



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

This week has been Walk to School Week, and we are continuing our focus on making the journey to school as safe, practical and environmentally friendly as possible. Congratulations to: Fox Class with over 90% of the class increasing their journey each day either walking and cycling. Well done for Sam for spotting a hot air balloon as he cycled! A special mention to Ezra and Billie who were inspired by Squirrel's Walk to School Homework and walked along the River Thames spotting tug boats and Big Ben!

We know that walking, cycling or scooting to school brings many benefits - supporting children's physical health, independence and wellbeing, as well as giving valuable opportunities to chat with friends and family at the start of the day. It also plays an important role in reducing traffic and congestion around the school site. As part of this, we are currently developing a school travel plan, working with parents and the wider community to explore how we can make journeys to school safer, greener and more manageable for all families. We look forward to sharing this work with you as it develops.

To support this, families may also like to take part in the BetterPoints Oxfordshire app, where you can earn rewards for walking, wheeling, cycling or using public transport. Points can be exchanged for vouchers, spent locally or donated to charity. Getting started is easy - simply download the free app here: <https://oxon.betterpoints.uk/>

Together, small changes to how we travel can make a big difference for our children, our community and our environment.

Inclusion Day - "Different Together"

On Wednesday, we held our whole-school Inclusion Day, focusing on the theme "Different Together." It was a truly special day, where children were given time and space to reflect on their own identity, celebrate what makes them unique and develop a deeper understanding of others. Pupils took part in their different houses in a range of carefully planned workshops exploring belonging, kindness, culture and inclusion, including creating a whole-school jigsaw to represent our community, writing appreciation cards and experiencing adapted activities designed to build empathy and understanding.

Children spoke thoughtfully about their own experiences and showed great maturity in listening to others, demonstrating the respect and kindness we value so highly as a school. It was a powerful reminder that our differences are something to be celebrated, and that an inclusive community is one where everyone feels seen, valued and able to contribute.

Online learning

We have been using Doodle Learning for maths for a little while now, and we wanted to take a moment to revisit why we made this switch. Doodle provides tailored, adaptive learning, meaning that each child is set questions at exactly the right level for them - supporting confidence where needed and providing challenge where appropriate. This allows pupils to practise key skills in a way that is personalised to them, rather than relying on one-size-fits-all worksheets.

We recognise that some families are understandably mindful of screen time. Doodle has been chosen because it is designed for short, focused bursts of learning (typically 10-15 minutes), rather than extended use. As always, balance is important, and if you would prefer your child to complete their learning in shorter sessions or at different times, this can easily be managed within your family routine.

The platform also provides immediate feedback and helps teachers to identify gaps in understanding quickly, meaning that the teaching time spent on homework is purposeful and targeted. Alongside this, reducing reliance on printed worksheets supports our commitment to being more environmentally conscious.

As ever we are happy to continue to review how it best supports children's learning and always welcome comments and feedback.

Finally... The Big Future Survey - Have Your Say

We have been asked to share an important opportunity from the Children's Commissioner for England. The 'Big Future Survey' gives children and young people the chance to share their views about what it is like growing up in England today. This is a valuable opportunity for their voices to be heard at a national level, as the responses will be used to inform the Government and help shape decisions that affect young people's lives.

The survey is completely voluntary and anonymous, and children can skip any questions they do not wish to answer. There are no right or wrong answers - it is all about capturing honest experiences and perspectives. If your child would like to take part or you would like to find out more, please visit the Children's Commissioner's website [The Big Future](#)

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 class, we proudly wrapped up our exciting jungle storytelling topic by introducing a problem into our stories - and what fantastic writers we have! The children produced some truly amazing writing, showing just how much their confidence, imagination, and storytelling skills have grown throughout the topic. We have been so impressed with their creativity and enthusiasm. On Wednesday, we enjoyed a wonderful day celebrating inclusion. The children looked absolutely fabulous in their outfits and embraced the day with kindness, positivity, and a real sense of togetherness. It was lovely to see everyone celebrating what makes us all unique and special. In Maths, we continued exploring doubles and halves, focusing on recalling number facts to 5 and spotting these concepts in the world around us. The children particularly enjoyed finding doubles in everyday objects - such as recognising 3 + 3 in an egg box! It has been fantastic to see them applying their learning so confidently during play and discussion. We have also been making the most of the beautiful sunshine by spending lots of time outdoors. The children have loved getting busy in the garden, planting the very kind donations of tomato plants. We are all looking forward to caring for them and hopefully enjoying the "fruit of our labour" in the weeks ahead!



Squirrel Class

This week in Squirrel Class, the children have been inspired by our class text, Dragon Post, and have written fantastic sets of instructions explaining how to care for a dragon. The children worked hard to include bossy verbs, while the Year 2s challenged themselves further by using adverbs in their writing too. In Maths, we have continued our learning on fractions, exploring quarters and fractions of quantities. The Year 1 children particularly enjoyed using modelling clay to investigate finding half of a quantity. In Science, we rounded off our learning on habitats by revisiting food chains and embedding our understanding of how plants and animals are interdependent. In History, the children shared their opinions on whether they would prefer to attend school in the 1900s or in 2026, giving thoughtful reasons for their choices. We also had a wonderful time celebrating Diversity and Inclusion Day on Wednesday, completing beautiful learning about how our school is a place for everyone. The outfits were truly inspirational! We hope you all have a wonderful half term and look forward to welcoming the children back for the final term of the year.



Fox Class

What an exciting week in Fox Class! I have to start with our Science this week! The class were tasked in making some adhesive with a selection of 3 recipes. Their investigation centred on finding the strongest, most waterproof and washable. It certainly will be an afternoon I won't forget! They were able to follow instructions perfectly and then using a range of donated wood (thank you) they proceeded to stick pieces together. If we forget about the floor, tables and clothing, we can say the afternoon was a complete success! After leaving it a few days, children returned back to their tests, to see if it met their expectations before writing a letter explaining what their results had shown them. In our English, children completed writing their narrative using speech and fronted adverbials then using peer assessing, listened and gave feedback to their partners about what went well and what their focus could be on next time. In Maths, children continued with time in Y3 - again please keep asking them the time - to the minute if possible and noticing the hands and where they are exactly. A common error is having the hour hand always point at the number rather than moving it to for example halfway between when it's half past. In Y4 a chance to refresh their arithmetic skills. In History, the class learnt about why the Romans left Britain and completed a diamond 9 task giving them the opportunity to think about what they thought were the main reasons before explaining why they thought that. Finally, a thank you for all the lovely project work brought in. The children love explaining what they did and we all love listening to their talks. Have a lovely half term and I look forward to seeing you all then.



Owl Class

This week, we used our knowledge of the Legend of Podkin One-Ear to craft a survival guide to escape the deadly Gorm, as written by a survivor from a warren. There was a blend of formal and informal language which made these Big Writes compelling and informative. We also enjoyed looking at many of the Podkin themed Big Homework projects that were brought in for Mondays deadline - so many creative and wonderful ideas and so many Headteacher awards! If your Owl has not yet completed their project, I have agreed to extend the deadline to the 1st of June for all - please do ensure that they contribute to the Big Homework projects as they allow creativity and full child-led learning. In History, we finished our unit of the Sikh Empire, and created double page spreads on our favourite parts of the topic - this is always my favourite part of the unit, as I get to see which ideas have caught the children's imagination, which were also on full drive this week, as the Year 6 used an 'anything but a backpack' theme to carry their lunches and books to school - we had ammunition crates, cat boxes, and even Moroccan lamps! Owl Class never fail to surprise. Combine this with a wonderful Inclusion Day and a surprise visit from a dear friend, and this was quite the week! Well done Owl Class - enjoy your well-deserved half-term break.



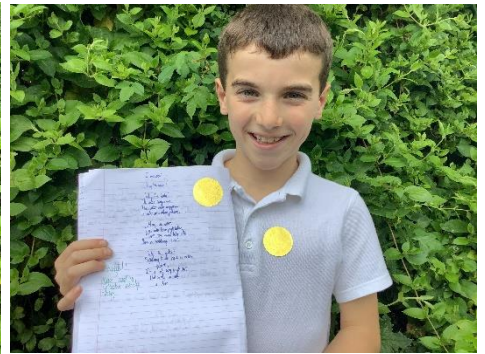
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Photo Diary of the Week



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



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Walk to School Week



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Whole School Topic - Summer Term: Window on the World

Value: Harmony

This week in Collective Worship, we have been reflecting on forgiveness and how it helps us to live peacefully and harmoniously with one another. Christians believe that when they say sorry to God for the wrong choices they have made, God forgives them completely - offering a fresh start and a clean slate. The Bible reminds us: "Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must forgive others." (Colossians 3:13)

We have been thinking about what this means in everyday school life - saying sorry, accepting forgiveness and moving forward positively. Alongside this, we have also been continuing our work on behaviour, talking with the children about how we know our school is a place where pupils behave well and show respect to one another. Our approach to behaviour is rooted in restoration and forgiveness, helping children to reflect, repair and move forward positively. We are proud of the way our children demonstrate this each day.

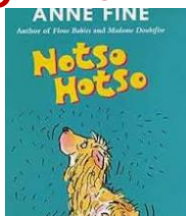
Climate Warriors' Challenge

Our half-term Eco Challenge is all about celebrating and supporting our wonderful wildflowers. We are inviting our Young Climate Warriors to become Wildflower Detectives - heading outdoors to spot and identify wildflowers growing in their local area. From daisies and buttercups to clover and cow parsley, there is so much to discover right on our doorsteps! As well as spotting them, why not create your very own 'wildflower meadow in a pot'? Even a small container can become a mini haven for nature. Wildflowers are incredibly important. They have grown naturally in the UK for hundreds of years and play a vital role in supporting our native wildlife - especially bees, butterflies and other pollinators. However, changes to our environment mean these plants need our help more than ever. With Children's Gardening Week (23rd - 31st May) coming up, it's the perfect time to get planting and make a difference, no matter how small your space. We would love to see what you discover and grow - please do share your photos!

Reading Missions Challenge May

May: Read a poetry book or a verse novel.

Book Review by Mrs Biggin



Notso Notso by Anne Fine is a funny children's story about a dog called Anthony, whose life is turned upside down when he develops a terrible itchy skin problem. The story is told from Anthony's point of view, which makes the book very entertaining because readers can understand his thoughts, feelings and embarrassment as his fur starts falling out. The book is full of humour and exaggerated descriptions that make it enjoyable to read, while the illustrations by Tony Ross add even more comedy to the story. Although the book is very funny, it also explores themes such as self-confidence and how it feels to be judged by others and provides a chance for the children to think about how we should always strive to choose kindness in our interactions with others.

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 Half Term

School target 97%	97% - 100%	90% - 97%	Below 90%
Hedgehog Class	41%	53%	6%
Squirrel Class	67%	22%	11%
Fox Class	77%	16%	7%
Owl Class	64%	12%	24%

Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	21	217
Eden	17	227
Galilee	23	219
Jerusalem	25	208

This means that **Eden** is the winner for this half term

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Merit | 2024 - 2025Green Tree School
Bronze Award

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Emails and Letters Sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
22.05.26	Email	Fox	Mrs Healy	Packaging request
22.05.26	Email	Y2-Y6	Mrs France	New: Running Club
22.05.26	Letter	Owl	Mrs France/Mr Manning	Residential Information/Medical forms
22.05.26	Email	All	Mrs King	Wraparound care booking form
22.05.26	Email	All	Mrs France	Important Staffing News
20.05.26	Letter	All	Mrs France	Communication with Class Teachers
19.05.26	Letter	All	Full Governing Board	Parent Survey Outcomes - update
19.05.26	Letter	Reception	Mrs Olsen	Show and Tell
18.05.26	Email	Y1	Mrs Biggin	Phonics letters
18.05.26	Email	All	Mrs France	Wedding Invitation

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)
Mon 8th	8:00-8:30am Running Club starts
Tue 9 th	Squirrel trip – Beale Park
Wed 10 th	Opera First – Garsington Opera Workshop Owl Class Michael Morpurgo Workshop online Fox Class
Fri 12th	15:00 Owl Class – Parent Residential meeting
Mon 15 th	Thame Partnership Maths Challenge Year 3/4 (some)
Tue 16 th	Trip to Houses of Parliament (Group of Year 6)
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 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 Sept, 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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