



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



17th April 2026

From the Headteacher

Investing in the School

You will have noticed just how fantastic our classrooms and learning spaces are looking following the recent site improvements. The new external cladding has given the school a smart, professional finish, while the fully insulated new roof will help to keep classrooms warm and comfortable and will also reduce long-term energy costs. Inside, the new ceilings look cleaner and brighter, and the installation of modern LED lighting throughout has transformed the feel of our classrooms into calm, high-quality learning environments. These improvements are already having a positive impact on wellbeing, helping pupils and staff feel comfortable, focused and ready to learn each day.

Alongside this, a new sewerage pump has been installed, making the toilet facilities fully fit for purpose. As a welcome added benefit, the area around the pond was cleared to allow access for this work, and we look forward to turning our attention to improving this space over the summer. On our return, we did also identify a minor issue relating to a gas pipe; however, this was quickly resolved and at no cost to the school. We are delighted with the whole project and the speed with which it was completed.

Wellbeing at the Heart of Our School

Wellbeing matters because it enables pupils to develop resilience, emotional literacy and self-regulation, which positively impacts their behaviour, relationships, independence and ability to learn successfully. We continue to invest purposefully in wellbeing, recognising its vital role in supporting children's personal development, behaviour, attitudes and readiness to learn.

We are delighted that Mrs Boddy has taken on the role of Wellbeing Lead, further strengthening our whole-school commitment to emotional health. From this term, she will lead a weekly Wellbeing Club each Wednesday, offering a flexible and nurturing space that responds to children's needs. Sessions will include mindfulness and relaxation activities, strategies to support emotional regulation, opportunities for calm reflection, and gentle social activities, providing pupils with practical tools they can use both in and beyond school. The focus of each week will be shared in advance on Mondays, allowing children time to reflect on whether the session will be beneficial for them and to make thoughtful, independent choices about attending - sometimes alongside friends, and sometimes to enjoy quiet time for themselves. This child-centred approach ensures that wellbeing support is intentional, inclusive and empowering, helping pupils feel confident, supported and ready to succeed.

Launch of Gardening Club

We are very excited to announce the launch of our new Gardening Club, which will take place every Monday lunchtime and will be led by Mrs Smith. The club will provide children with a valuable opportunity to learn outdoors, combining science, wellbeing and personal development in a purposeful and meaningful way. Children will use a range of school gardening equipment, with new children's gardening gloves ordered to ensure they can work safely and confidently. Over the coming weeks, pupils will be busy designing and planting a new sensory garden, as well as planting and caring for two vegetable beds. Through this hands-on experience, children will deepen their scientific understanding of plants, growth, lifecycles and habitats, while also developing responsibility and respect for the natural world.

Time spent gardening also plays an important role in supporting wellbeing, offering pupils the chance to spend time outdoors, work calmly, collaborate with others and take pride in nurturing something over time. The club strongly supports personal development, helping children to build confidence, patience, teamwork and independence beyond the classroom. We are very much looking forward to seeing both the garden and the children's skills grow.

If you have any plants, cuttings or seeds that may be of use, we would be very grateful to hear from you. We would also warmly welcome any parents, carers or members of the community who might like to volunteer to help at 12:30pm on a Monday lunchtime - please do let us know if you, or someone you know, would be happy to support this exciting project.

Support for SEND parents

We are pleased to invite parents and carers to a SEND parent/carer coffee session on Friday 24th at 9:45am, straight after the PTA meeting in the hall. We'd love you to come to both if you can! There will be biscuits! We will be joined by Usma Farman, Community Coordinator for the Oxfordshire Parent Carer Forum (OxPCF), who will explain her role and the support available for families of children with SEND. There will be time for parents and carers to share their experiences, ask questions and access helpful information. Refreshments will be provided, and we look forward to welcoming you.

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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Teaching and Learning in the Classrooms this week:



Hedgehog Class

We have begun our exciting new topic on Rainforests and were introduced to Ollie the Orangutan, who will be helping us learn all about his habitat. In English, we are exploring a range of jungle stories, retelling them, and bringing them to life through drama and different forms of media. This week, we focused on Monkey Puzzle, using puppets and story sacks to help us retell the story. In writing, we are continuing to develop our skills by focusing on using finger spaces and beginning to build our writing stamina. This week in Maths, we have been consolidating our understanding of the numbers 9 and 10. The children have been forming these numbers, counting, exploring their composition, and representing them using a variety of equipment. They have particularly enjoyed beginning their own book of numbers called "How a tiger counts to 10" to showcase their learning. The children have also had great fun in their play this week, creating a jungle swamp crossing game, building camouflage jungle hideouts, practising drawing jungle animals, and much more!



Squirrel Class

Squirrel Class have had a busy and exciting week of learning to kickstart the summer term! We began by exploring our new story, *The Day the Crayons Quit*, where the children made thoughtful predictions and enjoyed role play and speaking and listening activities based on the text. On Tuesday, we celebrated World Maths Day with lots of fun activities, including creating symmetrical insect drawings, repeating pattern caterpillars using shapes and colours and taking part in a playground "Who Dunit?" challenge to decipher clues and solve the case of the missing animal. In History on Wednesday, we investigated how our school has changed over time by looking at photographs from 1910, 1940, 1979 and 2025, and placing them in order on a timeline. The class loved looking at the old photographs and spotting changes. In Maths, we have been learning about mass, using balance scales to weigh and compare objects, and exploring grams and kilograms. In Music, the children have been learning about call and response. PSHE lessons focused on rules and why they are important. The children played games with and without rules to help them understand fairness and cooperation. Forest Friday was a lovely way to end the week, with Squirrel Class rolling up their sleeves to dig out weeds, learn about how plants grow, and plant sunflower seeds – we can't wait to see them grow! Alongside this, we have continued our daily phonics lessons and reading practice - well done, Squirrel Class, for all your hard work this week!



Fox Class

Welcome back to Fox Class, where the week has been as busy as a Roman marketplace! Although Mrs Healy sadly wasn't able to join us this week, she is very much looking forward to being back with us soon – and in the meantime, Fox Class has been bursting with brilliant learning and enthusiasm. In English, we launched ourselves into *Escape to Pompeii*, creating vivid setting descriptions packed full of prepositional phrases and expanded noun phrases that really helped to bring the dramatic scenes to life. Maths saw Year 3 investigating capacity and Year 4 tackling decimals, including dividing by 10. However, the real highlight was Maths Day on Tuesday, when everyone transformed into super-sleuth detectives, solving problems, cracking clues and working collaboratively – it was fantastic to apply our maths skills in such a fun and engaging way! In History, we stepped back in time as we began our exciting new topic on the Romans, finding out who they were, when they lived and why they came to Britain. The children were full of curiosity as they explored Roman life and started to uncover what made this civilisation so significant. In RE, we began a thoughtful new topic exploring how Christians around the world celebrate and mark key events in their lives, such as birth, marriage and coming together as a community. This has already prompted some wonderfully reflective discussions and respectful listening. We finished the week by thinking green in PSHE, learning all about recycling and how small actions can make a big difference – a truly fabulous week full of learning, curiosity and fun!



Owl Class

It was lovely to see all of our Owls back after their well-earned break, and we drove straight into our new and exciting topics: in English, we are reading the excellent *Legend Of Podkin One Ear* by Keiran Larwood. The children have already started to organise facts and craft evocative descriptions for evocative information writing based on some of the mythical 12 gifts that are featured in the story. Our Big Homework is also linked to this book (one of my own favourites) and I can't wait to see what exciting and creative things are made. Details are on the Owl Class Page, alongside weekly spellings. In Maths, we began with a wonderful Maths Enrichment Day, including a Who-Dunit? in which the children hunted for clues around the school grounds, solving maths problems to eliminate the suspects and identify the culprit. They were also able to make use of the compasses in their pencil cases finally, as we used technical drawing skills to create 'impossible art' - including some tricky Penrose Triangles. All this, as well as a Times Tables Rockstars competition! Our History unit is based on the fascinating story of Ranjit Singh and his Sikh Empire for which the children used secondary sources to identify key dates and create a timeline that illustrates the rise and formation of this Empire against the collapse of the Mughal oppressors. Science has us 'making connections' with energy, circuits and electricity. We began by identifying why all electricians use the international symbols to build circuits, how the diagram is a universal language that transcends language barriers. In MFL, we drew maps and then navigated our way around, providing directions in French using prepositions for over, across, through and under, and we continued the map-making theme into our art lesson by creating chalk drawings of our own fantastic realms in groups on the MUGA, before transferring the ideas to our art books. All that in just five days!

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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Maths Day

On Tuesday the whole school took part in Maths Day, carrying out various different activities, all with a link to maths.

Maths in Art

All the classes had a look at different types of art in which we can see maths. Hedgehog Class looked at Mondrian and learnt about rectangles. They had a good look at the special rectangle we call a 'square', and what makes it a square. Then they had a go at creating their own Mondrian inspired artwork using rectangles. Squirrel Class looked at symmetry in nature, exploring how symmetry can be found within the world of the minibeasts. They all had a go at drawing insects, using one half of an insect design. Islamic Art was explored in Fox Class. They looked at the geometry used to create the intricate designs and then had a go themselves. Owl Class studied some 'impossible objects' then used mathematical instructions to create some illusions of their own.



Who Dunit?

Owl, Fox and Squirrel classes took part in team 'Who Dunit?' challenges. This involved working in teams, to first find then solve maths problems. The problems required the children to use different areas of maths they have been taught in class so far. Solving the problems gave clues to help them solve the challenge, to find out 'who dunit'.



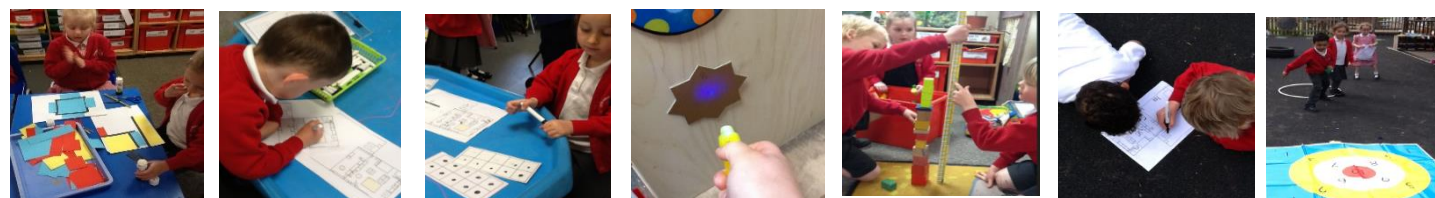
Maths in Music

During Maths Day the children also got to explore the maths which can be found within music. Hedgehogs and Squirrels identified repeating patterns that could be heard, then had a go at creating their own musical repeating patterns. In Fox and Owl class they explored symmetry and palindromes and how they can be found in music. They used this learning to have a go at creating their own palindromes using instruments.



Hedgehog Maths Challenges

Hedgehog Class had lots of opportunities to use their maths skills throughout the day and took part in some maths challenges too. They tried building and measuring the tallest towers, throwing bean bags at the target to get the highest score, and they loved the 'Secret Stars' challenge. Here, they had to go on a hunt for hidden stars and then use magic pens to reveal maths questions. They also practiced their map reading skills by using a map of our class and outside area, searching for hidden numbers marked on the map.



On top of this, we also ran a TTRS Challenge throughout the day. The winners for the most correct answers are:



Year 3 – Barney
 Year 4 – Digby
 Year 5 – Grace
 Year 6 – Aava

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Whole School Topic - Summer Term: Window on the World

Value: Harmony

This week, we explored the idea of *harmony* through the words of the apostle Paul, written more than 2,000 years ago. Paul reminded people that true friendship grows when we choose kindness and encouragement over criticism and negativity. Building one another up takes patience, effort, and commitment, but tearing others down can happen in a moment. His message encourages us to use our words to support, strengthen, and uplift those around us.

'Encourage one another and build each other up.' 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Climate Warriors' Challenge

This week, our Climate Warriors are turning into maths detectives! Your mission: choose one thing you do every day and use maths to help the planet:

- Count how many minutes the lights are left on in one evening
- Count how many times taps are turned on each day
- Count how many plastic items you use in a day

Now try to reduce your number the next day - even by 1!

Maths helps us measure, notice patterns and make changes. When we count and compare, we can see how small actions add up over time. If everyone reduces just one thing, the impact becomes HUGE!

Reading Missions Challenge April

April: Read a book because you love it's pictures...

Find a list of [great wordless picture books here](#)

Check out our recommendations of [great picture books for ages 7+ here](#)

Discover graphic novels for [beginner readers](#), [middle grade](#), and [secondary school students](#)

Explore fantastic [chapter books with colour illustrations](#)

Book Review – 'How Many Legs' reviewed by Mrs Olsen



How Many Legs? is a funny and lively picture book that uses playful rhymes and silly humour to encourage readers to count the legs of different animals - with some very unexpected answers along the way! Children I have shared this book with always enjoy shouting out guesses and joining in with the repeated questions, and it's great for supporting early counting and number skills. Bright illustrations and interactive style make this book perfect for reading together.

Happiness Calendar: Active April

Keeping active is a great way to boost our mental wellbeing. So this month, let's find ways to get moving and stay active and healthy. This month we are encouraged to get moving and outdoors as much as possible. You can find this month's happiness calendar [here](#).

Attendance – *This Week*

School target 97%	97% - 100%	90% -97%	Below 90%
Hedgehog Class	94%	6%	0%
Squirrel Class	96%	0%	4%
Fox Class	97%	0%	3%
Owl Class	92%	0%	8%

Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	45	45
Eden	47	47
Galilee	48	48
Jerusalem	41	41



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Emails and Letters Sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
16.04.26	Email	All	Mrs King	General reminders
16.04.26	Email	Y5	Mrs King	Cycle training for helpers
16.04.26	Email	Fox	Mrs King	Reminder – Swimming consent
14.04.26	Email	All	Mrs France	Book look/cake sale
14.04.26	Email	All	Mrs France	School update

April	
Tue 21 st	Swimming lessons commence – Fox Class
Wed 22 nd	14:30 Rock Steady Concert
Fri 24th	9:00 PTA meeting 9:00 Cycle proficiency – Year 5 9:45 SEND parent meeting with Oxfordshire Parent Carer Forum (open to all)
Mon 27 th	Parents evening for Squirrel, Fox and Owl: 15:45 – 17:30
Tue 28 th	Parents evening Hedgehog, Squirrel, Fox and Owl: 16:00 – 19:00
Wed 29 th	Life in Roman Britain Day – Fox Class workshop in school
May	
Mon 11 th – Thu 14 th	Year 6 SATs
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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