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**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



**13<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

## *From the Headteacher*

### *Science Week: Exploring the Unknown: Curiosity*

What an extraordinary week of science it has been! This year's theme, 'Exploring the Unknown' gave our children the chance to think, question and investigate like real scientists. Every class stepped into the role of explorer, engineer, coder or astronaut!

#### **Coding a Space Landing**

We launched the week on Friday 6th with Fox and Owl Classes coding their own *space landings*. Children debugged, adapted and perfected their algorithms to guide a digital spacecraft safely onto the Martian surface.

#### **Fossils with Oxford University**

On Monday, Fox and Owl chatted with two scientists from Oxford University, who brought incredible fossils for the children to examine. Hands-on palaeontology inspired some brilliant "I wonder..." questions about life on Earth millions of years ago.

#### **Whole School Science Workshop Day**

Thursday was one of the children's favourite days: our whole school workshop day, packed with space themed investigations:

- EYFS: balloon rockets zooming across classrooms
- KS1: investigations: Why Do Stars Shimmer? What Food Grows in Space? How Do Shelters Survive Solar Storms?
- KS2: five rotating investigations including:
  - Forces in Space Travel
  - Mars Rover 'Egg-bot' Landings
  - Testing Martian Soil (regolith)
  - Mars Solar Power Storm Shields
  - Meteor Impact Craters

Children built, tested, questioned, improved and retested - showing brilliant resilience and teamwork.

#### **Live Scientist Q&A**

On Friday KS2 joined a *live chat with a scientist*, asking high-level questions about space, physics and engineering.

#### **What the Children Said**

##### EYFS

- "My balloon rocket zoomed really fast!"
- "Science is fun because I get to try things."

##### KS1

- "We looked at why stars shimmer!"
- "Our shelter was blown by the hairdryer – but it survived!"

##### KS2

- "Our egg survived! That means our rover design worked."
- "Storms on Mars can last years – I didn't know that before."
- "It felt like real engineering. We improved it every time."
- "Speaking to a scientist made me want to be one!"

#### **A Huge Thank You**

Thank you to our teachers, families, visiting scientists and everyone who helped create this memorable week. Science Week 2026 has once again shown that curiosity leads to discovery - and our Aston Rowant children have it in abundance.

### *Tag Rugby*

A huge thank you to Mrs Campbell for organising and running our inter-house Tag Rugby competition this week. The sun shone, spirits were high, and children from every year group absolutely loved taking part. Thank you too to parents and staff for ensuring that everything ran efficiently and that the children were encouraged and supported.

### *Finally...Oxfordshire Cross Country Winners*

We are delighted to announce that two Aston Rowant pupils achieved podium places at the Oxfordshire Schools Cross Country event on Saturday 28th February. Max (Y4) won silver in the Year 4 boys' race, and Max (Y5) won bronze in the Year 5 boys' race. Next year, we would love to enter more runners and aim for a team trophy. We need at least three pupils per age group to qualify. The event is the same time each year, we will share 2026–27 dates once confirmed. If your child is interested, please let us know.

*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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Merit | 2024 - 2025Green Tree School  
Bronze Award

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## Teaching and Learning in the Classrooms this week:



### Hedgehog Class

This week has been full of curiosity, creativity and hands-on exploration! In Literacy, the children have been reading information books to learn all about how the chicks are developing inside their eggs. They have begun creating their own information books, writing factual captions and drawing clear diagrams to show what they've learned. It's been wonderful to see their enthusiasm for sharing scientific knowledge. In Maths, we've been investigating 3D shapes and their properties. The children printed shape faces using paint or playdough, then took their learning outside to test which shapes rolled the furthest and which ones got stuck. There was lots of brilliant thinking about *why* different shapes behave the way they do. As part of Science Week, we launched into space-themed learning. The children made their own model solar systems using spherical polystyrene planets, created star constellations and projected them onto the ceiling, and even built balloon rockets. It was a week full of awe, wonder and excitement. Our plants are growing beautifully, and we would be very grateful for any vegetable plants ready to go into the garden. Next term, the children will be using what they've grown to make their own vegetable pizzas. Finally, a small request: we need some boys pants for our spare clothes collection please as we have completely run out. Any donations would be greatly appreciated, thank you.



### Squirrel Class

This week in our KSI classroom we had a busy and exciting time across all our learning. In English, the children enjoyed retelling the story *Lost and Found* by Oliver Jeffers, thinking carefully about the characters and events as they practised putting the story into their own words. In Maths, Year 1 pupils worked hard on using number lines to help with counting and understanding number order, while Year 2 focused on doubling and halving, as well as identifying odd and even numbers. In RE, we discussed what stories from the Bible tell us about Jesus and God, sharing thoughtful ideas about the messages within them. During DT, the children became young engineers by designing and making mini basketball hoops out of straws, then testing how different weight placements affected their stability. We also had great fun celebrating Science Week! The children created nests from clay and went on a mini forage for sticks and leaves to build a comfy, stable home for a chick. To test their designs, we investigated whether the nests could survive "high winds" from a hairdryer and "rainy days" with a sprinkle of water. The Squirrels also did fabulously in the Tag Rugby tournament on Wednesday afternoon. It was a fantastic week full of creativity, curiosity, and teamwork!



### Fox Class

This week, Fox Class have been finding out more information about the rainforest's Kapok tree. The impetus for this is that we have been reading a fiction book, based around a Kapok tree, in which creatures of the rainforest use their persuasive voices to convince an axe wielding forest worker that he should not cut it down. The children used drama to explore these reasons in more detail. We also watched a video featuring children from Ecuador whose homes are actually in the rainforest, and how they are taken to their school in a long canoe along a tributary of the Amazon River. The children spent time discussing the issue of deforestation, and why it may seem desirable to some people but undesirable to others. We have been looking at teeth in different animals, thinking about how the size and shape of their teeth can give us an indication of an animal's diet, and using the terminology carnivore, herbivore and omnivore. We have also looked at food chains and how energy is transferred along the food chain, with the ultimate source of energy being the sun. Year 4 are coming towards the end of their Maths unit on Fraction. Year 3 have finished their unit and have moved onto Mass. Foxe Class will be very sorry to say farewell to Miss Hand today, as she returns to her teaching course at university. We have all enjoyed meeting and working with her. Thank you Miss Hand.



### Owl Class

This week has found the Owls using all their values and skills as we navigated our way through our excellent British Science Week activities, as well all our usual, challenging topics; Literacy found us writing a persuasive note to the Fisherman character from the 'The Island', attempting to persuade him to continue to fight for the rights of the strange visitor- this involved using subjective openers in our writing, such as 'It is vital that you keep protecting this stranger...' or 'If I were you, I'd make sure...' In Geography we also explored the physical geographical features that are found in a desert biome - and it isn't always the ones you'd expect! Science found the children identifying the features of invertebrates and sorting them into the correct Phylum: if you don't know you Cnidarians from your Arthropods or Echinoderms, ask your Owl to clear that up for you! Maths found us exploring 3D shapes and the volume - how much three-dimensional space do these shapes take up? Starting with number-link cubes we built cuboids and realised we could start by finding the area (Width x Height) and then multiply that by the number of 'slices' or layers (which is the *depth* of our shape). Now the children were ready to apply this to use the formula for Volume of cuboids -  $W \times H \times D = V^3$ . All this, plus a Tag Rugby Tournament, and Tennis coaching! We finished the week with a celebratory bottle rocket launch to close out our Science Week - an out of this world week of learning - well done Owl Class.

**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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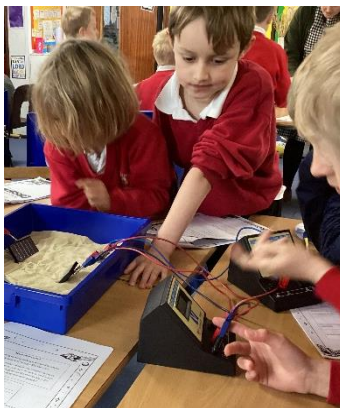
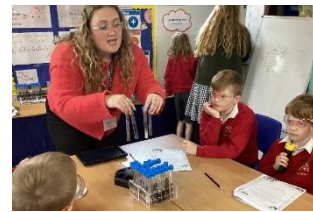
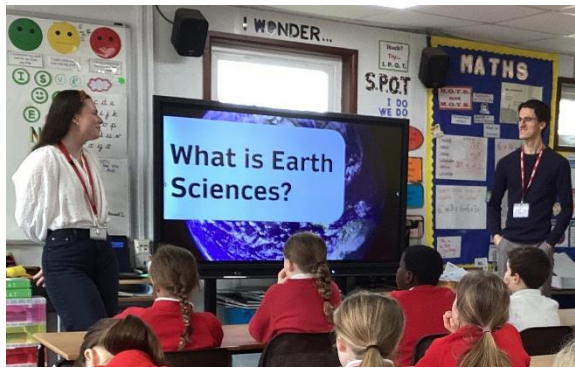
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## Science Enrichment Week



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## Whole School Topic - Spring Term: A Sense of Belonging

### Value: Outreach

In Collective Worship this week, we've been thinking about what it truly means to have the courage to care. We invited the children to reflect on the small, everyday choices that allow kindness and love to shine—at school, at home, and throughout our wider community. Sometimes a challenge feels too big for one person to fix, or our own worries can seem heavy to carry alone. But we explored how even the smallest act of reaching out—offering a smile, a listening ear, or a helping hand—can have a powerful impact. When we support each other and face things together, the load becomes lighter and hope begins to grow.

*'Whatever you did for one of your brothers, you did also for me.'* Matthew 25:40

### Climate Warriors' Challenge

As we explored solar panels on Mars during Science Week, it seemed the perfect moment to think about how we use energy here on Earth. Electric lighting is essential to our daily lives, and Edison's perseverance transformed the modern world - but could we use it more sparingly? This week's Young Climate Warriors challenge encourages children to 'zap the lights' at home, make the most of daylight, and switch off anything not needed. Just as solar energy could help astronauts survive on Mars, harnessing the sun's power on Earth is crucial too. Every 1.5 millionths of a second, the sun releases more energy than humans use in a whole year - plenty of reason to learn from our Science Week investigations and support more solar-powered solutions!

Links to:

['solar-powered ironing cart'](#) - invented by a 14yr old.

[North London street 'local power station'](#)

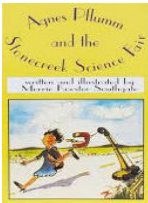
[SolarAid project is helping 'light up villages'](#), and

Thailand's [world's largest floating solar farm](#)

### Reading Missions Challenge

**March Mammoth:** Reading a book with: EYFS 10 or more pages, KS1 50 pages, LKS2 200 pages, UKS2 500+ pages

### Book Review Agnes Pflumm and the Stonecreek Science Fair by Merrie Koester



If you're looking for a brilliant science themed read for Primary pupils, we highly recommend Agnes Pflumm and the Stonecreek Science Fair. This funny, child friendly story follows Miss Agnes, an eccentric substitute teacher who hates science fairs... until her class helps her discover the joy of questioning, experimenting and learning together. Packed with humour and real scientific enquiry, it's a perfect way to inspire confidence and curiosity in young scientists. A great choice for KS2 readers who enjoy stories with heart, chaos and creativity.

### Happiness Calander: 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	94%	0%	6%
Squirrel Class	85%	0%	15%
Fox Class	100%	0%	0%
Owl Class	81%	0%	19%

### Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	46	118
Eden	48	116
Galilee	51	109
Jerusalem	37	83

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## *Emails and Letters Sent this Week*

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
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March	
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup>	Poetry Slam Competition Oxfordshire Cricket Club Day Hedgehog trip – Discovery Lookout Centre
Thu 19 <sup>th</sup>	Y5/6 Netball fixture at Barley Hill School
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup>	Red Nose Day – wear your jumper or cardigans back to front for a donation to Comic Relief Year 5 Cycle training starts onsite (bikes and helmets in school) Spring raffle at the end of Collective Worship
Wed 25 <sup>th</sup>	FGB
Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup>	RE Enrichment Week 'Journeys of Hope'
Fri 27 <sup>th</sup>	9:15 Spring Service in Church 1:30 End of Term 1:30-3:15 PTA event
April	
Fri 17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>14:30 Book look and cake sale</b> Y5 Cycle training offsite starts – bikes and helmets in school every Friday please
Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup>	14:30 Rock Steady Concert
Mon 20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Parents evening for Squirrel, Fox and Owl: 15:45 – 17:30 TBC</b>
Tue 21 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Parents evening Hedgehog, Squirrel, Fox and Owl: 16:00 – 19:00 TBC</b>

## *Academic Year Calendar 2025-26*

Spring 26	
Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb – Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Spring Term (2)
Summer 26	
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> April – Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Summer Term (1) INSET Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> May
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> May – Fri 29 <sup>th</sup> May	HALF TERM
Mon 1 <sup>st</sup> June – Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Summer Term (2) INSET Mon 20 <sup>th</sup> July

## *Academic Year Calendar 2026-27*

Autumn 26	
Tue 1 <sup>st</sup> Sept – Fri 23 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	Autumn Term (1) INSET DAYS: Tue 1 <sup>st</sup> Sep, Wed 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sept and Fri 23 <sup>rd</sup> Oct
Mon 26 <sup>th</sup> Oct – Fri 30 <sup>th</sup> Oct	HALF TERM
Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup> Nov – Fri 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Autumn Term (2)
Spring 27	
Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan – Fri 12 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Spring Term (1) INSET Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan
Mon 15 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> Feb	HALF TERM
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup> Feb – Thu 25 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Spring Term (2)
Summer 27	
Mon 12 <sup>th</sup> April – Fri 28 <sup>th</sup> May	Summer Term (1)
Mon 31 <sup>st</sup> May – Fri 4 <sup>th</sup> Jun	HALF TERM
Mon 7 <sup>th</sup> June – Wed 21 <sup>st</sup> July	Summer Term (2) INSET Mon 7 <sup>th</sup> Jun

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