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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



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

## *From the Headteacher*

### *Personal Development: Helping Every Child Flourish*

At Aston Rowant, Personal Development is at the heart of who we are. It is woven through our curriculum, our Christian vision, our enrichment opportunities, and our everyday interactions with children. It is everything we do to help our pupils grow as confident, compassionate, resilient and curious individuals - ready not just for secondary school, but for life.

Our Personal Development work nurtures character, wellbeing, responsibility, leadership, community involvement, cultural capital and emotional literacy. It helps children understand themselves and others, make good choices, and recognise their strengths. Most importantly, it helps them to live life in all its fullness.

This week has offered a wonderful example of what Personal Development looks like in practice at our school. It has been a week full of challenge, joy, teamwork, creativity and opportunity - and shows how rich and varied life at Aston Rowant School is.

#### **A Week in the Life of Aston Rowant**

On Monday, I met with our School Council to discuss the results of the recent school-wide Pupil Survey. The children showed thoughtfulness, maturity and real ownership of their school community. Their voice genuinely shapes our ideas and decisions.

On Wednesday, pupils enjoyed coaching sessions with Oxfordshire Cricket Club, learning teamwork, discipline and resilience. The coach was incredibly impressed with the children's focus, determination and encouragement of one another, and it was wonderful to see every child growing in skill and confidence.

Meanwhile, Hedgehog Class had a wonderful trip to The Lookout Discovery Centre, exploring science hands-on and developing their curiosity. The children immersed themselves in investigative play, experimenting with forces, light, water and movement - sparking awe, questions and excitement at every turn.

Children from both KS1 and KS2 represented our school at the annual Poetry Slam. Flo and Amelia performed a humorous, self-written poem about getting a fly in their eye, which had the audience laughing and brought a real sense of harmony to the room. Hendrix delivered a thoughtful poem, *Boasts nor Lies*, demonstrating depth and maturity. Although they didn't win, the children embodied our values of wonder, trust and gratitude throughout. We are incredibly proud of how they represented our school.

On Thursday, our Year 5/6 team took part in the inter-school Netball Fixture at Barley Hill, showing maturity, determination, sportsmanship and teamwork throughout.

On Friday, Year 5 began their Cycling Proficiency training - an important life skill that builds independence and safety. We also celebrated Red Nose Day with red noses, jumpers worn backwards, and an abundance of jokes and laughter across the school.

Alongside these special events, our weekly provision has continued to enrich the children's experience and development. We enjoyed our regular music lessons with Maggie and Rock Steady, and Owl Class continued their cornet lessons. JR Sports delivered excellent PE teaching and supported active play at lunchtime. Our clubs - including chess, football and dance - continue to grow children's interests and confidence.

Our children also led worship, acted as playground leaders and buddies, and supported one another through our wellbeing initiatives including Wellbeing Wednesday.

And of course, we ended the week with Forest Friday and Biscuit Friday - opportunities for reflection, connection and joy.

Last week's Science Enrichment Week, tennis coaching, RE Inspired visit, and Spring Colours Day, as well as next week's RE Enrichment Week, House Team Treat Afternoon, Spring Service, and Easter Egg Hunt, all show how much happens here beyond the classroom. This breadth and richness is what personal development looks like every single day.

This week has been a week of growth, challenge, joy and personal development in every corner of our school. Just another week in the life of Aston Rowant CofE Primary - where our children truly flourish.

### *Finally... Some Staff News*

It is with sadness that we share that Miss Bedwin, our brilliant SENDCo, will be leaving us to resume her studies and her dog-walking business. We are hugely grateful for her commitment to our children and families. However, we are delighted to have appointed Mrs Emily Harper, an experienced SENDCo who lives locally and brings a wealth of expertise. She starts after Easter and will be a wonderful addition to our team.

We are also sad to be saying goodbye to the incredible Mrs Marriott, who is leaving to support her husband's expanding business. We will soon be advertising for an exceptional Teaching Assistant to join our fantastic Aston Rowant staff team.

*Kind regards*

*Mrs France*

**GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY**

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## *Teaching and Learning in the Classrooms this week:*



### *Hedgehog Class*

What a joyful week it has been in Hedgehog Class. Our trip to The Lookout Centre in Bracknell was a real highlight. The children were captivated by the exhibits, and it was wonderful to see them applying their Science Week learning in the Space Zone. Their behaviour was exemplary throughout the visit, and we were incredibly proud of them. Back in school, our English learning took us into the world of Oliver's Vegetables. The children bravely tried some unfamiliar vegetables and then headed outdoors to plant our home-grown shoots. We're feeling very optimistic about a bumper summer harvest. Our chick project is growing more exciting by the day. This week we added more information to our chick books and used a special torch to look inside the eggs. We're delighted to report that all 10 eggs are developing beautifully, and we are eagerly awaiting their arrival next Wednesday. In maths, the children enjoyed a 3D shape hunt, spotting cubes, cylinders, spheres and more in our environment. It was a brilliant way to bring shape learning to life. All in all, it has been a wonderful week filled with curiosity, sunshine, and the joys of spring. Please could we ask again for continued donations of boys pants for our spare clothes box. Thanks!



### *Squirrel Class*

Another busy and exciting week in Squirrel Class. In English, we explored a new story by Oliver Jeffers called *The Way Back Home* and compared its themes to *Lost and Found*, focusing on friendship and adventure; the children took part in role play, predicted how characters might behave, and wrote speech dialogue between the two main characters, producing some fantastic ideas. In Maths, Year 1 revisited number lines, working on finding 1 more and 1 less and estimating numbers up to 50, while Year 2 completed their multiplication and division unit, learning to multiply and divide by 10 and 5. In RE, we researched how churches help their local communities, identifying groups and events and discussing what motivates Christians to support others, leading to thoughtful conversations about kindness and community. We also enjoyed a fun geography lesson outside, following an aerial map of our school grounds and designing appropriate symbols to add to the map and key. In DT, we began designing our pencil pots, carefully balancing functionality and decoration with lots of creative ideas. A quick reminder that next week we will be making our pencil pots, so please send your child in with any empty tin cans, kitchen towel tubes or toilet roll tubes—thank you for your support!



### *Fox Class*

This week has simply flown by in Fox class - the children have been extremely busy! Year 4 children have now completed their Maths work on Fractions and will be starting on their next unit on Decimals. Year 3 continue with their work on Mass and Capacity. Any possibilities of using their new knowledge at home, for example in baking or mixing things like concrete (adding the correct quantity of water) will be beneficial. In English the class are currently preparing to write to our Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer about environmental issues with deforestation of the Amazon rainforest. We have been doing lots of fact finding on this, which has linked in well to our Geography. On Wednesday, the children listened to cricket coach Nick talking about and showing slides on his cricket work in East Africa. This was followed by two fun sessions enjoying and developing their cricket skills outside in the sunshine - lovely! Fox Class have also been taking their end of Spring term tests. They have all worked extremely hard on this.



### *Owl Class*

A busy week as we reach the end of term. The children have shown resilience as we work our way through assessments in Reading, Maths and Spelling and Grammar for both year 5 and year 6. They have also worked in harmony with one another as they ensured quiet working spaces and supportive environments. elsewhere, in Literacy we finally reached the end of *The Island*, and the children were quite taken aback by the downbeat ending- this was not the happy resolution we are used to. how did this make us feel? they realised that perhaps, an open ended, possibly sad ending provokes more feelings in the reader than the usual happy ending. With this in mind, we began crafting the sequel story: *The Outsiders*, starting with freeze-frame roleplay to kickstart our writing ideas! In Maths, year 5 studied addition and subtraction of decimals, whilst Year 6 revised multiplication and division for SATs readiness. Science found us classifying plants using the Linnean method, whilst Music saw the children breaking out into rap as they performed the theme tune to the *Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*! Add in an afternoon's cricket activities, and we have another fantastic week at Aston Rowant - time for a rest!

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## *Photo Diary of the 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

Batteries are a fundamental part of the solution to combating climate change – both in terms of our transition to electric vehicles and in allowing us to store renewable energy until it is needed. This week's challenge encourages children to think about batteries and the raw materials needed to make them. They are encouraged to take 'charge' of the used batteries at home and make sure they are recycled. Every single person counts, every single battery counts.

Links that may be of interest:

[How the humble battery can help save the world](#).

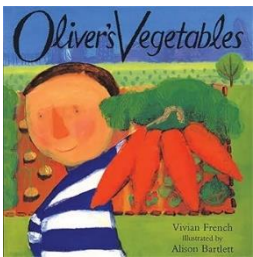
[2025 Earthshot finalist – FORM Energy](#) - creating batteries from iron, air and water.

[Innovative Singaporean recycling plant](#) - that can recycle up to 90% of lithium battery components

### 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 – Oliver's Vegetables by Vivian French, reviewed by Hedgehog Class



This is a tongue-in-cheek tale of a boy devoted entirely to chips. As Clara observed, "Oliver only wanted to eat chips for breakfast, lunch and dinner,"—a bold but questionable life choice. Thanks to his grandfather's garden, things take a surprising turn. Rivaan reported, "He ate carrots and cabbages," which feels like a minor miracle. Eliza enjoyed the adventurous spirit, saying, "I liked it when he tried different vegetables." While opinions on greens may vary, a convincing 15 out of 17 children agreed—the pictures are absolutely brilliant!

### 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	82%	6%	12%
Squirrel Class	78%	4%	19%
Fox Class	94%	3%	3%
Owl Class	84%	0%	16%

### Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	24	132
Eden	18	134
Galilee	16	125
Jerusalem	18	113

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Award | 2024 - 2025

Greener Award

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## *Emails and Letters Sent this Week*

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
19.03.26	Email	Y5	Office	Cycling reminder
16.03.26	Email	All	Office	Office unstaffed
16.03.26	Email	Owls	Office	Netball reminder

March	
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>	14:30 Book look and cake sale 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>	Parents evening for Squirrel, Fox and Owl: 15:45 – 17:30 TBC
Tue 21 <sup>st</sup>	Parents evening Hedgehog, Squirrel, Fox and Owl: 16:00 – 19:00 TBC

## *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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