



**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



**24<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

## *From the Headteacher*

### *Inclusion*

Over the past few weeks, we have been spending time as a school thinking deeply about inclusion - what it means, why it matters, and, most importantly, what it looks like in our everyday life at Aston Rowant.

On British Values Day, our Collective Worship focused on the book *All Are Welcome Here*. This simple but powerful story really resonated with the children (and adults too), reminding us that schools are places where everyone belongs and where difference is something to be recognised, respected and valued.

Through Collective Worship and PSHE lessons, we have explored inclusion both theoretically and practically. We've talked not just about big ideas, but about the small, everyday choices that help everyone feel safe, recognised and valued - what we say, how we act, and how we look after one another.

In one assembly, I shared the idea that Aston Rowant School is like a hundred-piece jigsaw. Every piece is different in shape, colour and pattern, yet each one is essential to the whole picture. Some pieces may feel small, or not quite know where they belong at first, but without them the picture is incomplete. Each child - and adult - brings something unique to our school community, even when they can't always see it themselves or may feel that others have more to offer. Inclusion means valuing every single piece.

To bring this to life, the children have created a large jigsaw display in the hall, with its individual pieces displayed around the school. Working with their buddies, they wrote about what inclusion looks like at Aston Rowant School. We invite you to take a look - their words are thoughtful, honest and inspiring.

As part of this work, we have also taken time to clarify our uniform expectations, helping children understand that inclusion is supported through fairness and clarity. Our uniform colours remain grey, red and white, and our policy is non-gender specific. Any child may choose to wear trousers, shorts, skirts or dresses. For safety reasons, long hair should be tied back for all pupils, regardless of gender, and earrings need to be removed for PE. These shared expectations help ensure that everyone can participate fully, comfortably and safely.

Inclusion is not a single lesson or a one-off event - it is something we commit to every day through our actions, relationships and decisions. We are proud of the way our children are learning to live this out with kindness, respect and thoughtfulness.

### *Sharing Your Feedback*

Our parent survey was sent out this week, and I would really encourage you to share your views openly and honestly. Your feedback matters greatly to us. We hope that nothing raised will come as a surprise, as we work hard to maintain an open-door approach and aim to work alongside families whenever there is a question, concern or issue to resolve. If something isn't working well for your child or your family, we really want to know about it directly, so that we can listen, understand and work together to put things right. Equally, please don't be afraid to share the positives. Knowing what is working well helps us make sure we continue to nurture and protect the things that matter most to our community.

Aston Rowant is your school as much as it is ours. Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts and help us continue to grow, improve and do the very best for every child.

### *And finally... Growing in every direction!*

A reminder to please sign up for a parents' evening slot if you haven't already. This is a valuable opportunity to talk with your child's teacher about their growth, progress and experiences at school, and we really encourage all families to attend.

Thank you to everyone who came along to the recent book look. There was lots of positive feedback and a genuinely lovely atmosphere - it was a pleasure to share the children's learning journey and growth with you.

We are also extremely grateful for your support of the cake sale - both for baking and for buying! The cakes were incredible (we even heard rumours of *award-winning* baking!) and helped us raise money for our school library and Christian Aid, supporting their work alongside communities around the world to tackle poverty, injustice and the effects of crisis. Thank you for your generosity and for supporting causes that reflect our values as a school community. We can share the final amount raised once all of the IOUs have been settled - sorry for the gentle nudge!

*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*

This week in Hedgehog Class, we have been learning all about health and hygiene through our focus text “Alan’s Big Scary Teeth.” The children have really enjoyed helping Alan by writing a clear set of instructions for how to brush his teeth, and we have also been practising our own tooth-brushing skills in class. We have used the story to support our storytelling development, working on sequencing events and generating exciting new ideas that will inspire our own books this term. In Maths, we have been exploring the concept of “one less” using the song 5 Little Monkeys, where a crocodile snaps them up one at a time. This has helped the children practise counting back and using number tracks. We would really appreciate it if you could continue practising this at home wherever possible. In Topic, we have begun learning more about the rainforest and the animals that live there. The children have created some fantastic artwork for our display and continue to show great curiosity and engagement, asking thoughtful questions and sharing their ideas. Well done, Hedgehog Class, for another brilliant week!



### *Squirrel Class*

Squirrel Class have been very busy with lots of exciting learning! In English, we were inspired by our core text of ‘The Day the Crayons Quit’ and wrote thank you letters in the role of a crayon, thanking Duncan for listening to our requests. The Year 1 children were challenged to include a question sentence, while the Year 2 children used an exclamation sentence, and they all did brilliantly. In Maths this week, Year 1 explored volume and capacity by investigating different containers, identifying scales, and learning about measuring units. The Y2 children explored measuring in grams and kilograms and used balance scales to identify the mass of various class objects. In Art, we studied flora and fauna through still life sketches and paintings, taking inspiration from famous artists such as Rousseau and Jan van Kessel. In RE, we had thoughtful discussions about the Christian festival of Harvest and why it is important, with the class designing tasty harvest plates. We are very proud of all the hard work and enthusiasm shown this week!



### *Fox Class*

What a lovely sunny week of learning we have had! It was wonderful to see the class again on Monday – they were so welcoming and made me feel happy. In addition, we welcomed back Miss Shinn to our class which is excellent. Still, we had to buckle down and continue learning and this week has been full of exciting opportunities. In Maths, Y3 are building on their previous fraction learning to now add and subtract but with the same denominator. In Y4, children are continuing to understand the link between fractions and decimals and using a place value chart to support them when dividing a number by 10 or 100. In English, children worked on their knowledge of possessive and personal pronouns then showcased them in some writing linked to our class text. For the rest of the week, we worked on our performance and oracy skills in delivering poetry. In our History, children learnt about the origin of Rome and looked at some of the buildings still found and from pictures, children deducted what they may have been used for. In our Science this half term, we are carrying a wide range of science investigations linked to the Crest Award, and this week we learnt about bridges and what makes them strong. It was a challenge, but it was great to see the groups work so well together. In RE we asked the questions: “How do Christians show they belong to God and the Church?” and “How do you know if someone is a Christian?”. In each of our lessons we make time for questioning, reflection and wonder. And best of all we have all of us, back together again - sharing, working, and growing side by side.



### *Owl Class*

This week in Owl Class, we have been looking through the window of History into other cultures as we looked at the Khalsa Warriors of the Sikh Empire, and how they were part of the sweeping reforms that Ranjit Singh made after he took charge – the children realised that his choices were rooted in the Sikh concept of Sewa, the idea of duty to others, and as such he created an army that fought only as a last resort, to protect the people of many faiths that lived under his rule. He understood that all people were created equal, and as such would promote the right people for the right job, regardless of whether they were Sikh, Muslim or Hindu. In English, we have been reading the exciting adventures of Podkin as he escaped the Gorm, and encounters several magic items. We looked at the three artefacts that we know of - all gifts from the Goddess to the 12 rabbit Tribes - and began to invent several of our own, inventing details such as appearance, powers and where they were found or stored, or where they were last seen - we created a Guide to the 12 Gifts as our first Big Write of the term, which was full of high quality vocabulary choices and evocative, authentic descriptions. Science found us building simple series and parallel circuits to light up bulbs or buzzers and then using last weeks’ diagram drawing skills, we recorded them accurately. On Wednesday we also presented the Rev. Jackie Barr with our ‘Hope Rises’ mural, which will be on display in St Peters and St Pauls Church in Aston Rowant for all to see. In Music, we used the Charanga digital studio to create some simple electronic beats and rhythms, before understanding how we could be able to interpret a story into ‘mood music’. We also made the most of the sunshine by spending some learning and reading time outside and being creative in Forest Friday. A quick reminder that Doodle online homework is set on Mondays and is to be completed by the following Monday, and spellings are ready to look at alongside the termly Big Work Project on the Class Page.

**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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## *Rock Steady Concert*



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## Whole School Topic - Summer Term: Window on the World

### Value: Harmony

This week, we spent time thinking about friendship and what it really means to be a good friend. We talked about how feeling valued so often starts with the simple things: kindness, loyalty and being there for one another. Christians believe that Jesus is their closest friend - someone who shows, through his life, what true friendship looks like. His example reminds us that real friendship is caring, dependable and full of compassion. We explored a verse from the Bible's Book of Proverbs, which is full of wise sayings about life and relationships. Proverbs 18:26 encourages us to value strong, faithful friendships: "There is a friend who sticks closer than a brother."

### Climate Warriors' Challenge

Wednesday was Earth Day, a global event held every year to remind us that protecting our planet starts with everyday actions. This week's Eco Warrior Challenge encourages children to choose one small change they can make to look after the Earth - this could be reducing waste, saving water, switching off lights, walking instead of using the car where possible, or reusing and repairing instead of throwing things away. Children are encouraged to talk at home about what Earth Day is, why it matters, and how small choices can make a big difference. Looking after our planet isn't about doing everything - it's about doing something.

Links that may be of interest:

- Earth Day Official Website: <https://www.earthday.org>
- What is Earth Day? (Kid-friendly explanation): <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/48404875>
- Simple actions to help the planet: <https://www.wwf.org.uk/thingsyoucando>

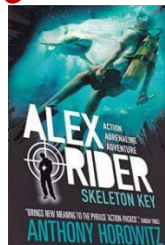
### Reading Missions Challenge April

**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](#)

### Book Review By Henry, Year 6



*Alex Rider: Skeleton Key* is the third book in the Alex Rider series, which I started reading in Year 5. I was really excited to read this one because I've enjoyed the others so far, and it didn't disappoint! I liked this book because the plot is really exciting and full of action. There are loads of dangerous missions, explosions and clever spy moments that kept me hooked. I also like how Alex has to think quickly and be brave, even when things go wrong. Sometimes I wish I could be a spy because he gets to travel to amazing places even though it is quite dangerous! He is a really cool character and never gives up. I would definitely recommend this book to other children because it is fast-paced and thrilling, and it makes you want to keep reading to find out what happens next. If you like adventure and spies, you will love it!

### 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	82%	0%	18%
Squirrel Class	89%	11%	0%
Fox Class	90%	7%	3%
Owl Class	92%	0%	8%

### Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	44	89
Eden	40	87
Galilee	49	97
Jerusalem	39	80

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## *Emails and Letters Sent this Week*

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
24.04.26	Email	All	Mrs King	Road closure
24.04.26	Email	All	Mrs King	Awareness
24.04.26	Email	All	Mrs King	Reminder – Complete Parent View Survey
21.04.26	Email	Fox	Mrs King	Reminder – Life in Roman Britain consent
21.04.26	Email	All	Board of Governors	Parent View Letter
20.04.26	Email	Fox	Mrs King	Homework
20.04.26	Email	All	Mrs King	Parent Consultations – booking information
20.04.26	Letter	All	Mrs France	Parent Consultations

April	
Mon 27 <sup>th</sup>	Parents evening for Squirrel, Fox and Owl: 15:45 – 17:30
Tue 28 <sup>th</sup>	Parents evening Hedgehog, Squirrel, Fox and Owl: 16:00 – 18:30
Wed 29 <sup>th</sup>	Life in Roman Britain Day – Fox Class workshop in school
May	
Mon 11 <sup>th</sup> – Thu 14 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 SATs
June	
Tue 9 <sup>th</sup>	Squirrel trip – Beale Park
Wed 10 <sup>th</sup>	Opera First – Garsington Opera Workshop Owl Class
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup>	Dance Festival
Mon 29 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Owl Residential
July	
Tue 7 <sup>th</sup>	14:00 KSI play
Wed 8 <sup>th</sup>	17:30 KSI play
w/c 13 <sup>th</sup>	PE Enrichment Week in Sports Day TUE 14 <sup>th</sup> July
Fri 17 <sup>th</sup>	Leavers Service

## *Academic Year Calendar 2025-26*

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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