

Curriculum Enrichment: Science Oxford Big Science Event 2025

On Tuesday 17th June 2025, pupils from Fox Class took part in Science Oxford's Big Science Event, an annual celebration of pupil-led scientific enquiry designed to encourage children to ask meaningful scientific questions, carry out investigations and communicate their findings effectively.

This high-quality enrichment opportunity closely aligned with our Science curriculum, particularly the focus on working scientifically, enquiry skills and scientific communication.

Curriculum Intent

The intent of participating in the Big Science Event was to deepen pupils' understanding of how scientists investigate the world around them. Pupils were encouraged to:

- Pose their own scientific questions
- Plan and carry out investigations
- Gather and interpret evidence
- Draw conclusions and communicate findings clearly

This directly supports Ofsted's emphasis on a knowledge-rich curriculum where pupils develop both substantive scientific knowledge and disciplinary skills.

Pupil-Led Investigation

Matilda, Archie, Bodie and Evelyn represented Aston Rowant School at the Science Oxford Centre, where they shared their investigation titled "Are All Insects the Same?". Their research explored similarities and differences between insects, drawing on careful observation, classification and comparison - key scientific skills taught throughout the primary curriculum.

The pupils confidently explained:

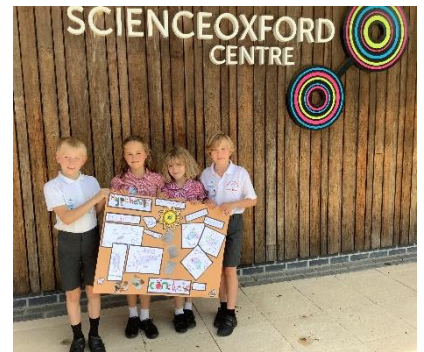
- How insects can be grouped and identified
- What makes an insect an insect
- How careful observation helps scientists draw conclusions

Their work demonstrated strong retention of prior learning, accurate use of scientific vocabulary and a clear understanding of enquiry methods.

Engagement With the Wider Scientific Community

The Big Science Event brought together many schools, each sharing their own research projects. The pupils had the opportunity to explore a range of hands-on STEM activities at the Science Oxford Centre, extending their learning beyond the classroom and reinforcing the idea that science is active, collaborative and exploratory.

The quality of Aston Rowant's presentation stood out. The pupils' confidence, clarity and depth of understanding were so impressive that Science Oxford selected them to be interviewed, giving them an authentic audience for their work and reinforcing the importance of communicating science effectively.



Recognition and Impact

The pupils' investigation also caught the attention of the editor of *The Bee Is Not Afraid of Me*, who spent time discussing the research with them and asking thoughtful questions about their findings. She was so impressed by the children's knowledge and curiosity that she presented them with a copy of her book.

This recognition had a powerful impact, showing pupils that their scientific thinking is valued beyond school and that curiosity, careful investigation and perseverance matter.



Curriculum Impact

This experience had clear and lasting impact on pupils' learning and personal development. Pupils:

- Demonstrated confidence in discussing scientific ideas
- Applied classroom knowledge in a real-world context
- Developed communication and presentation skills
- Built curiosity, aspiration and pride in their learning

The Big Science Event exemplifies how curriculum enrichment at Aston Rowant is purposeful, coherent and deeply connected to learning, rather than an isolated experience.

We are incredibly proud of the pupils for representing the school so thoughtfully and for demonstrating the depth, curiosity and enthusiasm that underpin our Science curriculum.