



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



From the Headteacher

Walk to School Week

Get ready to step, skip, scoot and smile -Walk to School Week is nearly here, and we'd love everyone to join in! Walk to School Week is a nationwide event that encourages children and families to travel to school in healthier, happier and more active ways - by walking, cycling, scooting or parking a little further away and walking the last part together. It's not about doing everything perfectly.

Even small steps make a big difference! So, why does it matter? Walking (or wheeling!) to school:

- Keeps our bodies and minds healthy
- Helps us arrive at school feeling awake and ready to learn
- Reduces traffic and pollution around the school gates
- Gives us time to chat with friends and notice the world around us
- Plus - it's fun!

We know that some families need to drive, and that's absolutely okay. If you're able to, why not try parking a few minutes away and walking the last part? Every step counts.

Inter-Class Challenges & Fun Ideas

To make the week extra exciting, we're planning some friendly competitions. Keep your eyes peeled for more details, but here are some of the ideas we're exploring:

The Big Step-Up!

Biggest increase in walking, cycling or scooting compared to usual – can each class beat their own personal best.

Nature Spotters

Which class can spot the most unusual or interesting nature on their journey? Draw it, write it, or tell your teacher about it!

Class Streak

How many days in a row can your class get everyone moving at least part of the way to school?

Walk to School Wow!

Share a favourite wow moment from your journey - big smiles, puddle-jumping, or walking with friends!

Walk to School Photo Competition

Take one of yourself or something you see. There is a prize for the most creative picture.

Whether you walk the whole way, cycle from home, scoot from the corner, or park and stride - you're part of Walk to School Week. So lace up those shoes, pump those tyres, and let's make the journey to school an adventure. Ready... steady... WALK!

Kind regards

Mrs France

From a School Governor

Hello everyone! My name is Abi but you may know me better as Elsie, Arlo and Olive's mum (and the one doing annoying house renovations!) I am a parent governor at school and as part of my role I oversee the subject areas of maths, art, early years, and I also chair the teaching and learning committee (T&L) at Aston Rowant School. In this update I am going to give a little insight into what it means to chair the T&L committee.

At the end of each term, the teachers assess the children in English and Maths based on their knowledge of the individual children. The teachers then take the time to discuss each individual child in a growth meeting. It would be inappropriate for governors to have that sensitive information, so we then receive an overview of the year group data summarising the results in contrast to previous terms. Once we have that information, I chair a meeting with the other committee members where we discuss the year groups, any new initiatives or interventions, what needs to be focussed on etc. Once we have spoken about the English and Maths data we move onto discuss Science and RE as they are also core subjects in the school. As a committee it is important that we also discuss other factors which may influence attainment such as attendance, safeguarding and SEN. Ultimately, the committee is there to hold the school to account and ensure every child is making the progress they are capable of.

I feel incredibly privileged to be in the parent governor position and love that I am able to ask the questions and open the dialogue on the incredible teaching and learning going on at the school every single day. The amount of specialised thinking that goes into approaching every single child is inspiring and no mean feat. If you want to know more about my role then please do catch me at the gate!

Abi Jindall

GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY

Growing together, rooted in God, enjoying fullness of life. (Colossians 2:1-7)



Teaching and Learning in the Classrooms this week:



Hedgehog Class

This week, we enjoyed reading “Giraffes Can’t Dance” by Giles Andreae. The children used ideas from our stories to add to our class ideas book thinking about characters and descriptive words. We explored Gerald’s feelings and made a “feelings book” to help him understand different emotions. We had lots of fun making invitations for a Jungle Dance and practicing our moves outside in the sunshine, which led to the children putting on their own show. In Maths, we explored number bonds to 10 using egg boxes and objects. The children are becoming more confident in recalling and using their number facts. In PSED, we held daily circle times to support Ollie who has been falling out with his friends a lot this week, focusing on kind words and ways to help others feel better. The children showed great care and empathy. In Topic, we learned about rainforest animals and the layers they live in, especially enjoying finding out about the most dangerous ones! We ended the week with a special visit from Farmer Marcus and loved holding the chicks we hatched last term - they were very cute and cuddly.



Squirrel Class

This week in Squirrel Class, we have continued exploring our new story, *The Ugly Five* by Julia Donaldson. The children have enjoyed sequencing the story and taking part in speaking and listening activities, where they discussed the characters’ feelings and motivations. Next week, we are looking forward to learning more about the animals in the story and creating non-chronological reports. In Maths, Year 1 have been practising counting in twos, fives and tens through a range of fun, practical activities, including games using beanbags and hoops to help them count in multiples. They have also been working with number lines, scales and number tracks. Meanwhile, Year 2 have been learning about volume and capacity, exploring how to measure liquids using millilitres and litres. In Science, we explored four different habitats—ocean, coastal, woodland and rainforest—and matched a variety of plants and animals to the environments in which they live. We completed this outside to make use of the gorgeous weather! In RE, we discussed the Christian festival of Christmas and why it is important to Christians. Lastly in History, we began thinking about how we can find out about the past by asking questions, focusing on how we might talk to grandparents or older members of the community to learn what school was like when they were younger, using them as a primary source of evidence. It has been a busy and engaging week, and the children have shown great enthusiasm in all their learning. Well done Squirrels!



Fox Class

What an exciting week we have had in Fox Class! In Maths, Y3 worked on finding fractions of amounts – a life skill and they were able to see the link between knowing their times tables to help solve these problems. In Y4, decimals were partitioned to see what makes a whole as well as portioning them flexibly too! In English, the SPaG centred on identifying adverbials in sentences – they tell us how, how often, where and why and can be found at the beginning of a sentence as well as within it. We also wrote a recount about our super fun Roman day on Wednesday giving us the opportunity to use some of these adverbials. In our History lesson, the class learnt about the invasion and the thinking behind why the Romans came to Britain and of the 2 unsuccessful attempts before Claudius came over in 43AD. In Science, more STEM challenges – this time focussed on what makes a boat buoyant. The class were tasked with making a boat that could hold as many marbles as possible – thank goodness it was a dry day to use water outside! Wednesday of course was our Roman Day and a big thank you to you all for providing your children with such amazing costumes and to those parents who were able to help throughout the day. It really helped them immerse themselves in the day. As you will have seen, they made a wide range of things such as mosaics, broaches, wax tablet and perfume. I hope you appreciated their hard work! We also danced, acted, marched and as every good day should end; we had a feast! A story was told throughout the day linked to Boudicca providing the children with background information as to how it may have felt in Britain as a Roman. Another fabulous fun-filled Fox Class week of learning!



Owl Class

Owl Class have enjoyed a wonderful week of learning, helped along by the beautiful weather we have seen. The sunshine has been a real boost to the children’s enthusiasm and wellbeing - we even went outside for some yoga! As the warmer weather continues, we kindly ask that all children bring a sunhat to school each day so they are protected during break and lunchtimes. In English, the children have been creating powerful Gorm-inspired poetry, exploring how to use onomatopoeia and kennings to build tension, suspense and emotion within their writing, producing some very imaginative and dramatic results. In Science, the children worked hands-on to build simple and parallel circuits, and applied their understanding of scientific drawing to follow specific instructions and successfully construct working circuits, showing great focus. In Art, Owl Class took on the role of engineers by designing and creating structures to fit a brief. Using simple materials such as paper clips, they experimented with structure and stability before producing design drafts for a chair created to suit a particular mood. In Maths, Year 5 focused on understanding the difference between an expression and an equation, while Year 6 revised algebraic patterns, learning how to simplify equations and group like terms with increasing confidence. In RE, the children explored sites of significance in India for Hindu pilgrims. They mapped key pilgrimage locations and discussed why these places are important within the Hindu faith, developing both their geographical and religious understanding. A busy, productive week all round – well done, Owl Class!



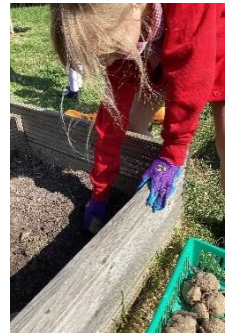
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Photo Diary of the Week



GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY
Growing together, rooted in God, enjoying fullness of life. (Colossians 2:1-7)



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Roman Day in Fox Class



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Whole School Topic - Summer Term: Window on the World

Value: Harmony

During Collective Worship this week, we listened to a story about a group of friends who came together to help one of their own. Their care and determination showed how strong friendship can be, especially during difficult times. We took time to think about our own friends and how we can support them when life feels challenging. This story also reminded us of the moment when Jesus recognised the faith and love shown by friends: "When Jesus saw their faith, he said, 'Friend, your sins are forgiven.'" Luke 5:20 We shared a special prayer together:

Father, let our friendships be strong – so that they may be a blessing to others; let our friendships be open – so that they may be a haven to others; let our friendships be gentle – so that they may bring peace to others. Amen.

Climate Warriors' Challenge

This week, pupils across the school are taking purposeful action to think more carefully about paper and cardboard, materials we use every day but often take for granted. From junk mail and receipts to wrapping paper, worksheets and toilet roll tubes, paper is all around us - and it matters how we use it. This week is about more than paper. It's about helping children develop thoughtful habits, environmental awareness and a sense of responsibility that will stay with them well beyond the classroom.

REDUCE: Can we avoid unnecessary packaging, reduce junk mail and print only when needed?

REUSE: Using both sides of paper, reusing "off-white" sheets, save envelopes and create scrap materials to build sustainable habits.

RECYCLE: Identifying paper and cardboard that can be recycled properly, and understanding why correct recycling matters.

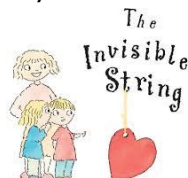
RETHINK: Think about longer-term choices, such as switching to recycled paper and reducing waste wherever possible.

Reading Missions Challenge May

May: Read a poetry book or a verse novel

Book Review *The Invisible String* by Patrice Karst, illustrated by Joanne Lew-Vriethoff

The Invisible String is a gentle, reassuring story about the unseen connections that link us to the people we care about - no matter where we are. Told in simple, comforting language, the book helps children understand feelings such as worry, separation and sadness, while celebrating love, kindness and belonging. It opens up thoughtful conversations about emotions and relationships in a way that feels safe and hopeful.



- This is a beautifully written book, supporting:
- emotional wellbeing and mental health
 - speaking and listening through discussion
 - empathy and understanding of others

Patrice Karst
Illustrated by Geoff Stevenson

A calm, powerful reminder that children are never truly alone.

Happiness Calendar: Meaningful May

This month, we're encouraging you to try find ways to be part of something bigger. You can find this month's happiness calendar [here](#).

Attendance - This Week

School target 97%	97% - 100%	90% -97%	Below 90%
Hedgehog Class	100%	0%	0%
Squirrel Class	82%	7%	11%
Fox Class	93%	0%	7%
Owl Class	84%	3%	13%

Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	51	139
Eden	53	140
Galilee	52	149
Jerusalem	36	116

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Emails and Letters Sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
30.04.26	Email	All	Board of Governors	Parent View follow up
29.04.26	Email	All	Mrs King	Primary School Health Nursing Newsletter
29.04.26	Email	All	Mrs King	Primary School Health Nursing Newsletter
29.04.26	Email	Y5	Mrs King	Cycle training timings for helpers
27.04.26	Email	Fox	Mrs Healy	Roman Day Names

May	
Mon 11 th – Thu 14 th	Year 6 SATs
w/c 18 th May	Walk to School Week
June	
w/c 1 st	Maths Timestables Check Year 4
w/c 2 nd	Phonics Screening check Year 1
Tue 9 th	Squirrel trip – Beale Park
Wed 10 th	Opera First – Garsington Opera Workshop Owl Class
Wed 10 th	Michael Morpurgo Workshop online Fox Class
Mon 15 th	Thame Partnership Maths Challenge Year 3/4 (some)
Wed 17 th	Thame Partnership Dance Festival
Tue 23 rd	Opera First – Garsington Opera Visit Owl Class
Wed 24 th	First Aid Training KS2
Mon 29 th – Fri 3 rd	Owl Residential
July	
Tue 7 th	14:00 KSI play
Wed 8 th	14:30 Rock Steady concert 17:30 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 3 rd 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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