

## Christmas Tree Festival 2022

In 2022, Aston Rowant School was delighted to once again take part in St Andrew's Church Christmas Tree Festival, which ran from 4th to 12th December. The theme for the festival that year was Musicals, providing a wonderful opportunity to link a creative community event with our learning in school.

### **Our Theme: *The Greatest Showman* – “This Is Me”**

We chose the musical *The Greatest Showman* as the inspiration for our tree, linking it closely to our whole-school topic for the autumn term, “*This Is Me*”. Throughout the term, pupils explored what makes each of us unique, why we are valued, and how we show respect and inclusion within our school community.

The song “*This Is Me*” reflects powerful messages of self-acceptance, confidence and celebrating individuality, encouraging people to stand proudly as themselves and recognise the value in others. This made it a meaningful and relevant choice for our Christmas tree theme.

### **Pupil Voice and Inclusion**

Every child in the school created a decoration of themselves to place on the tree. Together, these decorations formed a vibrant and symbolic display, showing that:

- Everyone belongs
- Everyone is included
- Everyone brings something special to our school
- Everyone is valued

This collaborative approach reinforced the importance of community and helped pupils see how individual contributions come together to create something meaningful.

### **Personal Development and Values**

The project supported pupils' personal development by encouraging reflection on identity, belonging and respect. It gave children the opportunity to express who they are and understand that difference is something to be celebrated.

By linking a well-known musical to school values, pupils were able to engage deeply with ideas of inclusion, kindness and self-worth in an accessible and memorable way.

### **A Community Invitation**

The church was open daily from 2pm–5pm throughout the festival, and we were proud to share our tree with the wider community. We hope many families were able to visit and enjoy seeing a tree that truly reflected the heart of our school.

