

Pupil Voice: World Book Day 2025

Heroes and Villains

World Book Day 2025 at Aston Rowant was a spectacular celebration of heroes, villains, and the incredible stories that bring them to life. From the moment children arrived, the corridors were filled with capes, cloaks, masks, crowns, whiskers, and wicked grins as pupils proudly shared the books behind their brilliant costumes.

We were visited by Miss Trunchbull, Matilda, The Highway Rat, Fantastic Mr Fox, The White Witch, The Evil Pea, Queen Esther, and many, many more. The creativity and excitement across the school showed just how much our pupils love reading, storytelling and using their imaginations.

Throughout the day, children worked across their houses on a creative carousel of activities, discovering new heroes, new villains and new ways to enjoy books.

Top Trumps – Create Your Character!

Children designed their own “Heroes and Villains” Top Trumps cards, thinking carefully about strengths, weaknesses, special powers and character traits.

Pupil Voice:

- *“Mine is the strongest hero ever... but also a tiny bit scared of spiders!”*
- *“I loved choosing the powers because it made my character feel real.”*
- *“Top Trumps are fun because you have to think about what makes someone a hero or a villain.”*

Comic Strip Creations

Using inspiration from their favourite books, pupils created action-packed comic strips, complete with speech bubbles, sound effects and dramatic plots.

Pupil Voice:

- *“My villain fell in a hole but came back in the last box — villains always return!”*
- *“Drawing comics is like being the illustrator and the author at the same time.”*
- *“I liked making the POW! BOOM! WHACK! parts the most.”*

Superhero Art Studio

Children explored what makes someone heroic and designed bold, colourful superhero art. Costumes, logos, backstories and dramatic poses all made an appearance!

Pupil Voice:

- *“My hero helps animals — that’s their superpower.”*
- *“I made myself as a superhero. My power is kindness!”*
- *“You can make a superhero out of anything... even a pencil!”*

The Masked Readers – Guess Who?

The highlight of the day was the return of our Masked Readers! Teachers and parents read stories from behind masks, with only their voices - and a few sneaky clues - to help children guess who they were. Each class buzzed with excitement as pupils whispered, guessed and debated the mystery identities.

Pupil Voice:

- *“I KNEW Masked Reader 3 was Mrs Healy because of the way she said ‘once upon a time!’”*
- *“It was so hard, I changed my mind five times!”*
- *“I hope we do Masked Reader forever — it’s the best thing ever!”*
- *“I guessed one straight away but the others tricked me!”*

What the children said about Heroes and Villains

- *“Heroes don’t always wear capes — some are in books and some are in real life.”*
- *“Villains are fun to act as because they’re dramatic!”*
- *“I liked being Matilda because she’s brave even when people are mean to her.”*
- *“Queen Esther is my favourite hero because she made a difference to her people.”*
- *“The Evil Pea is tiny but mighty — just like me!”*
- *“I like books with villains because you don’t know what they’re going to do next.”*
- *“Heroes help others. Villains help themselves. That’s how you can tell the difference.”*



Why this day mattered

World Book Day 2025 helped children understand that stories are full of lessons about bravery, courage, choices and character.

It reminded pupils that:

- Heroes come in many forms
- Villains make stories exciting
- Creativity makes reading even more fun
- Books help us explore big ideas through characters we love (and love to hate!)

Most of all, it filled the school with joy, imagination and pride - the very best of **Growing Together**.