out against an issue of injustice, often on behalf of those whose voice is not heard.

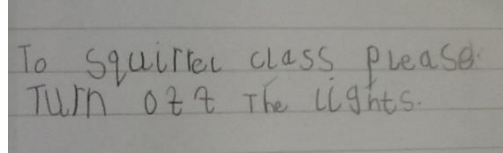
Courageous advocacy moves beyond 'simple solutions' to ask 'why?' and 'what can be done about it?'.

The aims of our RE Courageous Advocacy Enrichment Week have been:

1. To provide time and space for spiritual flourishing
2. To have quality time to focus on courageous advocacy, justice and responsibility
3. For each class to choose and start to develop a project to work on throughout the year

Hedgehog Class - School Project – Energy Efficiency

Hedgehog have decided to encourage pupils to be mindful of conserving energy and looking after the environment by be more energy aware in school. They have been implementing hands-on activities focusing on practical measures like turning off lights and appliances. They have made posters and written to every class and will be monitoring compliance over the coming months.



Squirrel Class - Local Project – SharingLife foodbank

The pupils in Squirrel Class voted to support SharingLife as their local community project. They were inspired by Jos who commented that we give to SharingLife at Harvest but people can go hungry all year around. They have researched what SharingLife do and what they need, looked into ways to collect food donations and deliver them to SharingLife in Thame, written to Mrs France to gain her support and shared their ideas with the other classes via posters. Squirrel class will also be sending out a parent survey in the coming weeks, requesting help from parent volunteers to support the delivery of the donations collected to the depot in Thame.



Fox Class – National Project – Road Safety

Fox Class have decided to join the UK's biggest annual road safety campaign. They want to inspire and engage children about making safe and healthy journeys, to campaign for road safety where we live, and help all children learn important road safety messages. They have researched about how other schools manage their walk to school. They looked at the air quality and how cars can affect the air, made air quality sensors and placed them around the school and surrounding roads. The class are in the process of creating questionnaires to send out to parents and children about their attitudes regarding road safety and parking.



Owl Class – Global Project – The Olive Tree Project

Owl Class have chosen The Olive Tree project in Palestine working to replace trees destroyed by the conflict. By planting saplings on fields at risk of confiscation Palestinian farmers can continue to work their land, which helps maintain the farmers' rights to their own land and also preserves an important source of income and sustenance. They have written to Freddie van Mierlo, MP for Henley and Thame, contacted the Bucks Herald and are developing an awareness/ fundraising campaign.



Each class will talk about their projects on Friday 25th April in Celebration Worship

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Whole School Topic - Autumn Term: Open the Book

Values: Outreach

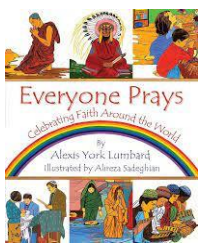
It has been our RE Enrichment Week this week and we have been thinking about 'courageous advocacy' - putting others needs first, even when it might be dangerous or difficult. Many Christians believe that God asks us to offer our skills, talents and abilities in the face of adversity, and that He will use that courageousness to achieve great things. We have sung two songs, during the week and in our Spring Service, which also speak of our commitment to this cause – When I Needed a Neighbour with the line 'whenever you need me I'll be there' and I the Lord of Sea and Sky with the line 'I will go Lord, if you lead me, I will hold your people in my heart'. We looked at how we can practically reach out to others.

'What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God' (Micah 6:8)

Climate Warriors' Challenge

Astronauts looking back at our Earth from space have spoken about how it completely changes their view of our planet - blown away by its beauty, and its fragility. Taking a step outside of our everyday lives helps us to see things differently. This Easter holiday you are encouraged to explore our planet with 'different eyes'. To explore a tiny patch of nature close to home that you have walked past a thousand times before, and see it with different eyes. The pioneer astronaut, John Glenn, says the most powerful quality in an astronaut is curiosity, or as we celebrate at Aston Rowant the value of 'Wonder'. So, we encourage you to 'wonder' this Easter. Where will your curiosity take you?

Book Review **Everyone Prays: Celebrating Faith Around the World by Alexis York Lumbard**



This is a great book to look at to highlight what is the same and what is different between faiths. Christians, Jews, and Muslims all pray. So do Hindus and Buddhists. Many others pray too. This book celebrates the diverse ways that people pray. It is a vibrant yet accessible book where young readers are transported on a visual tour across the globe. They will discover the Native American sun dance ceremony, visit the sacred sites in Jerusalem, behold the Shinto shrines in Japan, watch Maasai dances in Kenya, see pilgrimages to the river Ganges in India, and much more. There is also an appendix to help answer questions children might have, Everyone Prays offers children a chance to learn that although people from other places and cultures may seem different, we all share the diverse world of faith and prayer. And what a bright and beautiful world it is!

Happiness Palander: Active April

Keeping active is a great way to boost our mental wellbeing. So this month, let's find ways to get moving and stay active and healthy. This month we are encouraged to get moving and outdoors as much as possible. You can find this month's happiness calendar [here](#).

Attendance - This term

School target 97%	97% - 100%	90% -97%	Below 90%
Hedgehog Class	46%	23%	31%
Squirrel Class	82%	6%	12%
Fox Class	78%	7%	15%
Owl Class	55%	20%	25%

Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	65	385
Eden	73	353
Galilee	62	383
Jerusalem	66	380

Congratulations to **Bethlehem** for winning this term's housepoint challenge.



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Emails and letters sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
04.04.25	Email	All	Office	The JR Sports Group – Summer term clubs
04.04.25	Email	Fox Class	Mr Manning	Swimming
01.04.25	Email	EYFS	Office	Parent Consultations - Teams links
31.03.25	Email	KS1/KS2	Office	Parent Consultations - Teams links

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	Spring Service in Church
Fri 18th	12:00 Deadline to order lunches with the Kids Lunch Company
Thu 24th	09:00 Bags2School donations due in
Fri 25 th	Cycle training up to 20 th June
Mon 28 th	Oxford Brookes students return: Miss Wyness (Fox) and Miss Smith (Squirrel)
Tue 29th	Year 3/4 Swimming lessons start up to 8th 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 councillors
Sat 17 th	PTA sponsored walk for school library
Mon 19 th – Thu 22 nd	Walk to School Week
Wed 21st	Victorian Day for Fox Class
Fri 23 rd	INSET DAY
June	
Wed 11 th	PC Ben visit KS1
Wed 18 th	Dance Festival @ Lord William's Dance Studio
Mon 23rd	Cycling test for Year 5 – bikes in school
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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