

Pupil Voice: World Book Day 2023 – Once Upon a Time...

A Celebration of Words, Creativity and Storytelling

Brilliant! Great fun! Enjoyable!

These were just some of the words children used to describe World Book Day 2023 - and how fitting, since this year everyone came dressed *as a word*! It was a wonderful celebration of language, imagination and creativity. From ambitious adjectives to vibrant verbs and marvellous metaphors, the richness of vocabulary filled our school corridors all day long.

This was also our first big opportunity for vertical House learning that academic year, and it was a joy to see our older children take genuine pride in supporting the younger ones. Owl Class, in particular, shone as leaders, helping to include, guide and encourage every child in their group.



Anansi the Spider – African/Caribbean Tales

Children listened to the traditional tale of Anansi, the mischievous spider, before diving into activities inspired by African storytelling traditions.

They created:

- African drums
- Silhouette puppets

Pupil Voice:

- *“I loved making the drum - it sounded amazing when we tried it!”*
- *“Anansi was funny... I liked making my puppet move across the screen.”*



The Three Little Pigs – Building & Testing!

Pupils chose materials and built their own houses, before testing them against the “big bad hairdryer” to see which construction was strongest!

Pupil Voice:

- *“Our house didn’t blow down! I think we chose the best materials.”*
- *“It was fun seeing the older children get so into building again!”*

It was heart-warming to see older pupils completely engaged in simple construction tasks they may not have done for years - teamwork at its very best.



The Enormous Turnip – Drama & Curly Wurly Challenge

After acting out the classic tale of cooperation and perseverance, children put teamwork into action with the Curly Wurly Stretch Challenge.

This required:

- Collaboration
- Careful handling
- A lot of restraint - not one Curly Wurly was eaten!

Two groups stretched theirs beyond three metres, much to everyone’s delight.

Pupil Voice:

- *“I felt really proud because I helped everyone stretch it and didn’t give up.”*



Rapunzel – Finger Knitted Tresses

Inspired by Rapunzel’s famously long hair, children used finger knitting to create long, woven strands. This activity required patience, nimble fingers and concentration.

Pupil Voice:

- *"My braid was longer than my arm!"*
- *"I want to finger-knit at home now."*

Our Own Aston Rowant Dictionary

In the afternoon, children lined up in alphabetical order, proudly displaying their chosen words to create our very own school dictionary. This display of vocabulary - and creativity - was a beautiful celebration of our theme.

Book Swap & Shared Reading

We ended the day with a well-loved event: our book swap. Children were excited to choose a "new-to-you" book and were soon found curled up in corners, sharing stories together.

Pupil Voice:

- *"I swapped for a book I've never read - it looks brilliant!"*
- *"I like giving my book to someone else so they can enjoy it too."*

A huge thank you to families for the generous book donations. They were incredibly appreciated.

A Day Filled with Joy and Learning

As staff moved through classrooms, they commented on the wonderful *buzz* of creativity and collaboration. Children were fully absorbed in their activities, helping one another, trying new challenges and celebrating stories in many different forms.

It was a day full of:

- Creativity
- Language
- Storytelling
- Teamwork
- Laughter
- And of course... **words!**

Another hugely successful World Book Day at Aston Rowant - and a wonderful example of us all **Growing Together**.