

KS2 Production – *The Wind in the Willows*

This year, KS2 delighted us all with a truly enchanting open-air production of *The Wind in the Willows*. For many of us, this beloved classic holds a special place in our hearts - not only because of its magical storytelling and vivid depiction of the natural world, but also because it celebrates the timeless themes of friendship, loyalty, courage, and adventure.

Kenneth Grahame's unforgettable characters - the adventurous Mole, the river-wise Ratty, the exuberant and dramatic Toad, and the dependable Badger - each bring something unique to the tale. Their journeys challenge, encourage and support one another in ways that beautifully mirror the values we nurture in our school.

A Magical Journey to the Riverbank

What a privilege and joy it was to be transported to the riverbank this week to watch the KS2 production come alive. The children embraced their roles whole-heartedly, whether they were on stage or behind the scenes, and the result was a warm, heartfelt and thoroughly captivating performance.

Their ability to embody such richly drawn characters - full of personality, humour, and heart - was remarkable. From Toad's energetic escapades to the gentle wisdom of Badger, each performance showed depth, understanding and an impressive level of commitment.

We are enormously proud of every single child for their hard work, courage and creativity in bringing this story to life.

Teamwork, Creativity and Determination

A huge thank-you goes to Mrs Healy and the entire KS2 team for their vision, determination and exceptional dedication. Their guidance, encouragement and ambition for the children enabled this production to reach such a professional standard, and the children flourished under their care.

We also want to thank the children for the wonder, trust, harmony and resilience they demonstrated throughout the entire process - not just this week, but from auditions all the way through to the final, phenomenal performances.

They practised with enthusiasm, supported one another with kindness, and rose to the challenges of performing outdoors with confidence and joy.

A Production That Captures Our School's Vision

Productions like this play an important part in our enrichment offer. They develop communication, empathy, creativity, teamwork, and self-belief - qualities that stay with children long after the final bow.

This year's KS2 performance captured the very heart of what we value at Aston Rowant:

- nurturing talent
- building confidence
- creating memories
- celebrating the power of community and storytelling

As we look ahead to next year's KS1 production, the legacy of this year's play will continue to inspire younger pupils and set a wonderful standard for what can be achieved together.

A Closing Reflection

We end with a verse from the finale song *Friends Together* - a sentiment that beautifully summarises not only the spirit of this production, but our wider vision for every child at Aston Rowant:

*This is the life, the way it's meant to be,
Taking our time and making memories.
Travelling together and talking over tea,
These are the happiest days of our lives.*

The happiest days, the happiest days of our lives.

This year's *Wind in the Willows* will remain one of those happiest days - a shared memory that children and adults alike will treasure for years to come.

Wind in the Willows



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