



**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**



25<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

As we reach the half-way point of this academic year I wanted to update you on the work the governing board have been doing. One of the key functions of the governing board is to monitor the school budget and ensure that money is spent wisely to ensure all of our pupils grow to reach their maximum potential. In the last twelve months we have seen several major upgrades to the school buildings with further exciting improvements planned!

We also monitor the impact of the school development plan (SDP). This annual plan sets out the direction the school wants to grow and develop over the next year to deliver our vision. The SDP is a collaborative process where we listen to the views of pupils, staff and parents to help shape our priorities.

We will be sending out a link to an online parent survey in the second half of the spring term and would be very grateful if you could share your thoughts with us. Whilst all subjects are of course monitored, we also look at how the children are enabled to grow as people. We look at their mental, social and emotional development as much as their academic progress.

To help achieve this the school works hard to give a broad and rich range of experiences to all children from visitors running workshops in school to trips and activities off-site. One of these highlights is the opportunity for students in Owl class to go on a residential trip. This trip is run every other year and means every child will have the chance to take part in this exciting experience, either when they are in Year 5 or Year 6. Staff and parents regularly tell us that their children come back from this adventure 'a few inches taller' often having discovered a hidden talent. It is such an important part of allowing them to grow as individuals and experience new challenges in a safe and nurturing environment. For many children it will be their first stay away from home and this can be both exciting and daunting for both them and you! But the confidence, resilience and skills they learn are invaluable as they start to build towards the next stage of their school life. We want to make sure every child has the chance to take part and get the most of their time at school so if there is anything that you feel might be a barrier to your child joining any of the school trips we would encourage you to speak with the school as soon as possible. Whilst we cannot run these trips without financial contributions, we do appreciate that these events can be costly and school are very happy to help signpost you towards some potential support (for example The School House Trust).

Of course, to be able to benefit from all the opportunities and experiences that the school offers children do need to be in school. The governing board closely monitor attendance levels and whilst we are pleased to have seen some recent improvement, there is still some work to be done to reach

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



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our target of 97% attendance. Even small changes in attendance can have a real impact over time. For example, attendance of 95% is equivalent to around two weeks of missed learning across a year. We would also encourage you where possible, to book routine medical and dental appointments out of school hours or during school holidays.

We are particularly mindful of time away from school due to holidays. Every day that a child is not in school will impact not only their academic learning but also their social and emotional development. It can also create additional challenges in helping children to catch up on missed learning when they return. As a board many of us are, or have been, affected by the huge price premiums forced upon families booking holidays out of term time and we understand the temptation to miss 'just a few days' of school to avoid this. Please remember though that this does have a noticeable and wide-ranging impact and attendance at school is a legal requirement for children.

Please help us to make sure your child's time at school is as fulfilling and impactful as possible and if you would like some help or support with improving your child's attendance or offering them the opportunity to take part in the trips offered by the school then please do contact the school.

With many thanks for your ongoing support and best wishes for the rest of the spring term.

Tom Sowerby - Chair of Governors  
*on behalf of Aston Rowant CofE School Board of Governors.*