



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



19th May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Firstly, a huge thank you to all of you who gave up some time to meet with us recently. It was really useful to hear your views, both positive as well as how you would like to see us do things differently. Whilst every point raised has been carefully considered, we have focused on summarising the key themes that emerged. We wanted to update you on adaptations we are making.

Communications

- We heard that you wanted a direct line of communication with your class teacher. Following careful consideration, the school will not introduce individual class email addresses, however, in recognition that you will sometimes want to pass a short update or message directly to your class teacher there will be a new email address which can be used for this. To ease staff workload this will be monitored centrally with messages sent out to the appropriate classroom. If you wish to discuss a sensitive matter with the class teacher you can simply request a meeting with them to discuss 'a sensitive matter' and therefore there should be no concerns around confidentiality. Mrs France will be sending out a letter shortly detailing how the new system will work.
- You told us that response times and reliability can be mixed when emailing school. We have discussed this and the aim is to respond to all queries within two school days. School have said they will review some office systems to ensure that all queries are tracked.
- You said that sometimes information does not come out with sufficient notice and/or your child is told about events before you. School will endeavour to give as much notice as practical, however, there are sometimes operational reasons why they may not be able to give full details until closer to the time. Where possible communications about events will go out before or alongside talking to the children about them. Sometimes it may be appropriate to discuss something in the classroom before it is communicated to parents, please be assured that this is not **instead** of a communication to parents but simply that the topic lent itself to being discussed at that time.
- It was agreed that the role of the class parent reps could be utilised more effectively to help with communications. School will aim to increase the frequency of structured conversations with reps.

Playtimes and Wellbeing

- Some of you had concerns around behaviours at playtimes and supervision. We can confirm that the staffing levels significantly exceed the requirements. It was however acknowledged that our wonderful outdoor spaces could also become spaces to hide in. Staff will be reminded about the various duty 'areas' and encouraged to remain vigilant for anything of concern. If your child experiences any problems we would encourage you to communicate this to the school as soon as possible to help address the problem swiftly.
- The vertical play between years was celebrated by many of you so we want to keep that benefit.
- Use of screens in school and for homework was raised. Mrs France has recently written to all parents clarifying the school's position on this and the amount of time screens are used in school. We acknowledge the need to find a balance on this subject. For example, Doodle gives each child bespoke exercise and questions based on their previous responses. This means that they are

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given targeted, tailored challenges in a way that would not be possible with conventional ‘paper’ homework. School recognises your concerns however and have already enlisted a ‘parent rep’ to work closely with the school to help maintain a happy balance. If you would like to be a part of this conversation please do contact the school.

SEND

- School have recently welcomed Mrs Harper as the new SENDCo and as a part of this her hours have been increased. Mrs Harper has already spent time in each of the classrooms getting to know the children and this will continue to enable her to build relationships.
- School already have numerous SEND and dyslexia resources in the classrooms and staff continue to receive regular CPD, however, if there is a specific piece of equipment or adjustment that you think would help your child please do discuss this with school.
- School have agreed that inconsistencies between staff in approaches to SEND (e.g. fidget toys etc) is an area to be strengthened and will work on growing a more consistent approach.

Behaviour

- Some parents were unclear of how to find the behaviour policy. Whilst this has always been published on the website, Mrs France has recently written to all parents detailing behaviour management in school and attaching the full policy.
- Some of you felt unable to comment on behaviour in the classrooms as you didn’t feel you saw it first-hand. Behaviour across the school is strong and consistently reinforced. There are a range of indicators, including external validation such as Ofsted, which reflect the positive behaviour across the school. You do have the opportunity to observe behaviour in school through assemblies, events, trips and daily routines which is a good reflection on how behaviour is managed within the classrooms. The children’s progress also testifies to behaviour management.
- There were some questions around how behaviour should be managed by parent helpers in school. As discussed at the meeting – it shouldn’t be! If you are in school helping out with an event then any concerns or behavioural issues should be brought to the attention of a member of school staff who will deal with it. If the event is a PTA event outside of ‘normal’ school hours then the PTA will have a separate but aligned policy to cover this.

We hope this summary is helpful in reflecting the discussions and the actions being taken. This work reflects our shared commitment to growing together as a school community. We are committed to working in partnership with parents and carers, and your feedback plays an important role in helping us to reflect, improve and continue to provide the best possible experience for all pupils. You can still reach the governing board by email at any time via chair@aston-rowant.oxon.sch.uk.

With best wishes for the half-term holiday!

Tom Sowerby - Chair of Governors

on behalf of Aston Rowant CofE School Board of Governors.

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