



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

Assessments

It has been a particularly busy and rewarding week in school, with children across all year groups demonstrating resilience, determination and a real sense of pride in their learning. Our Year 6 pupils have approached their SATs with maturity and focus, completing six test papers across reading, SPaG and mathematics. Throughout the week, they have shown not only strong test skills, but also calmness, perseverance and a positive attitude. We are incredibly proud of how they have conducted themselves - this reflects the hard work they have put in over time and the confidence they have developed as learners.

Whilst assessments are just one part of a child's educational journey, they do provide an opportunity for pupils to demonstrate what they know and can do. Most importantly, we want our children to feel confident, supported and ready to face new challenges - skills which will serve them well as they move on to secondary school and beyond.

Looking ahead, it continues to be a busy period across the school. After half term, Year 2 will complete their internal assessments, Year 4 will take part in the multiplication tables check and Year 1 will undertake the phonics screening. We look forward to seeing all of our children approach these with the same positivity and resilience.

Behaviour

This week we shared an update with parents and carers about behaviour in school and how we ensure children feel safe, happy and ready to learn. As a small school, we know our pupils well and behaviour is closely monitored throughout the day by staff and senior leaders. Visitors regularly comment on the calm, respectful atmosphere in our school, and we are proud of the way our children live out our values of kindness, respect and responsibility. Positive behaviour is recognised and celebrated, and any concerns are logged, reviewed and addressed promptly. We see behaviour as a partnership between home and school and thank families for their continued support. The final word goes to Ofsted: 'Pupils happily look out for each other. They affirm that bullying has no place here, and know that adults would sort out any issues right away.'

Technology, Screen Time and Learning

We know many families are thinking carefully about the role of technology in children's lives, and this is something we reflect on regularly at Aston Rowant School. Technology is used purposefully and proportionately to support learning, not replace it. In Key Stage 2, iPads are used briefly in Maths to consolidate learning, alongside a weekly IT lesson where digital skills are taught explicitly. Beyond this, devices are used on an ad-hoc basis when they enhance learning, and children also regularly use books, practical resources, discussion and outdoor learning. Our approach aligns with current Government guidance, which emphasises balance, quality of content and intentional use. We are exploring opportunities to host a parent information session later in the year and look forward to continuing these shared conversations with families.

Walk to School Week – Next Week

Next week is Walk to School Week and links perfectly with our Climate Warriors challenge – reminding us that "little by little, a little becomes a lot." We'll be taking part in some simple daily challenges: Mindful Monday Moments – notice your surroundings (cloud shapes, birdsong, funny faces in nature!); Talk & Thankful Tuesday – walk with someone, share a positive conversation or say hello and think of something you're grateful for; Wild & Wonder Wednesday – spot something from nature and share your "wow" moment in class; Thoughtful Thursday – share the impact this week has had as we celebrate together with a special Walk to School Breakfast. Every small step makes a difference – we'd love everyone to join in however they can!

Inclusion Day – Wednesday 20th May

Next Wednesday is our much-anticipated Inclusion Day - one of the many ways we celebrate what makes our school community unique and special. Children are invited to wear something that represents who they are - perhaps a hobby, sport, interest or personal style. This isn't general mufti, but a chance for pupils to express themselves and share what matters to them. We'll be spending time during the day talking, celebrating and learning more about each other - we're really looking forward to it!

Finally... Can you spare an hour on INSET day?

We are hoping a few parents or carers might be able to spare an hour or two on our upcoming INSET day on Friday 22nd May to help with some much-needed jobs around the school. We have a variety of tasks, including updating indoor displays and some outdoor painting. Any help - however small - would be hugely appreciated. Children are very welcome to come along and enjoy the outdoor space or the hall while you lend a hand. Any time you are able to give will make a real difference and will be gratefully received.

Kind regards

Mrs France

GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY

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



Teaching and Learning in the Classrooms this week:

Hedgehog Class



This week in Hedgehog Class, the children have been busy writing their final Jungle stories, drawing on all the characters, problems, solutions and rich vocabulary they've been collecting over the term. They even created their own clay characters, giving them names, personalities and lots of wonderful adjectives. We were so impressed with the sentences they produced. One example was:

"This is Steve. He is a snake. He is very silly. He lives in the jungle. It is wet and humid. He has a problem. 'I have a toothache!' But one day he went to the dentist. The end."

In Maths, we have been practising the composition of numbers beyond 10 and exploring number patterns, helping the children build confidence and flexibility with number. Our Topic learning was full of excitement as we enjoyed a Jungle-themed picnic with the children who will be joining us in September. It was a lovely opportunity to make new friends, show them around our classroom and proudly share some of our work. As we look ahead to next term, please do continue practising counting beyond 20 and spotting number patterns at home - it makes a real difference. Finally, if your child has been lucky enough to visit the seaside, we would be very grateful for named photos to support our upcoming learning.



Squirrel Class

The penultimate week of Summer 1 term has seen the Squirrel Class as busy as ever! In English lessons we completed our fact-files on African animals and created a class book for our library area. We have now moved onto a new writing text titled 'Dragon Post' and it features a little boy that one day discovers a dragon living under his stairs. We received a visit from that dragon to our Rainbow room this week (see photo page!) and the children wrote letters to the Fire Brigade requesting advice about the safety of housing a fire-breathing dragon in a building. In Maths the Y1 children looked at making arrays, making doubles and making equal groups. We used gingerbread men to create buttons for his coat in equal groups. The Y2 children have started their fractions learning, building understanding on parts and whole, equal groups and halves. In History, we explored what school was like in the 1900s and compared it to school life today in 2026. The children were fascinated to learn about punishments such as the cane and the dunce's cap, as well as the clothes children used to wear to school. In RE, we learned about Ascension Day and discussed the story of Jesus returning to heaven to be with God the Father. The children enjoyed reading the story in the Bible and Y1 created some beautiful artwork inspired by the moment Jesus ascended. Year 2 children also thought carefully about what Jesus might pack in a suitcase for his journey back to his Father. In Science, we consolidated our understanding of food chains by exploring how they work in different habitats. The children learned about the important role of plants, flowers, and trees as primary producers and discussed how some animals can have dual roles as both predator and prey.



Fox Class

What a week of growth this week! In Maths, Year 3 have now moved on to working with time - a particularly tricky concept. However, just like the Y6 children they have approached it with resilience and focus. It would really help your children if you could also spend time talking time! Focus on telling the time to every 5 minutes and if possible, to every minute. Ensure they understand when it is 'to' and 'past'. Thank you! With resilience in mind, the class have enjoyed looking at our Learning Pit display which shows how learning can happen and what we can do if we struggle. I added in a small image of each of them to help them understand the journey. In Y4, children have been working with money - comparing, converting, estimating, calculating and solving money problems. All useful skills! In our English this week, the class have written diaries as a child in Pompeii prior to the eruption, revisited their knowledge of using inverted commas before planning and stating to write their own story including speech. I also spent time with each children discussing what their targets should be in English after we had discussed what they thought of their work and where they felt they could improve. A useful discussion! In our History, we learnt more about the Roman Army - we even had a go at the testudo and the wedge. No shields sadly but whiteboards seemed to do the trick! We then designed a poster with the intention of advertising for new recruits! In our Science we looked at probability and Murphy's Law! We worked as scientists to find out if toast always landed butter side down! It gave them the opportunity to discuss fair testing, variables and how to control a test. They worked brilliantly and thoroughly enjoyed the investigation. In our Art, the class have been working like illustrators and made their own book then added in their own choice of illustrations to match the poem they had chosen. A super week had by all!



Owl Class

Hi, my name is Miss Lewis, and I am very excited to be teaching alongside Mr Manning throughout this term in Owl Class. This week has been jam-packed with SATs, and we are so proud of the children for the concentration, perseverance, and positive attitudes they have shown each day. They have all worked incredibly hard, and should feel very proud of themselves. One of the highlights of the week was our science lesson on Wednesday; the children enjoyed exploring different ways to change the voltage within an electrical circuit. Together, we investigated a range of batteries and discussed which batteries might be best for different appliances we use at home. We would love for the children to continue these conversations at home by looking at different appliances and thinking about the role voltage plays in how they work. In English we finished our work on Podkin One-Ear with an exciting recount of the events of the fall of Boneroot Warren, retold from a guards point of view - the children were tasked with switching between tenses as the Guard recounts what had happened, what was still happening, and casts their mind to what may lie ahead. In Maths, Year 5 have been finding the value of missing interior angles of triangles, rectangles and various other polygons, and using their growing protractor skills to accurately redraw the angles needed. In History, the class examined the impact of Ranjit Singh on modern life, and used the 5 'R' methodology to prove why his achievements were historically significant. Lastly, as promised to the students, please find the QR code for the circuit simulation website below. This allows the children to create their own electrical circuits and explore the impacts of voltage, resistance, and different components in a fun and interactive way. Finally, our petition has been approved by The House of Commons: "Provide more funding and aid for children's education in Gaza" Please click [here](#) to sign.

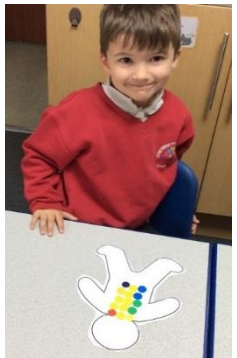
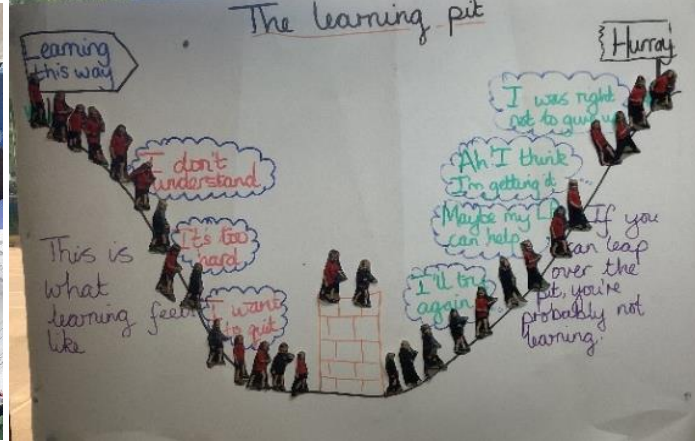




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Photo Diary of the Week



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



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Whole School Topic - Summer Term: Window on the World

Value: Harmony

In Collective Worship this week, we learned that true friendship isn't only about sharing laughter and happy moments. Being a good friend also means showing compassion when things are difficult. We talked about how everyone experiences friendship differently, and that being inclusive means noticing when someone may need extra time, support or understanding. Sometimes the most loving thing we can do is slow down, listen carefully, and be fully present when a friend feels overwhelmed, left out or needs help to join in. The Bible reminds us of the importance of loyalty, kindness and standing alongside one another, especially in challenging times: "A friend is always loyal, and a brother is born to help in times of need." (Proverbs 17:17)

Climate Warriors' Challenge Walk to School Week (18th-22nd May)

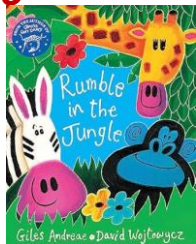
Next week marks Walk to School Week, a great opportunity for our Young Climate Warriors - and our whole community - to make small, positive changes together. We know that little actions, taken consistently, can really add up: "little by little, a little becomes a lot." Choosing to walk, scoot or cycle where possible helps reduce traffic and emissions around school, while also giving families a chance to enjoy the journey together. Whether it's spotting shapes in the clouds, listening out for birdsong, creating a "funny faces" trail, or even trying a bit of dew-walking - there are lots of ways to make the journey fun and memorable. We'd love to hear how you take part - every small step really does make a difference!

[Six epic journeys to school](#) - BBC Newsround video - journeys from round the world
[Cloud-spotting guide](#) - Met Office

Reading Missions Challenge May

May: Read a poetry book or a verse novel.

Book Review by Hedgehog Class



We loved reading *Rumble in the Jungle!* The children thought the book was very colourful, pretty and beautiful, with lots of bright pictures that made the animals look like they were jumping off the page. One of our favourite animals was the tiger. The children said he looked exciting and a little bit cheeky. We also really enjoyed the funny poems. They made us smile and laugh because each animal had its own silly rhyme and personality. Overall, we think *Rumble in the Jungle* is a brilliant book because it is colourful, funny and full of amazing animals. We would definitely recommend it to other children who like jungles, poems and lots of giggles.

Happiness Calendar: Meaningful May

This month, we're encouraging you to try find ways to be part of something bigger. Please find this month's happiness calendar [here](#).

Attendance - This Week

School target 97%	97% - 100%	90% -97%	Below 90%
Hedgehog Class	70%	6%	24%
Squirrel Class	81%	0%	19%
Fox Class	87%	3%	10%
Owl Class	80%	8%	12%

Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	16	196
Eden	20	210
Galilee	14	196
Jerusalem	20	183

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Emails and Letters Sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
13.05.26	Letter	All	Mrs France	Behaviour letter
13.05.26	Email	All	Office	Bike shed clear out needed
13.05.26	Email	Fox	Mrs Healy	Science – wood request
12.05.26	Letter	All	Mrs France	Technology, Screen Time and Learning
11.05.26	Email	All	Mrs France	Wrap around care provision

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

Academic Year Calendar 2025-26

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

Academic Year Calendar 2026-27

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

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