



**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



**25<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

## *Message from the Head Teacher*

### *What Three Words*

Thank you to everyone who joined in our exercise of describing Aston Rowant School in three words. It was a fascinating process to undertake and the results provide a useful insight to what we all think of our school and will be invaluable to help shape our plans going forward. I promised an overview of the results and here it is:

Children:	1 <sup>st</sup> kind	2 <sup>nd</sup> (joint) brave and courageous	3 <sup>rd</sup> (joint) fun and happy
Staff:	1 <sup>st</sup> supportive	2 <sup>nd</sup> caring	3 <sup>rd</sup> community
Parents:	1 <sup>st</sup> nurturing	2 <sup>nd</sup> growth	3 <sup>rd</sup> family
Governors:	1 <sup>st</sup> caring	2 <sup>nd</sup> ambitious	3 <sup>rd</sup> rooted

The children are at the heart of the school experience, and their perspectives are crucial for understanding the learning environment we offer as well as the overall school culture. As parents you are partners in your children's education and have valuable insights into the school's impact on you as families. It is great to see unifying themes that speak to the vision and culture that we have taken time to nurture and this perspective will encourage us as we continue to build on this foundation.

### *Key Areas of Information about Aston Rowant School: How does the school make children feel safe?*

In addition to the themes above it was noteworthy just how many children and parents chose the word **safe** for the What Three Words exercise. Whilst my immediate thought about being safe relates to safeguarding and health and safety (a Headteacher's mindset!) it has been fun to unpick with the children what they meant by the idea of being safe.

The children talk about the calm and happy atmosphere with people they know and trust to help and support them. Children know that there is someone they can go and speak to when they are hurt or upset. Ofsted picked up on this same idea, 'Pupils happily look out for each other. They affirm that bullying has no place here, and know that adults would sort out any issues right away.' To help facilitate this all of the teachers are trained in Children's Mental Health and we have a Play Therapist so that everyone can support the children with concerns, worries and friendship problems. We ensure that we have plenty of staff on playground duty as well as UKS2 as playground leaders at break times to help children.

This is underpinned by the curriculum which teaches about various aspects of staying safe – online safety, sun safety, stranger danger, crossing roads safely, medications etc. The school provides regular opportunities for the children to share their concerns or worries and each class has a worry box or worry monster. We use the Zones of Regulation and tool boxes to help children feel safe about their emotions. We have regular assemblies about safety so that the children are aware of how we keep are working to keep them safe and to remind them of how they can look after themselves too. Our behaviour policy has clear rewards and consequences that are clearly explained and understood and are followed consistently and fairly.

On a practical level the school provides a clean, tidy and attractive environment Our playground equipment has safety surfaces underneath and is checked by an external company annually. The children are not allowed to play on playground equipment when it is very wet and slippery. The staff team spreads grit on the playground, pathways and ramps when it is icy and slippery. For school trips we complete detailed risk assessments, including taking numerous adults with us and working hard to ensure road safety and all teachers and teaching assistants are trained in first aid and administering epi pens.

Returning to the theme of safeguarding we complete an annual safeguarding audit which is reviewed by the governors and submitted to our local authority. In addition, we requested an independent safeguarding audit with the ESAT team in 2022 which said, 'The school has a highly effective safeguarding culture. All staff share a common purpose to protect children from harm and create an environment in which individuals thrive. Anyone who needs to raise a concern can feel confident that it will be taken seriously and handled appropriately. The Leadership team and Governors work hard to make sure that the school is safe and a happy environment in which children can learn and develop.' We have requested a fresh review for this year. Later in the year, the school will have secure fencing all around the perimeter and a locked gate. All visitors to the school are required to sign in and out and are given a colour coded lanyard. All members of staff wear a lanyard, have a DBS check and complete safeguarding and prevent training annually. The school completes detailed policies and risk assessments for each aspect of school life. We do a fire drill and a lockdown drill every term and have trained fire marshals on site each day. The school has annual external Health and Safety and financial audits which always uphold our due diligence and standards, 'Another clean sweep of the monitoring form this year, well done team; your paper evidence continues to be of a very high standard and easy to access/retrieve'.

Finally, it was also encouraging that the children also linked feeling safe to their learning experience. They feel empowered to take risks in their learning, feel safe to explore and encouraged to try and challenge themselves. Now that is 'growing together!'

*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 a fantastic start to the new term Hedgehogs! We have had a brilliant week getting stuck straight into our summer curriculum. This week we began our new topic on India. We learnt the story of "Rama and Sita" and how Diwali is celebrated with Diva lamps and Rangoli patterns. We made our own Rangoli from rice and sand. We practiced a dance based on the story of Rama and Sita. We then responded further in our play by making a theatre role-play area to enable us to make songs, dances and stories over the term. We enjoyed learning about the Indian flag and made our own. In Maths we practiced counting up to 20 with a fun game called '20 Bang!' We explored the composition of numbers 11-20 and the patterns within them. In P.E. we played a fun game called cups and saucers where we had to develop really good team work skills.



### *Squirrel Class*

Welcome back to the summer term Squirrels! We begin the new term with an updated whole school topic titled 'Signs and Symbols', and our leading English texts by author and illustrator Anthony Browne provide lots of opportunities to search for hidden clues and symbols in the striking illustrations. The children have completed some brilliant work practising inference skills, to reach conclusions based on evidence and reasoning. In Maths lessons we have moved onto the topic of measure, and both Y1 and Y2 have looked at standard and non-standard units of measurement (hands, cubes, cm and m) and used a range of tools to estimate and measure items and objects around the class and school environment. We have also explored the language of measure, identifying the difference between length and height. In Geography this week we reviewed our knowledge of physical and human features, and completed a short fieldwork walk in the local area. The class really enjoyed the opportunity to try and use some compasses to support them in using positional language to describe the location of the geographical features, although I think we need a bit more practise in using them accurately! We also enjoyed an Art lesson completing some observational drawings and sketches of birds and talked about sculptures too. A fantastic first week!



### *Fox Class*

Everyone obviously had a relaxing Easter as the whole class have come back rejuvenated and ready to grow in their learning! In Maths, Orange Group have covered adding and subtracting fractions whilst the Green Group have enjoyed working with tenths and hundredths. In our English, our leading text is Street Child by Berlie Doherty and we have spent lots of time working on our inference skills and discussing what life would have been like in Victorian times. It has led to some deep discussions about wealth, poverty, health and how fortunate we are today. We also spent some time using dictionaries and iPads to establish the meaning of new vocabulary based in Victorian times such as carriage, workhouse and shilling. In Science, we learnt about what plants need to grow healthily and are currently observing what happens to a plant that does not have access to air. In our History topic we discussed what childhood means then looked at a range of primary and secondary sources before establishing the key historical skills of identifying how change and continuity have taken place over time in relation to children. They noted that children playing games have continued over time whereas clothing has definitely changed! Amazingly, it's been 70 days since we mummified our tomatoes and as history tells us at that point the body was unwrapped and so we unwrapped our tomatoes to see what the process had done! The children were so excited to see what had occurred! As courageous advocates, we have spent some time this week thinking about how we as a class can embrace the national scheme of Walk to School week. More to come over the next few weeks!



### *Owl Class*

The children have returned to Owl refreshed and ready to tackle the new term! We began in Maths with Year Five getting to grips with ratio and scale drawing, whilst Year 6 turned their attention towards substitution of values in Algebra, making very competent start. The SATs are now firmly on the horizon, and each maths lesson ends with a selection of SAT's level reasoning questions to help the Year Sixes consolidate and deepen their understanding of the topic. In English, the children have met Macbeth (who looked quite a lot like Mr Manning) as they interviewed him about his meeting with three, mysterious weird sisters who told him he could become King of Scotland! In William Shakespeare's birthday month, what better time to look at 'The Scottish Play' and use it as the basis of our persuasive argument writing unit? The children also roleplayed, one as Lady Macbeth, the other as Macbeth, as Lady Macbeth attempted to coerce Macbeth into getting rid of the pesky current king! In Science, the children began their unit on unbalanced forces, starting with gravity; they used chalk and measuring tape to draw accurately scaled down drawing on the playground of the planets, to understand that the greater the mass of an object, the greater its gravitational pull! In Art, we began our Typography and Maps unit, as the children created their own style of typeface that expresses their interests: a challenging but satisfying activity, that did generate quite a bit of tidying up!

**GRATITUDE    RESILIENCE    OUTREACH    WONDER    TRUST    HARMONY**

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





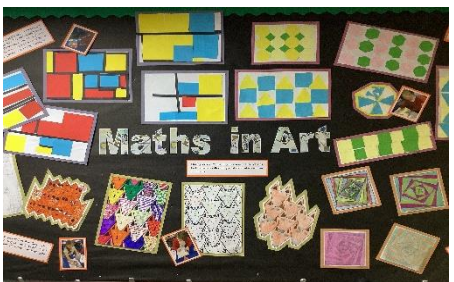
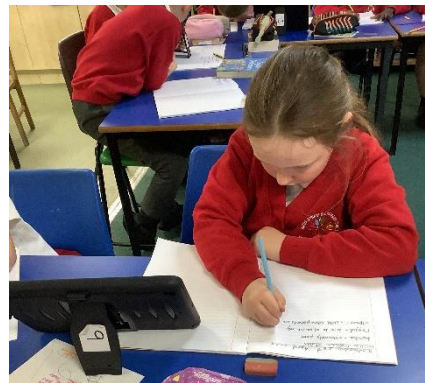
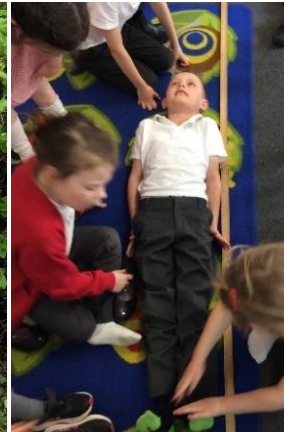
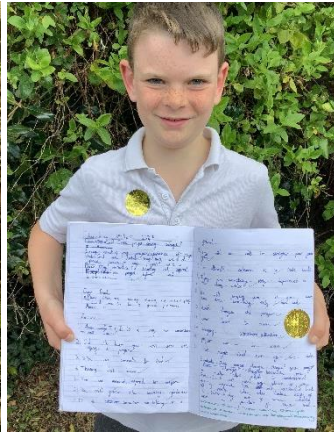
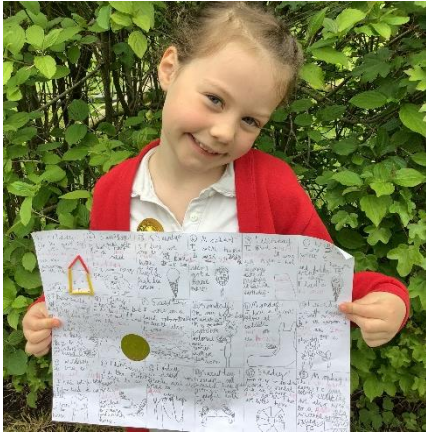
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## Photo Diary of the Week



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## Whole School Topic - Autumn Term: Signs & Symbols

### Values: Harmony

This week we looked about words of 'Harmony' that were written by the apostle Paul over 200 years ago. Paul wanted to teach people that the best way to live in friendship is to encourage one another rather than being critical and negative. Building takes time, perseverance and commitment where destroying or tearing time takes no time at all. We discussed how we can make this a priority.

'Encourage one another and build each other up.' | Thessalonians 5:11

### Climate Warriors' Challenge

Imagine walking out of the supermarket with three bags of shopping, dropping one in the car park, and just not bothering to pick it up! A third of all food produced globally is lost or wasted every year, and 40% of UK food waste currently finds its way into landfill sites – where it's broken down by bacteria, producing methane – a potent greenhouse gas. UK households throw away 6.4 million tonnes of EDIBLE food each year – that's equivalent to cramming over 100 Albert Hall's full of food waste! And that doesn't include the INEDIBLE waste. This week we are encouraging you to join with many others around the world on [STOP FOOD WASTE DAY](#) – Wednesday 30th April. Take the opportunity this week to ascertain which foods are being 'binned' and unnecessarily wasted. Can you try 'buying loose' to save on waste ... or maybe try out some new recipes?

Links that may be of interest:

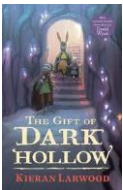
[Stopfoodwasteday](#)

[#lovefoodhatewaste](#)

[What happens to your food waste?](#)

[Worm vs Banana time-lapse video](#)

### Book Review



#### **Podkin: The Gift of Dark Hollow by Keiran Larwood reviewed by Monty, Year 6**

This is an exciting and adventurous story that I really enjoyed. Podkin and his friends go on a journey full of danger, dark magic, and mystery. The Gorm were scary, but they made the story more exciting. Some parts were a little sad, but I liked how the characters stayed brave and worked together. I also liked how the story was told like a legend, as it made the world feel more real. I would definitely recommend this book and have the next one already, which is called the Beast Of Grimheart!

### Happiness Calendar: 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 week

School target 97%	97% - 100%	90% -97%	Below 90%
Hedgehog Class	100%	0%	0%
Squirrel Class	94%	0%	6%
Fox Class	89%	0%	11%
Owl Class	95%	0%	5%

### Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	26	26
Eden	28	28
Galilee	17	17
Jerusalem	19	19

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## ***Emails and letters sent this Week***

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
25.04.25	Email	Fox	Office	Swimming reminder
23.04.25	Email	All	Office	Bags2School reminder
22.04.25	Letter	Hedgehog	Mrs Olsen	Show and tell
22.04.25	Email	Squirrel	Mrs Biggin	Resources
22.04.25	Email	All	Mrs France	Parking thank you

<b>April</b>	
Mon 28 <sup>th</sup>	Miss Smith (Squirrel) and Miss Wyness (Fox) returning trainee teachers
Tues 29 <sup>th</sup>	Swimming starts Fox Class
Wed 30 <sup>th</sup>	FGB – Business Meeting
<b>May</b>	
Thu 1 <sup>st</sup>	Mock SIAMS visit by Diocese
<b>Wed 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>VE Day celebration – am lessons, games pm street party, parents and carers welcome</b> <b>Wear red, white and blue</b>
w/c 12 <sup>th</sup>	SATs Mon- SPaG Tue – Reading Wed – Maths 1 & 2 Thur Maths 3
Wed 14 <sup>th</sup>	Smartphone Free Childhood parent meeting with local councilor Paul Swan 19:00-20:00
Sat 17 <sup>th</sup>	Family sponsored walk for school library
Mon 19 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Walk to School Week
Wed 21 <sup>st</sup>	Fox Victorian Day
Fri 23 <sup>rd</sup>	INSET day
<b>June</b>	
Wed 4 <sup>th</sup>	Stay and Play #1 for EYFS Sept 25
Wed 11 <sup>th</sup>	PC Ben visit KS1
<b>Thu 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Year 4/5/6 cricket at Thame Cricket Club</b>
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup>	Dance Festival @ Lord William's Dance Studio
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup> /25 <sup>th</sup> / 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Icknield Buddy System
Wed 25 <sup>th</sup>	Opera First workshop in school for Owl Class Stay and Play #2 for EYFS Sept 25
<b>July</b>	
<b>Tue 1<sup>st</sup> / Wed 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>KS2 Open Air Performance</b>
Fri 4 <sup>th</sup>	Lord William's taster day
Tue 8 <sup>th</sup>	Opera First performance @ Garsington Opera for Owl Class
Tue 8 <sup>th</sup> / Wed 9 <sup>th</sup>	Icknield Transfer Day
<b>Wed 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>School move up day, Stay and Play #3</b>
w/c 14 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports Enrichment Week inc Sports Day Wed 16 <sup>th</sup>

## ***Academic Year Calendar***

<b>Summer 25</b>	
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)
<b>Autumn 25</b>	
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)
<b>Spring 26</b>	
Tue 6 <sup>th</sup> Jan – Fri 13 <sup>h</sup> Feb	Spring Term (1)
Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> Feb	HALF TERM
Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb – Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Spring Term (2)

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