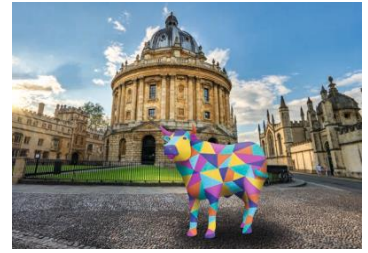


## *OxTrail Art Project – A Whole-School Achievement to Be Proud Of*

We are incredibly proud of our involvement in the OxTrail Art Project, Oxfordshire's first ever public sculpture trail, which brought together creativity, compassion and community spirit across our school. This was a truly whole-school project, and one that perfectly captured what Aston Rowant School is capable of when we work together with purpose.

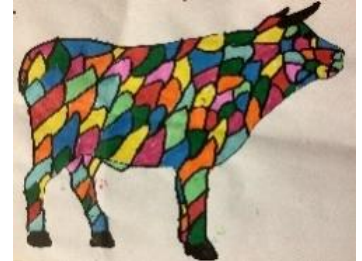
As part of our art curriculum and PSHE focus, we were delighted to join OxTrail, alongside more than 80 other schools across Oxfordshire, raising vital funds for Sobell House Hospice. Our journey began with the arrival of our very own mini ox sculpture, specially made for the trail. From that moment on, our entire school community got "mooooo-ving".



### **Designing Our Ox**

Children and staff across the school were invited to take part in a design competition to decide how our ox would look. The response was extraordinary. There was a huge range of thoughtful, imaginative and creative ideas, making the judging extremely difficult.

We were delighted to announce Aurora in Year 4 as the winner of the final design. One of the aspects that made her design so special was the way it ensured that every child and every member of staff would have their own section to paint, making the ox a true symbol of unity and belonging. Once the ox arrived, the whole school worked together to bring the design to life, with children experiencing art in a completely unique and collaborative way.



### **A County-Wide Celebration of Art**

Our completed ox joined local herds of mini oxen displayed in publicly accessible buildings across the county for eight weeks. We were thrilled that ours was showcased at Thame Library, giving families and the wider community the opportunity to admire the children's work. At the same time, over 30 life-sized ox sculptures, uniquely decorated by local and international artists, appeared across Oxford, creating a vibrant and family-friendly trail.

Through the project, pupils not only developed their artistic skills but also became part of a **county-wide initiative**, seeing first-hand how art can connect communities and support meaningful causes.

### **Fundraising for Sobell House Hospice**

At the heart of the OxTrail project was fundraising for Sobell House Hospice, a charity that provides specialist palliative and end-of-life care across Oxfordshire. Last year alone, Sobell House cared for 66% of the people who died in Oxfordshire, supporting both patients and their families with compassion, dignity and expertise.



Our fundraising efforts were driven by the children, families and staff working together - and the results were phenomenal. Despite being a small school and facing strong competition from **86 schools**, Aston Rowant School didn't just take part... **we won**.

### **Winners of the Oxley Competition**

We were absolutely blown away to be named first place winners of the Oxley Competition, having raised **825.45%** over our original fundraising target. The feedback from OxTrail and Sobell House said it all:

*'WOWWWWWW!!!! My goodness me, Aston Rowant are truly out of this world. What a fantastic total to have raised for Sobell House Hospice. We are so grateful. Thank you so much to all of the teachers, parents and children who got involved in your fundraising. We are really blown away. We would just like to let you know that you have come first place in our Oxley competition, successfully raising 825.45% over your target!'*

As a reward, we were treated to a very special visit from **Oxley himself**, which was a moment of huge excitement and pride for the children.

### **Living Our School Values**

Throughout the project, our children demonstrated everything we stand for at Aston Rowant. This was a project rooted in our values of: Gratitude • Resilience • Outreach • Wonder • Trust • Harmony

From creativity and teamwork, to generosity and perseverance, the OxTrail project showed how our values are lived out in action. It was an inspiring reminder of what can be achieved when a school community comes together with heart, purpose and ambition.

This project will remain a lasting symbol of our children's creativity, compassion and capability - and a moment we are immensely proud of.

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



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