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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



27th March 2026

From the Headteacher

RE Enrichment Week

This week we've loved diving into our RE Enrichment Week, inspired by our whole-school theme 'Journeys of Hope.' As a church school preparing for Easter, we explored Jesus' journey through Holy Week and discovered how Christians find hope even in tough moments. Each class brought the theme to life in their own way. Our youngest children in EYFS created beautiful Easter Gardens, taking their story figures on a sensory adventure from Palm Sunday to the empty tomb. KS1 mapped out the key moments of Holy Week and made creative moving "empty tomb" crafts to show the moment hope burst back into the world. Lower Key Stage 2 stepped onto the Road to Emmaus, using drama and freeze-frames to capture the disciples' shift from confusion to joy. Meanwhile, Upper Key Stage 2 explored Easter through powerful symbols - light, water and the cross - creating thoughtful artwork and reflective writing about times they themselves have found hope.

Spring Service

We had a wonderful Spring Service in church this morning, and it was lovely to come together as a whole school community. Every class shared something special, and it was a real pleasure to see the variety, confidence, and enthusiasm the children brought to the occasion. A big thank you to Year 6 for guiding the service so thoughtfully. We are also very grateful to Mrs Hodges for playing so beautifully and to Mrs Hall for leading the choir with such energy and encouragement. Our young musicians also performed with great skill and growing confidence - we truly appreciate them sharing their developing talents with us. Thank you as well to all the parents who joined us and to those who kindly helped walk the children to and from the church.

Easter Egg Hunt Fox Class

A huge thankyou to the PTA for once again providing the Easter eggs for our much-loved Easter Egg Hunt. The children had a brilliant time searching for tokens and swapping them for chocolate treats. We are also grateful the fabulous PTA afternoon today.

Fox Class

We were delighted to have had Mrs Healy visit us in school this week. She is recovering well and will be returning to Fox Class on Monday 13th April. She will begin on a part time basis and gradually increase her days over the coming weeks. Mrs Healy will be job sharing with Mrs Fountain, who has been working across several classes recently and is already well known to the children. We would also like to take this opportunity to offer our sincere thanks to Ms Glasby for teaching Fox Class throughout this half term. We have thoroughly enjoyed working with her and are grateful for her support, her flexibility and her commitment.

Attendance and Holidays

As a school, we want to remind all families that **holidays during term time are not permitted** unless there are *exceptional circumstances*, in line with Government legislation and Department for Education statutory guidance. The DfE is very clear that a need for a holiday, or the cost, are **not** considered an exceptional circumstance, and therefore such absences cannot be authorised. We are increasingly made aware - through social media posts shared publicly and through what children tell us - of families choosing to take term time holidays. This undermines school policy, sets a poor example to the children and other families, and places children at a significant disadvantage. When pupils miss school, they miss key lessons that are not repeated, creating gaps in learning and making it more challenging for teachers to deliver a coherent curriculum when different children have missed different parts. Regular attendance is essential so that all children can access their full education and make consistent progress.

Thank you

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to the Colebourn family (Callie and Connie) for their kind and generous gift of a microscope in memory of their beloved *Grampy* - "an ecologist whose lifelong curiosity helped him explore and understand the natural world." Their hope is that future generations will "look closer, ask questions and discover the wonders around them." We think they will - and this wonderful gift and extraordinary legacy will help inspire exactly that. We are grateful for, and very blessed by, this resource.

Finally...school improvements

We also have some really exciting news to share about upcoming improvements to our school site. A leak in the roof of Fox Classroom has meant that a series of major works, originally planned for May half term and the summer, will now take place **over the Easter holidays**. The main teaching block will be receiving a new sewage treatment plant, along with a new roof, external cladding, updated interior ceilings, and energy efficient classroom lighting. This is a significant project, with a total cost of over £200,000. We are extremely grateful that, as a VA school, we are required to contribute only 10% of this amount. Our thanks also go to the Oxford Diocese for their partnership, financial support, and for prioritising this essential work. The school will look incredible when we return after the Easter break.

Happy Easter!

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

This week has truly showcased our varied and exciting hands-on curriculum, filled with memorable experiences and meaningful learning opportunities. We were delighted to welcome some very special visitors - our chicks! The children were absolutely thrilled to watch them hatch, sparking curiosity, wonder, and lots of thoughtful discussion. Building on this excitement, we proudly completed our information books, including contents pages and page numbers, and can now confidently share our knowledge about all things chick-related. The excitement didn't stop there! Mrs Hall shared the wonderful news that her rabbit has given birth to six adorable baby bunnies, adding even more joy to what has felt like a true celebration of new life this Easter season. We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Farmer Marcus for providing such a fantastic experience and generously giving his time to teach and inspire us. In Maths, creativity took centre stage as we explored musical and dance patterns, carefully considering repetition and predictability while putting on our own fantastic performances. In RE Enrichment Week we enjoyed learning about the Easter Story, creating a beautiful Journey Garden, and decorating thoughtful 'hope stones'. It has been a joyful and enriching week. We wish you all a wonderful and restful Easter break!



Squirrel Class

Squirrel class have had a wonderful and busy final week of the Spring term. In English, the children focused on sentence writing practise and phonics, working hard to build their confidence and accuracy. In Maths, we explored measurement, using language such as taller, shorter, longer and shorter; the children compared items collected from the playground, including sticks and twigs, and also used trundle wheels to measure the length and width of the playground, which they really enjoyed. In DT, we completed our pencil pots and they look fantastic - well done to everyone for creating sturdy structures with useful and creative designs. The class thoroughly enjoyed RE enrichment week, where they made wonderful story maps of Jesus' Holy Week and thoughtfully considered the feelings of those involved; they also created some beautiful 'Jesus in the Tomb' artwork. It has been a great final week of the Spring term - Happy Easter, and we look forward to seeing you all in two weeks for the Summer term!



Fox Class

This week has seen the culmination of Fox Class's English work, with our persuasive letters about treating the rainforest with more care and consideration being written and sent off to the Prime Minister! In RE Enrichment Week we explored the Road to Emmaus as an emotional and spiritual journey, using drama, big question discussions and creative activities to show how confusion can turn into hope and joy. We also linked the story to Christian pilgrimage, creating illustrated maps and hope lanterns to express the courage, questions and renewal found in the Easter story. We made lanterns to celebrate Jesus as the Light of the World. Around the lanterns, we wrote words used to describe Jesus as a light. In Science, we completed this half term's Science learning on digestion by looking at pictures of poo from different animals. Children looked for clues to try to determine the animal's diet. The children showed great alacrity at the idea of looking at pictures of poo! We have also completed our end of term assessments, as well as preparing our performance of the poem, *Spring is Sprung* for the church service. Today also marks the end of my time with Fox class. I have enjoyed teaching and getting to know the children over the last five weeks and wish them all the best for the future.



Owl Class

What a varied week! The children have been working so hard on a range of challenges - In English the children mapped out a narrative sequel to the 'The Island' by Armin Greeder, which we called 'The Outsiders'. They took time to plot out suitable follow up story lines that continued the journey of the main characters, whilst giving each story their own unique twist. These were excellent to mark and a pleasure to read. In Maths, Year 6 have been revising percentages and their links to fractions and decimals, whilst Year 5 worked on finding simple percentages within 100. In Geography, the children completed their topic work on deserts. They presented arguments for whether they would like to live in a desert biome or not, using weather apps and Google earth to compare the Mojave desert to our locale in real-time to help persuade them. As part of our RE Enrichment Week, we explored the Easter story as a journey of transformation, investigating themes of sacrifice, courage, resurrection and hope through symbolism, gospel comparison and thoughtful personal reflection. We grouped together to talk about the resurrection, and to decide how this story can give hope to Christians, before writing reflections about times that we found hope - these were beautiful and thoughtful pieces of writing from the children. Our learning culminated in creative multi-symbol artwork and a collaborative mural, "Hope Rises: Our Resurrection Story," expressing how renewal and faith continue to inspire Christians today.

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Photo Diary of the Week



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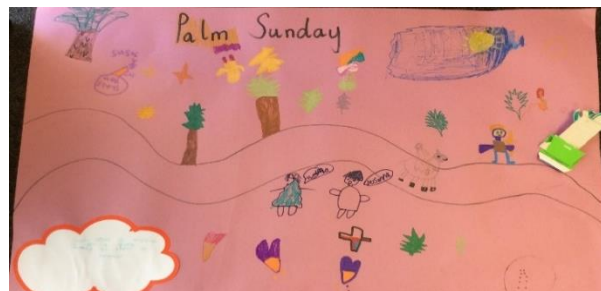
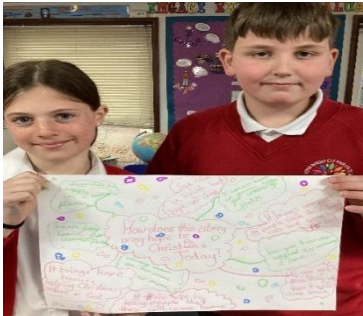
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RF Enrichment Week



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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

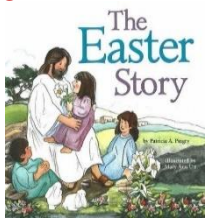
All around us, nature is speaking - but most of the time, we're too busy to hear it. A rustle in the hedge, a bird calling above a playground, a patch of moss on a wall, a trickle of water along a gutter... small, quiet places full of life and stories. This Easter, our Climate Warriors challenge is about becoming the voice for one of these quiet places. Not a far-away rainforest. Not a famous landscape. But something much closer - something that normally goes unnoticed.

Before the holiday ends, visit your chosen quiet place one last time and make it a promise - a promise to notice it, to respect it, and to keep caring for the small parts of our planet that many people overlook. Because real change begins with one person deciding to pay attention. Your challenge is simple: Leave your quiet place better than you found it - even if it's only by one tiny, thoughtful action. A piece of litter picked. A moment of care. A spark of curiosity. A new habit that grows. Every Climate Warrior can change the world - starting with a space no bigger than a hula hoop.

Reading Missions Challenge

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

Book Review - The Easter Story by Patricia Pingry (EYFS and KSI)



If you are looking for an age appropriate- Easter book that gently introduces the meaning behind the celebration, *The Easter Story* by Patricia Pingry is a beautifully simple option. It provides a clear, comforting retelling of the Christian Easter story through warm, accessible language and supportive illustrations, making it ideal for younger primary children. The book helps children understand the key events of Easter in a way that feels reassuring rather than overwhelming, and it offers a lovely starting point for family conversations about hope, faith and new beginnings. It's a thoughtful way to help children explore the message of Easter with a sense of wonder, gratitude and trust.

Happiness Calendar: 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 Term

School target 97%	97% - 100%	90% -97%	Below 90%
Hedgehog Class	47%	53%	0%
Squirrel Class	59%	26%	15%
Fox Class	63%	27%	10%
Owl Class	52%	28%	20%

Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	27	159
Eden	26	160
Galilee	31	156
Jerusalem	34	147

Congratulations to **Eden** this half term's winners.

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Emails and Letters Sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
26.03.26	Letter	Fox	Mrs Healy	Life in Roman Britain Day Workshop
25.03.26	Letter	Fox	Mr Manning	Swimming lessons
24.03.26	Email	All	Office	Booking forms for Wrap Around Care
23.03.26	Email	All	Office	GrowTennis: Free trials/Easter camp discount
20.03.26	Email	All	Office	Melody Keys Music Flyer

April

Fri 10th	Deadline to order school lunches click here to order
Tue 14th	Maths Day
Fri 17 th	14:30 Book look and cake sale Y5 Cycle training offsite starts – bikes and helmets in school every Friday please
Tue 21st	Swimming lessons commence – Fox Class
Wed 22 nd	14:30 Rock Steady Concert
Fri 24th	9:00 PTA meeting
Mon 27th	Parents evening for Squirrel, Fox and Owl: 15:45 – 17:30 Confirmed
Tue 28th	Parents evening Hedgehog, Squirrel, Fox and Owl: 16:00 – 19:00 Confirmed
Wed 29th	Life in Roman Britain Day – Fox Class workshop in school

May

Mon 11 th – Thu 14 th	Year 6 SATs
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June

Tue 9 th	Squirrel trip – Beale Park
Wed 10 th	Opera First – Garsington Opera Workshop Owl Class
Wed 17 th	Dance Festival
Mon 29 th – Fri 3 rd	Owl Residential

July

Tue 7 th	2:00 KSI play
Wed 8 th	5:30 KSI play
w/c 13 th	PE Enrichment Week in Sports Day TUE 14 th July
Fri 17 th	Leavers Service

Academic Year Calendar 2025-26

Summer 26	
Mon 13 th April – Fri 22 nd May	Summer Term (1) INSET Fri 22 nd May
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 July

Academic Year Calendar 2026-27

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

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