

Pupil Voice – Science Week 2026

Exploring the Unknown: Curiosity

Science Week 2026 at Aston Rowant was an incredible celebration of curiosity, creativity and hands-on scientific discovery. The week was packed with activities that helped children think like real scientists — questioning, testing, predicting, experimenting and exploring the wonders of space, forces, materials and adaptation.

Here is what our curious learners said...

Friday 6th March – Coding a Space Landing (Fox & Owl)

Children began the week by becoming mission coders, programming a safe landing sequence for a virtual spacecraft.

Pupil Voice:

“My code worked! I landed on Mars!” (Year 3)

“Coding felt like telling the spaceship what to do.” (Year 4)

“I had to change my algorithm until it didn’t crash.” (Year 5)

“I want to be a NASA coder now.” (Year 6)

Monday 9th March – Oxford University Fossils Visit (Fox & Owl)

A morning of palaeontology filled the hall as children handled fossils, learned about ancient life, and asked insightful questions.

Pupil Voice:

“The ammonite was older than I can imagine!” (Year 3)

“Fossils show how life changes... that’s adaptation!” (Year 4)

“I never knew bones could turn into rock.” (Year 5)

“The scientist said we were great at questions!” (Year 6)

Thursday 11th March – Whole-School Science Workshop Day

A massive day of space-themed investigations!

Each phase explored experiments suited to their age and stage.

EYFS – Balloon Rockets

Children designed and launched balloon rockets along strings.

“My rocket zoomed!” (EYFS)

“It went faster when I put more air in.” (EYFS)

“We made space rockets!” (EYFS)

KS1 – Mini Space Explorers

“My favourite was making the rover wheels.” (Year 1)

“We pretended the hall floor was Mars!” (Year 1)

“I learned rocks from space are called meteors.” (Year 2)

“Science is fun because we get to try things.” (Year 2)

KS2 – Five Rotating Space Stations of Science

1. Forces in Space Travel

Exploring friction, heat resistance and electrostatic forces using plastic rods.

“The rods repelled each other — that was unexpected!” (Year 3)

“Spacecraft need to be light AND strong. That’s tricky.” (Year 4)

“The force made the tissue paper jump!” (Year 5)

“I finally understand why shuttles get so hot.” (Year 6)

2. Mars Rover Landings – Egg-Bot Engineering

Designing protective landers for a Rover (egg), then testing against impact AND Mars’ rocky terrain.

“Our egg survived! The parachute saved it.” (Year 3)

“The rover broke the first time... so we improved it.” (Year 4)

“Making it move over rocks was the hardest bit.” (Year 5)

“This felt like real engineering. Failure made it better.” (Year 6)

3. Space Soil Samples – Testing Regolith

Comparing different “Martian soils” to identify where astronauts could grow plants.

“Our soil didn’t hold water. The plant would die!” (Year 3)

“Regolith has metals that make it bad for roots.” (Year 4)

“We found the best one — it drained slowly.” (Year 5)

“Real habitats would need soil science like this.” (Year 6)

4. Mars Solar Power Challenge

Protecting solar panels from Martian dust storms and debris.

“My shield blew away — too windy!” (Year 3)

“We tested different shapes to stop the dust.” (Year 4)

“I didn’t know storms on other planets can last years.” (Year 5)

“You have to think like a scientist AND an engineer.” (Year 6)

5. Mars Surface Dangers – Meteor Impact Testing

Predicting crater sizes using different meteors and surfaces.

“The bigger meteor made the biggest crater!” (Year 3)

“I noticed the height changed the crater too.” (Year 4)

“Powder showed the patterns of the impact.” (Year 5)

“We used real scientific prediction skills.” (Year 6)

Friday 13th March – Chat with a Scientist (Live Link)

Children asked questions and listened to a real scientist describe their work.

Pupil Voice:

“They answered my question about black holes!” (Year 4)

“It was cool hearing from someone who does science every day.” (Year 5)

“They said curiosity is the best tool a scientist has.” (Year 6)

“I want to be a scientist now!” (Year 3)

Whole-School Reflections

Children across the school described Science Week 2026 as:

“Epic!”

“Really exciting!”

“The best science ever!”

“I loved learning about space.”

“We got to experiment and find out things ourselves.”

Summary

Science Week 2026 encouraged pupils to ask bold questions, explore huge ideas and experience the thrill of scientific discovery. Whether coding a space landing, handling fossils, engineering rovers, testing Martian soil or interviewing a scientist live, children demonstrated curiosity, resilience and teamwork throughout.

A truly inspiring week - full of wonder, creativity and Growing Together in science.