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Merit | 2024 - 2025Green Tree School  
Bronze Award

**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*

Walk to School Week is nearly here, and we're really looking forward to seeing as many children and families as possible getting involved. Whether you walk, scoot, cycle, park and stride, or travel part of the way on foot, every journey counts. It's not about doing everything differently - it's about small, positive steps that help us arrive at school feeling happy, healthy and ready to learn. Please remember: if you need to drive, that's absolutely fine. Parking a little further away and walking the last few minutes still makes a real difference.

### *Inclusion & Diversity Day - Different Together*

On Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May, we will be holding a whole-school Inclusion and Diversity Day. Children will spend the day working in their House teams across a range of thoughtful and enjoyable activities designed to help them celebrate what makes us all unique, practise kindness, and learn how to include and support one another.

Activities will include:

- sharing personal stories and identities
- kindness and appreciation activities
- creative exploration through art, music and storytelling
- inclusive games that help children understand different experiences

Children are welcome (but not required) to wear **something that represents them** – this could be linked to culture, family, interests or something that makes them feel special. If this isn't possible, children can bring a small object or simply take part in the activities provided.

We're very much looking forward to a day that reflects our values of respect, belonging and community. Displays and celebrations from the day will be shared with families afterwards.

### *Attendance Reminder*

We have emailed parents today regarding school attendance and term-time holidays. We have seen an increase in holiday requests and patterns of short absences attached to weekends and school breaks, which can have a real impact on children's learning and classroom routines. Regular attendance is key to pupils' success, and as a school we have a legal responsibility to monitor and address unauthorised absence. The letter explains how we will be taking a firmer approach going forward, while also continuing to recognise and reward good attendance. We encourage all parents and carers to read this carefully and thank you for your continued support in ensuring children are in school every day that they can be.

### *Finally... Working in Partnership – Parent Survey & Governor Feedback*

Thank you to all the parents and carers who took part in the parent survey and to those who joined our face-to-face session with governors on Wednesday. These conversations are an important part of how we work together as a school community.

Our governors greatly value your feedback and see it as a vital way of strengthening the partnership between home and school. The purpose of these sessions and the survey is to share survey results openly, celebrate what is working well, and listen carefully to any ideas for growth or improvement. As with all good feedback, nothing should ever come as a surprise – if there is something you feel could be better, we really encourage you to raise it with us directly so we can understand it and work with you.

The online survey remains anonymous, but positive change happens best through open conversation. If we don't know about a concern, we can't help to resolve it. Governors offer opportunities for 1:1 conversations at the end of sessions for anyone who would prefer to talk privately. More information about who is on your governing board can be found [HERE](#) and you can contact them at any time via the school office or by emailing [chair@aston-rowant.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:chair@aston-rowant.oxon.sch.uk)

There is another feedback session tonight (Friday 8th) at 5.30pm which you can join virtually via Teams using [THIS LINK](#). Thank you, as always, for taking the time to share your views and for working in partnership with us to support our school.

*Kind regards*

*Mrs France*

**GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY**

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

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## *Teaching and Learning in the Classrooms this week:*



### *Hedgehog Class*

What a fantastic week we've had in class! In Maths, we explored number bonds to 10 using lots of exciting hands-on methods including fingers, bead strings, tens frames and part-whole models. We also investigated doubles by spotting matching numbers all around us - from the spots on ladybirds to pairs of objects - helping us to work out doubles and begin remembering the answers confidently. In Topic, we learned all about rainforest plants and the different foods that grow there. The children worked brilliantly in our own garden area, thinking carefully about what we can grow ourselves. We would be very grateful for any plant donations of fruit or vegetables! We are especially looking for runner beans and tomatoes, but anything would be warmly welcomed. In English, we read *The Selfish Crocodile* and thought deeply about how the main character could speak more kindly instead of shouting at everyone. The children enjoyed writing speech bubbles to show what the crocodile might say differently. It has been a lovely sunny week full of busy learning and smiles! ☀️ You should also have received a letter about next week's Jungle Picnic - we are all very excited!



### *Squirrel Class*

This week in Squirrel Class, we have been busy with lots of exciting learning across the curriculum. In Maths, Year 1 explored counting in tens, equal and unequal groups, and arrays using practical activities such as counters and drawing arrays with chalk on the playground. Year 2 investigated temperature, comparing degrees Celsius and using the four operations to solve problems involving temperature. They are looking forward to beginning fractions next week. In English, we continued reading *The Ugly Five* book by Julia Donaldson and used adjectives to describe the animals from the story. We researched African animals using iPads and made fact files in preparation for creating our own African Animal Encyclopedia. In Science, we learned about ocean and rainforest habitats and completed a jigsaw challenge using clues about the plants and animals that live there. We also enjoyed playing the glockenspiels in Music and in Computing we developed our understanding of sequencing through a computer-based music making activity. A shorter week but lots of learning packed in!



### *Fox Class*

This week in Fox Class we have worn many hats (metaphorically speaking!). Wearing our Maths hat, Y3 have become bankers and launched full force into their Money topic. It would be really helpful if you could spend some time with your children letting them count money – I know it's something they don't see much of these days! In Y4, still in decimal world, the class have been comparing, ordering, rounding and understood halves and quarters as decimals before also changing hats to become bankers! In our English, they have been sporting rather jolly fronted adverbial hats and children have been able to identify them and understand that they could be one word or a phrase, but it must have a comma. In our History, they became Celts and understood the changes that the Romans would make to Britain. Using a conscious alley, children had to reason why they should or should not let the Romans into their village. It gave the class an opportunity to understand what effect it would have on their lives. In Science, they put on their forensic scientist hats and learnt about the study of dermatoglyphics (fingerprints!). They learnt about when they were formed, what use they have and how to take them. Once they had taken their own fingerprints, they investigated which material would give them the best result. Time to remove the hats and have a weekend to rest methinks!



### *Owl Class*

Despite this being a shorter-than-normal week, Owl Class have packed in an impressive amount of learning and enthusiasm across the curriculum! In English, the children have been revisiting the dramatic raid on Bonekeep Warren. They worked together to recount the events of that fateful day and carefully planned an exciting, action-packed recount written from the perspective of our hero, Podkin, and have considered how to build tension and bring events to life for the reader. In Maths, we explored measuring angles using protractors, developing confidence with this important practical skill, before applying their learning to solve missing angles on straight lines and around a single point. This has been a brilliant topic, and the class have really enjoyed getting to grips with practical geometry and problem-solving. In Science we explored how adding components to a circuit can build up resistance and reduce the current that flows through the circuit - using hula hoops! In RE, Owl Class delved in depth into one of the key Hindu pilgrimage journeys in India - the Char Dham Yatra. The children learned about the route, the four sacred sites involved, and why this pilgrimage holds such deep spiritual significance for Hindus. Well done to Owl Class for their hard work, focus and enthusiasm throughout a busy but rewarding week!

**GRATITUDE****RESILIENCE****OUTREACH****WONDER****TRUST****HARMONY**

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



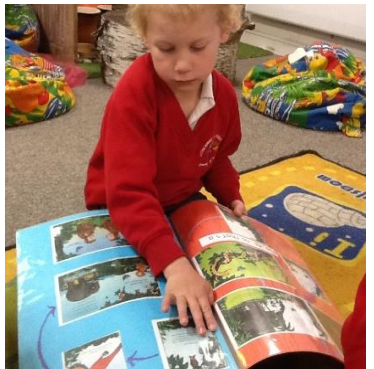
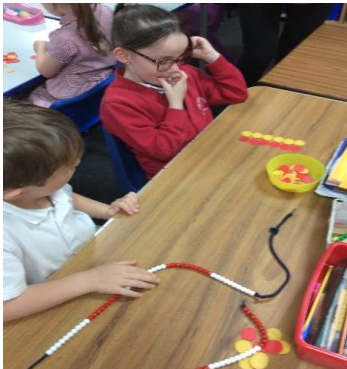
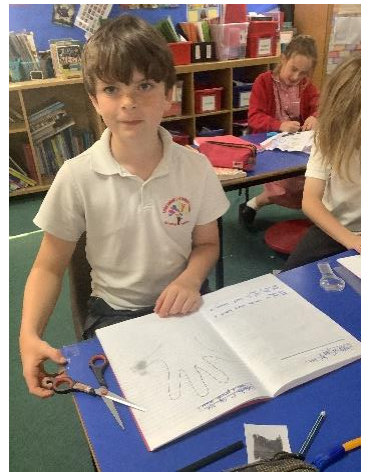
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## *Photo Diary of the Week*



**GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY**

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## Whole School Topic - Summer Term: Window on the World

### Value: Harmony

This week in Collective Worship, we listened to the story of two sisters, Mary and Martha. Jesus loved them both equally, and each showed him friendship in different ways. Martha worked hard to serve, while Mary chose to spend quiet time listening to Jesus. Through this story, Jesus taught an important lesson: while work and responsibility matter, so does making time for people - and for our relationship with God. Jesus gently explained that sometimes the best choice is to pause, listen, and simply be present:

*“Mary has chosen wisely to use her time to be with me and listen to me whilst I am here with you. It is the best thing she could be doing.”*  
Luke 10:38-42

### Climate Warriors' Challenge

This week is Water Saving Week, and the theme is “Protect Water for Wildlife.” That means everything we do to save water helps rivers, lakes and the animals that live there - from fish and frogs to birds and insects!

Your challenge this week:

Become a Water Hero at home by trying one (or more!) of these simple actions:

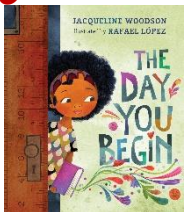
- Take a shorter shower – can you beat the timer?
- Turn taps off tightly and tell an adult if you spot a drip.
- Use leftover water (like from a bottle or bowl) to water plants.
- Turn the tap off while brushing your teeth.

Every drop saved helps protect wildlife and keeps our planet healthy. Tell your teacher which Water Hero action you tried - even **small changes make a big splash!**

### Reading Missions Challenge May

**May:** Read a poetry book or a verse novel.

### Book Review The Day You Begin by Jacqueline Woodson



*The Day You Begin* is a gentle, powerful story about feeling different and finding the courage to share who you are. Through simple but moving examples, the book explores what it feels like to be new, unsure, or not quite like everyone else - and reassures children that these feelings are shared by many. Its message that connection begins when we dare to speak and listen makes it a beautiful fit for our focus on inclusion and belonging, and it opens up thoughtful conversations with children of all ages about empathy, confidence and kindness.

### 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	88%	0%	12%
Squirrel Class	93%	0%	7%
Fox Class	93%	0%	7%
Owl Class	84%	0%	16%

### Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	41	180
Eden	50	190
Galilee	33	182
Jerusalem	47	163

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## *Emails and Letters Sent this Week*

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
08.05.26	Letter	All	Mrs France	Lockdown letter
08.05.26	Letter	All	Mrs France/Chair of Governors	Absence letter
08.05.26	Email	Y6	Mrs France	Y6 SATs Week – Attendance & support
08.05.26	Email	Hedgehog	Mrs Hall	Transition Picnic
06.05.26	Letter	All	Mrs King	PTA Cake raffle reminder
06.05.26	Letter	All	Mrs King	PTA Minutes
05.05.26	Letter	All	Governing Board	Parent View Follow-up

May	
Mon 11 <sup>th</sup> – Thu 14 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 SATs
w/c 18 <sup>th</sup> May	Walk to School Week
<b>20<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Inclusion &amp; Diversity Day - 'Different Together' Wear something that represents you.</b>
June	
w/c 1 <sup>st</sup>	Maths Times Tables Check Year 4
w/c 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Phonics Screening check Year 1
Fri 5 <sup>th</sup>	Thame Partnership More Able Writers (Y5 – some)
Tue 9 <sup>th</sup>	Squirrel trip – Beale Park
Wed 10 <sup>th</sup>	Opera First – Garsington Opera Workshop Owl Class
Wed 10 <sup>th</sup>	Michael Morpurgo Workshop online Fox Class
Mon 15 <sup>th</sup>	Thame Partnership Maths Challenge Year 3/4 (some)
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup>	Thame Partnership Dance Festival
Tue 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Opera First – Garsington Opera Visit Owl Class
Wed 24 <sup>th</sup>	First Aid Training KS2
Mon 29 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Owl Residential
July	
Tue 7 <sup>th</sup>	14:00 KSI play
Wed 8 <sup>th</sup>	14:30 Rock Steady concert 17:30 KSI play
w/c 13 <sup>th</sup>	PE Enrichment Week in Sports Day TUE 14 <sup>th</sup> July
Fri 17 <sup>th</sup>	Leavers Service

## *Academic Year Calendar 2025-26*

Summer 26	
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> April – Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Summer Term (1) INSET Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> May
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> May – Fri 29 <sup>th</sup> May	HALF TERM
Mon 1 <sup>st</sup> June – Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Summer Term (2) INSET Mon 20 <sup>th</sup> July

## *Academic Year Calendar 2026-27*

Autumn 26	
Tue 1 <sup>st</sup> Sept – Fri 23 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	Autumn Term (1) INSET DAYS: Tue 1 <sup>st</sup> Sep, Wed 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sept and Fri 23 <sup>rd</sup> Oct
Mon 26 <sup>th</sup> Oct – Fri 30 <sup>th</sup> Oct	HALF TERM
Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup> Nov – Fri 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Autumn Term (2)
Spring 27	
Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan – Fri 12 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Spring Term (1) INSET Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan
Mon 15 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> Feb	HALF TERM
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup> Feb – Thu 25 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Spring Term (2)
Summer 27	
Mon 12 <sup>th</sup> April – Fri 28 <sup>th</sup> May	Summer Term (1)
Mon 31 <sup>st</sup> May – Fri 4 <sup>th</sup> Jun	HALF TERM
Mon 7 <sup>th</sup> June – Wed 21 <sup>st</sup> July	Summer Term (2) INSET Mon 7 <sup>th</sup> Jun

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