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Aston Rowant C+E Primary School
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 Headteacher: Mrs Helen France



From the Headteacher

Drowning Prevention Week

Our school is supporting Drowning Prevention Week (13–20 June), a national campaign led by the Royal Life Saving Society UK, which aims to raise awareness of water safety ahead of the summer holidays. Recent tragic events, including the loss of a young life in the River Thames, highlight just how quickly situations in open water can become dangerous. These heart breaking incidents remind us of the importance of helping children understand how to stay safe around water.

In school, we will be sharing key safety messages with pupils, and we encourage families to reinforce these at home:

- **Stop and think** before entering the water
- **Stay together** with friends or family
- **Float and call for help** if in difficulty

Drowning is preventable through awareness, education and supervision to ensure all children enjoy the water safely this summer. You can find further free resources and guidance from the Royal Life Saving Society UK here: [Drowning Awareness Week](#)

Curriculum Enrichment – Growing Together

At our school, we are proud of the rich and varied experiences we provide as part of our curriculum. Rooted in our vision of “Growing together, rooted in God, enjoying fullness of life,” we carefully plan opportunities that go beyond the classroom to deepen learning and broaden horizons. These experiences - whether through visits, visitors or hands-on activities - are not extras, but an integral part of how we help children make meaningful connections in their learning. As a result, our pupils speak confidently about what they know, show enthusiasm for new experiences and develop the knowledge, skills and character needed to flourish.

This academic year we will have had:

Enrichment Weeks: Black History, Children’s Mental Health, Science, RE, Drowning Prevention, Walk to School, Green, Art, Music, Sport

Enrichment Days: Be Bright Be Seen, British Values, Online safety, World Book Day, Maths, Inclusion, Viking, Egyptian, Victorian, Tag Rugby

School Trips: Houses of Parliament, Look Out Centre, Beale Park, Wallingford Museum Anglo Saxons, Residential in Wales

Special Visitors: Nigerian Missionary, Oxford Science

We believe these opportunities are an important part of every child’s education and personal development. Through them, children build confidence, curiosity and resilience, whilst also developing their understanding of the wider world. Thank you for your continued support in helping us provide these valuable experiences for all pupils.

Finally...Courageous Advocacy in Action

As part of Aston Rowant’s school-wide Courageous Advocacy project, Owl Class were set the challenge of identifying and responding to a global issue that mattered to them. The children were presented with a range of meaningful projects, including supporting a campaign to provide Wi-Fi access for schools in rural Africa, and protecting olive crops to sustain the livelihoods of indigenous families. There was one issue that immediately captured the hearts and minds of the class - the plight of children in Gaza.

Through careful research, the children discovered that at that time, 90% of schools in Gaza had been severely damaged, with 40% completely destroyed. The pupils were deeply affected by this and recognised that such circumstances represent a clear breach of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Drawing on their prior learning and our school corridor displays, they confidently identified and referred to the specific articles being violated - particularly the right to education.

Inspired and empowered, the children took action. They wrote thoughtfully considered letters to our local MP, Freddie van Mierlo, inviting him to visit the school, listen to their concerns, and support a petition calling on the UK Government to demonstrate how it is helping children in Gaza who are being denied access to education.

Mr van Mierlo came to visit Aston Rowant last summer. He was so impressed with how the children spoke about their project and the UN Rights of a Child, he extended a further opportunity; inviting the children to the House of Commons to present their petition in person. A number of representatives from the class will visit the week after next on Tuesday 16th June.

We are incredibly proud of Owl Class. This experience has exemplified the power of pupil voice, showing that when children are informed, passionate, and courageous, they can engage meaningfully with the wider world. Their determination, empathy, and advocacy truly reflect the values of Aston Rowant, and we look forward to supporting them as they continue to use their voices to make a difference.

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

What a brilliant week we have had as we launched our exciting Seaside Holiday topic! From Punch and Judy shows to sea-themed poetry recitals and sleeping pirates, the children have immersed themselves in a variety of seaside adventures. During our Maths lessons, we played treasure-themed games to explore addition and subtraction, developing our understanding of how these operations affect numbers. Meanwhile, in English, the children learned poems by heart and practised performing them with confidence, using expressive voices, actions, and smiles to captivate their audience. As part of our Topic learning, we began exploring seascapes and looked closely at a range of famous artworks. Through thoughtful discussion, the children shared their opinions and explained what they liked and disliked about each piece. Our play-based learning has been equally busy. In the physical area the children developed their teamwork and rule-following skills through beach volleyball. They have also been practising zipping independently in the finger gym, reading hidden secret sentences in the phonics area, and running a beach shop complete with a bustling ice cream parlour. In the science area, the children explored the effects of rubbish in the sea and considered how we can help protect marine habitats. Throughout the week, the children have shown enthusiasm, curiosity, and creativity in all they have done. We are looking forward to another week of exciting learning and discovery!



Squirrel Class

Hello, I'm Miss Turner and as the student teacher in Squirrel Class, I am delighted to share some of the exciting learning that has taken place this week. We were pleased to welcome a new class member (Kaia) and a new Teaching Assistant (Miss Cameron) to our class community. In English learning, we began our exciting new book, Meerkat Mail, where we have been making predictions and practising our summarising skills. We hope to spot some meerkats on our school trip next week! We have started our new DT topic on cooking and nutrition, and the class began by identifying different fruits and discussing how they can help us stay healthy. In Maths, we have taken our learning further by exploring fractions using clay and counters, helping us to develop a practical understanding of halves, quarters, and other fractions. In Science this week we looked at our world oceans, with a focus on how mini habitats at the coast (rock pools) can support a thriving miniature ecosystem. Lastly, in Geography we looked at maps, identifying the Equator, the North Pole and the South Pole, discussing the type of climate you find in these places and the reasons why. It has been a busy and enjoyable week of learning for everyone in Squirrel Class! Don't forget it's our class trip next Tuesday, so please do come prepared whatever the weather.



Fox Class

What a super start to a new half term! The whole class seemed to have grown over the half term not just in height but in their attitude for learning. In Maths, both year groups are working with time. In Y3, the focus has been on understanding days, weeks, months and years - their knuckles have been handy - ask them! In Year 4, we have focussed on converting analogue to digital time and working with the 24-hour clock. Could I ask parents to please work with their children to read the time - it is such a vital skill and the more practise they have the better! In our English, we have started the Firework Maker's Daughter by Phillip Pullman. The children have been excited to learn all about Lila's fireworks and in turn they have designed their own and written instructions how to make them. In our Geography, children learnt about the negative impact some foods have on our environment then made a news report which they filmed on the iPads. In Science, we have started planning an investigation into hand size and grip strength. We discussed how we would carry it out then made a paper copy of our hand and measured the diameter of our hand. We put them all on a washing line and sorted then in order. The grip strength championship will be next week! In our swimming lesson this week Mrs Boddy discussed with the children the importance of how to stay safe in the water and reiterated if they were tired to float on their backs to rest. In our DT lesson we looked at a range of packaging then deconstructed it to see the net shapes and tabs. Over the next few weeks we will plan our own net before making one and filling it...!



Owl Class

It has been a lovely start back to the new term, with everyone looking well rested and with a great attitude to learning, refreshed and ready to go! We dove straight into our new topics with Year Five looking at the four quadrants - plotting points on both positive and negative X and Y axis; this was quickly mastered, and we were able to enjoy a game of four quadrant battleships! Year 6 have begun a week-long investigation in Maths that included plotting, budgeting a build, running costs and advertising costs for a Theme Park of their own design. This is a tricky investigation, but the Year 6 have approached it with enthusiasm and clear focus. Geography found us exploring the different types of energy that we use for power our society - whether the fuel source is renewable or non - renewable, and the advantages (and disadvantages) of both. In Science, the children plotted an investigation into how we could record the reflectiveness of space blankets - how can we be sure they will insulate our astronauts? They worked through each scientific step of the investigations, considering variables, methods, predictions and how they intend to record their data next week. In keeping with the theme of space, our English unit is based around Markus Motem's 'Curiosity - the Story of a Mars Rover'. We began by being curious - listening to space themed music and wondering what is out there? How could we explore the reaches of space? We then read the first few pages of the book and created a proposal for NASA to build a robotic rover that could explore Mars, using modal and imperative verb to show urgency and persuasion. Well done on a very busy first week back.



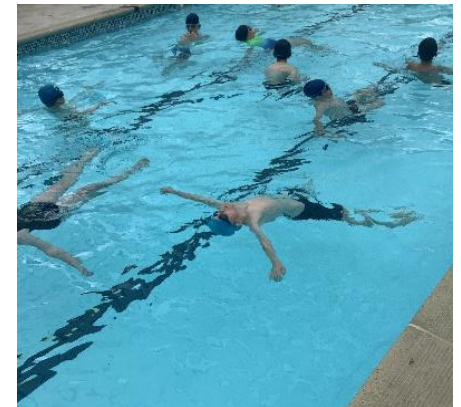
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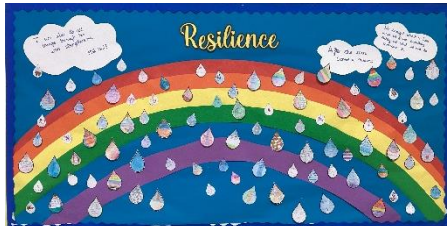
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Photo Diary of the Week



Can we make one for RESILIENCE?
RESILIENCE IS...
Right to do brave things
Encourage all
Step forward
Impossible spells I'm possible
Lord is with you
Independence
Ever trust God
Never give up
Courageal seeping through your veins
Everything is worth a try



GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY

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



Whole School Topic - Summer Term: Window on the World

Value: Resilience

This week we have been focusing on our final value of the academic year: resilience. Our Year 6 children are preparing for their final term with us before moving on to the next chapter of their lives, and all of our pupils are getting ready for the transition to a new academic year. We know that the future will bring many joys, but also some challenges and disappointments. Through it all, we are reminded that courage, determination and trust in God will help strengthen us and shape us into the people we are created to be. We have been exploring what resilience looks like in our daily lives - continuing even when things feel difficult, facing our fears, stepping out of our comfort zones, and taking on new challenges. The children wrote an acrostic on resilience – which you can see in the ‘Photos of the Week’ section. We have also reflected on the importance of encouraging one another and holding onto God’s promises as we strive towards our goals.

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:9)

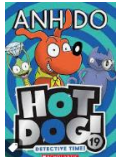
Climate Warriors’ Challenge

The Great Big Green Week is coming up (6–14 June 2026), and it’s all about people across the country coming together for good - taking simple actions to care for our planet! There are lots of exciting events like nature walks, swap shops and eco-workshops happening locally, but we’d love our Climate Warriors to take part too. This week’s challenge: *The “3-Day Green Switch!”* Can you choose one eco-friendly change and stick to it for three days? You could swap car journeys for walking, turn off lights when you leave a room, bring a zero-waste packed lunch, or reuse something instead of throwing it away. Tell us what you did and how it helped the planet - we might even share your ideas in the next newsletter! Let’s work together to make a difference - every small action counts!

Reading Missions Challenge June

It’s a summer of sport! Read a sporty book and possibly review it for the newsletter...

Book Review – Hot Dog! Detective Time by Anh Do. Reviewed by Oscar



Hot Dog! Is a funny book about a sausage dog (Hot Dog) and his friends. The story takes place aboard the Crystal Express train, which is carrying the famous Mega Diamond. When the diamond goes missing, Hot Dog and his friends must figure out which of the passengers is the thief. It’s an intense and exciting story and great for anyone who likes adventure stories. It’s a real page turner! It kept me guessing up until the last page!

Happiness Calendar: Joyful June

This month, we’re encouraging you to look for what is good. You can find this month’s happiness calendar [here](#).

Attendance – This Week

School target 97%	97% - 100%	90% -97%	Below 90%
Hedgehog Class	100%	0%	0%
Squirrel Class	93%	0%	7%
Fox Class	93%	0%	7%
Owl Class	76%	8%	16%

Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	46	46
Eden	41	41
Galilee	55	55
Jerusalem	41	41



Emails and Letters Sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
05.06.26	Letter	Owls	Mrs King	Garsington Opera photo permission
05.06.26	Letter	Owls	Mrs France	Garsington Opera trip
03.06.26	Email	Squirrels	Mrs King	Reminder – trip consent
01.06.26	Letter	Dance Club	Mrs Healy	Dance Festival Consent & Tickets

June	
Fri 5 th	Thame Partnership More Able Writers (Y5 – some)
w/c 8 th	Maths Times Tables Check Year 4
w/c 8 th	Phonics Screening check Year 1
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)
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 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