

## Christmas Tree Festival 2024

Each year, Aston Rowant School is proud to take part in the Christmas Tree Festival, and in 2024 we were delighted to contribute a tree inspired by the festival's theme of **the environment**.

Our tree, titled "**O Eco Tree, O Eco Tree**", was very well received and celebrated sustainability, creativity and thoughtful use of natural resources. The project provided pupils with a meaningful opportunity to consider environmental responsibility while working collaboratively on a creative outcome.

### Sustainability and Creativity

True to the theme, almost all of the decorations used on our tree were homemade and created using natural or reused materials. We sourced the majority of our materials from within our own school grounds, including resources gathered from our willow circle, reinforcing pupils' connection to their local environment.

In addition, pupils dried their own fruit using leftovers from school lunches, helping them understand concepts of reducing waste and making purposeful use of resources. Our only purchased item was cinnamon sticks, chosen carefully to keep external materials to a minimum.

A particularly special element of the tree was the use of wool collected from local sheep and spun for us by our very own Mrs Pilley and coloured using natural dyes. This gave pupils insight into traditional processes and local sustainability, helping them appreciate where materials come from and the value of community knowledge.

### Learning Beyond the Classroom

Taking part in the Christmas Tree Festival supports pupils' **personal development** by encouraging:

- Environmental awareness and responsibility
- Creativity and problem-solving
- Collaboration and shared ownership
- Pride in contributing to a community event

The project also added to pupils' **cultural capital**, enabling them to take part in a local tradition and see their work displayed and appreciated by a wider audience.

### A Proud Contribution

The 2024 Christmas Tree Festival was a wonderful opportunity for pupils to combine creativity with environmental awareness. We are extremely proud of their thoughtful approach and the care taken in producing a tree that truly reflected the festival's theme. Once again, Aston Rowant School was delighted to be part of this much-loved community event.

