



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



9th May 2025

Message from the Head Teacher

VE Day 80th Anniversary Celebrations

This week we marked the 80th anniversary of VE Day. This major historical milestone provided a valuable opportunity to engage pupils in learning about World War II, remembrance, and British history. On Wednesday we had whole school worship with a presentation from Mrs White, made a human 80 on the field followed by a range of VE Day classroom activities designed to spark curiosity, build knowledge, and bring history to life – helping our children understand the past in meaningful, age-appropriate ways. We ended with a tea party and sing song. It has also been a chance to come together as a school community to celebrate the peace and freedom that we enjoy today. Thank you to those who shared family memories and memorabilia and also to everyone who contributed to our wonderful tea party. Thank you to Mrs Biggin and the staff team who created, in the words of a Year 5, ‘the best day ever.’

Key Areas of Information about Aston Rowant School: What are British Values?

In November 2014 the Government created an expectation on all schools to promote the fundamental British Values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

Democracy is fully integrated within Aston Rowant Primary School. Both pupil and parent/carer voice play a central part in developing school improvement priorities. We actively encourage children to have a voice and share their views and opinions regularly. Every September, children are elected by their peers to represent their class as school councillors from Y1 to Y6 with the winners announced in assembly. The children love this process and have great respect for the outcomes. The council meet regularly and take the ideas from the meeting back to their classes for discussion. These election processes reflect our British electoral system and demonstrate democracy in action. In the classroom every child also contributes their ideas to the creation of a class charter. This sets ground rules for classroom conduct and establishes the standards of behaviour children can expect from each other and their teacher over the year ahead. Governors also talk regularly to children to establish their views as a way of ensuring that school self-evaluation is robust and accurate, and therefore help our school to be the very best it can be. Finally, children take part in the UK Parliament Week where they learn more about the UK parliamentary system and how wider decisions that affect them, their families, our school and the wider communities are made.

The Rule of Law

Children are taught to understand the value and need for laws; that they are there for individual protection, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Children are taught that the freedom to hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law. Collective Worship and discussions in class focus on recognising right from wrong. Children have to abide by school rules on a daily basis. Children play by rules when representing the school at sporting events and workshops that they attend out of school. Children and staff follow the Behaviour and Discipline Policy, they know it, understand it and like it. Consequences, in line with the school’s policy, remind children that breaking the rules may impact on themselves and others. We encourage visits from our local Police and Fire Service to reinforce this.

Individual Liberty

Within school, children are actively encouraged to make choices and decisions, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. Children are taught to understand their personal freedoms and how to use these rights to best effect to ensure they make choices in a safe manner (through Online safety and PSHE lessons). Through challenges in the classroom and participation in extra-curricular activities pupils are given the freedom to make choices and follow these through.

Mutual Respect

Children learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community are expected to treat each other with respect and kindness. This is reflected in our core values of Growth, Resilience, Outreach, Wonder, Trust and Harmony.

Tolerance of Those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

We are a diverse school and actively promote it through our celebrations of different faiths and cultures. RE, PSHE lessons and Collective Worship reinforce messages of tolerance and respect for others. Children learn about the beliefs and practices of people of the following world faiths; Christianity, Judaism, Sikhism, Hinduism, Buddhism and Islam as well as world views whilst at Aston Rowant and where possible visit places of worship that are important to different faiths.

British Values are important because they form a shared framework for behaviour and interactions in the UK, fostering a society that values democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect. These values promote national identity, social cohesion, and fairness for all, ensuring a more inclusive and harmonious society for this generation and for generations to come.

Kind regards
Mrs France

GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY

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



Teaching and Learning in the Classrooms this week:



Hedgehog Class

This week we have been thinking about readiness for Year 1. We've been really honing in on good listening skills, working at a good pace and improving our teamwork. We really enjoyed celebrating VE Day on Wednesday. Learning about the evacuees was so much fun. Finding out about how the children were sent away from their families to live with strangers was very interesting. We thought it would be really scary but also quite exciting and new. We learnt how they would forage for scrap metal and they would have their food rationed. We looked at what things they would need to take with them and decided what to put in our suitcases if we were evacuees. We played some fun 1940's games including pick up sticks and dominos. In our topic we used salt dough to make diva lamps, developing our fine motor control through using small tools and painting them very carefully. In Maths we've been learning about subtraction and 'the difference', using our number facts to work out how many have been taken from a small group of objects. Finally, we loved our 'wheels day' on Friday – our special treat for collecting all of the marbles in our treat jar.

Please may we request for donations of spare clothes? Specifically, underwear, trousers (normal or PE), skirts or shorts and also please do return any borrowed items if you have any – thank you!



Squirrel Class

A short week with May Day Bank Holiday but we have certainly managed to make the most of our time at school this week! The class have started their own stories, planning and then writing the prequel story for the main character Jack in our leading text 'The Tunnel' by Anthony Browne. Next week we will refine and edit the final pieces. In Maths we are continuing to explore measure, this week focusing on capacity and volume. The children looked at scales on different containers and identified the units of measure on these. We also talked about the language of empty, half full/half empty and full. In Geography this week we reviewed continents and looked at world maps, identifying the U.K. and China (our contrasting non-European place of study). Next week we will explore China more closely, picking out human and physical features to learn about in more depth. Lastly, the class were so wonderful and engaged with our VE/VJ Day 80 celebrations, and I was so moved to see them talk so proudly about their family members and how they contributed to the war effort in different ways. We saw amazing pictures, war medals and even an original navigator flight log from a Wellington Bomber! Thank you so much for sharing these with us.

Fox Class



What a wonderful week we've had full of growing our learning and growing our respect for those who gave so much during the war. In Maths, Orange Group have worked on using pounds and pence with converting, adding and subtracting. Green Group have compared, ordered and rounded decimals and really have grasped the concepts of working with tenths and hundredths. In our English this week we have focussed on life in the workhouse and created a report explaining what they were, what happened there and why people were sent there. It was a real eye-opener to the class! In Science, we focussed on understanding the transporting of water within a plant. We saw the effect of coloured water on a chrysanthemum and then tried the investigation ourselves using celery – we are keeping a careful eye to see what will happen! We also sent some cress into a darkened cupboard to observe what effect the lack of light has on a plant. During our VE Day celebrations, we created a timeline of events during WWII and enjoyed a wide range of 1940s games; our particular favourites were blind man's buff, marbles, cats cradle and leapfrog. We have also managed to find time to work on our courageous advocacy project for Walk to School Week – phew! That's all in 4 days!



Owl Class

Hello, it's Miss White here! I am a visiting trainee teacher in my fifth week with Owl Class and what a memorable week it's been! Owl Class marked the 80th anniversary of VE Day in true 1940s style. The children threw themselves into traditional games like leapfrog and pick-up sticks, whilst our classroom buzzed with the nostalgic sounds of 1940s radio broadcasts. In Collective Worship, we explored our verse for the half term on Harmony, Luke 6:31: "Do to others as you would have them do to you." Owl Class shared thoughtful reflections on the importance of respect and kindness in friendships, highlighting how every student at Aston Rowant School is valued and treated equally. In English, we delved into the art of instructional writing, focusing on tone and register. They were challenged to examine how word choice, imagery, sentence structure, and punctuation can all influence the tone. On Thursday, Year 5 and 6 wrote some impressive - and admittedly gruesome- instructions from Lady Macbeth to Macbeth on how to assassinate King Duncan. It was great to see the culmination of all their hard work over the week and I am looking forward to the children self-assessing their instructions on Friday. Maths saw Year 5 students differentiating between expressions and equations as well as solving equations with more than one missing variable. Year 6 students brushed up on their algebraic knowledge and problem-solving skills in preparation for their SATs next week. As I have only two-weeks left on placement, I have been reflecting on what a joy it has been to be a part of Aston Rowant School, especially with the wonderful Owl Class. Their enthusiasm and kindness have made my placement truly special. As Year 6 approach their SATs next week, I wish them the very best of luck.



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Photo Diary of the Week



GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY

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



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V.F. Day Photo Diary



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Whole School Topic - Autumn Term: Signs & Symbols

Values: Harmony

This week in Collective Worship we listened to a story about how some good friends supported one of their group who was paralysed and needed Jesus. We reflected about our own friends and how we can recognise need and support one another in difficult times. We said a special prayer: Father – let our friendships be strong – so that may be a blessing to others; let our friendships be open – so that may be a haven to others; let our friendships be gentle – so that may bring peace to others. Amen

‘When Jesus saw their [the friends] faith, he said, “Friend, your sins are forgiven.” Luke 5: 20

Climate Warriors' Challenge

Our Climate Warriors weekly challenges provide an opportunity for our whole school community to take tangible action, as part of a team of like-minded individuals as well as other families and children across the UK. It's [Water Saving Week](#) (May 12th - 16th) where we are all being encouraged to help find ways to save water. This week's challenge asks us to become 'washing wizards' – to reduce our energy and water usage and cut carbon emissions ... whilst making the laundry pile disappear!

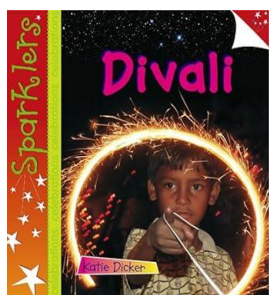
If you'd like to learn more about micro-plastics and washing take a look at:

[Microplastics ... and how to reduce them - Natural History Museum](#)

[The Psychology of Climate Change Engagement: a guide for educators](#)

[Relational resilience to Climate Change: a guide for educators](#)

Book Review by Hedgehog Class



This book has been helping us with our topic work on India. We have found it very useful. The information is printed clearly with coloured backgrounds and clear headings. There are great captions and funny labels to keep the children interested. The vibrant photos provoke great discussions and the subject matter is explained at an age-appropriate level. This is what the children said:

Casper: “I liked all the bits that told us about the celebrations.”

Sienna: “I love the information and the good pictures.”

William: “I like the elephant God.”

Otis: “I love all of the pages and I loved the monkey.”

Happiness Calendar: Meaningful May

This month, we're encouraging you to try find ways to be part of something bigger. You can find this month's happiness calendar [here](#).

Attendance – This week

School target 97%	97% - 100%	90% -97%	Below 90%
Hedgehog Class	92%	0%	8%
Squirrel Class	91%	0%	9%
Fox Class	96%	0%	4%
Owl Class	80%	0%	20%

Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	34	96
Eden	31	97
Galilee	27	90
Jerusalem	36	100

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SUPPORT
CONNECT
INFLUENCEEco-Schools
March | 2024 - 2025Green Tree School
Bronze Award

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Emails and letters sent this week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
09.05.25	Email	All	Mrs France	Roof works
09.05.25	Email	Fox	Mrs Healy	Spellings
06.05.25	Email	Owl	Mr Manning	Homework
06.05.25	Email	Fox	Mrs Healy	Homework
06.05.25	Email	All	Mrs Biggin	VE Day stories

May	
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 Paul Swan 19:30-20:30
Mon 19 th – Fri 23 rd	Walk to School Week
Wed 21 st	Fox Victorian Day
Fri 23 rd	INSET day
June	
Wed 4 th	Stay and Play #1 for EYFS Sept 25
Mon 9 th – Fri 13 th	Year 1 Phonics Screening Check
Wed 11 th	PC Ben visit KSI
Thu 12 th	Year 4/5/6 cricket at Thame Cricket Club
Fri 13 th	1pm Fireflies visit to Aston Rowant School
Mon 16 th – Fri 20 th	Arts Week
Wed 18 th	Dance Festival @ Lord William's Dance Studio
Wed 18 th /25 th / 2 nd	Icknield Buddy System
Wed 25 th	Opera First workshop in school for Owl Class Stay and Play #2 for EYFS Sept 25
Fri 27 th	Bee Keeper visit and workshop Fox Class
Sun 29 th	PTA Sponsored Walk 14:00 – new date
July	
Tue 1 st / Wed 2 nd	KS2 Open Air Performance
Fri 4 th	Lord William's taster day
Tue 8 th	Opera First performance @ Garsington Opera for Owl Class
Tue 8 th / Wed 9 th	Icknield Transfer Day
Wed 9 th	School move up day, Stay and Play #3
w/c 14 th July	Sports Enrichment Week inc Sports Day Wed 16 th

Academic Year Calendar

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	
Wed 3 rd Sept – Fri 24 th Oct	Autumn Term (1) (INSET Mon 1 st and Tue 2 nd)
Mon 27 th – Fri 31 st Oct	HALF TERM
Mon 3 rd Nov – Fri 19 th Dec	Autumn Term (2)
Spring 26	
Tue 6 th Jan – Fri 13 th Feb	Spring Term (1) (INSET Mon 5 th)
Mon 16 th – Fri 20 th Feb	HALF TERM
Mon 23 rd Feb – Fri 27 th Mar	Spring Term (2)
Summer 26	
Mon 13 th April – Thu 21 st May	Summer Term (1) (INSET Fri 22 nd)
Mon 25 th May – Fri 29 th May	HALF TERM
Mon 1 st June – Fri 17 th July	Summer Term (2) (INSET Mon 20 th)

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