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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



12th June 2026

From the Headteacher

It has been another full and purposeful week in school, with pupils across all year groups showing great resilience and enthusiasm in their learning.

Our Year 1 children have completed their Phonics Screening Check this week. We are extremely proud of how they approached this important milestone - with confidence, determination and positivity. Similarly, our Year 4 pupils have taken part in the Multiplication Tables Check. They have worked hard in preparation and should feel very proud of their efforts.

On Tuesday, Squirrel Class enjoyed an exciting trip to Beale Park. The children had a wonderful day exploring the park and seeing a wide range of animals up close, from meerkats and monkeys to birds and farm animals. They demonstrated excellent behaviour throughout the visit and showed great curiosity, asking thoughtful questions and sharing their knowledge. Experiences like this really bring learning to life and create lasting memories.

On Wednesday, Fox Class had the wonderful opportunity to take part in an online meeting with Michael Morpurgo, the acclaimed and much-loved children's author. During the session, he shared engaging excerpts from his book *Flying Scotsman and the Best Birthday Ever*, bringing the story to life with his expressive storytelling style. The children enjoyed hearing about the book itself, but also about his life as a writer and the experiences that have inspired many of his famous stories. Pupils also had the chance to ask their own questions, and Michael gave the children a unique insight into the creative process behind some of their favourite books. It was a truly memorable experience that inspired a love of reading and writing.

Owl Class had a very special opportunity this week, working with Garsington Opera. They took part in an inspiring workshop led by Rob Gildon (Workshop Director), Avishka (Avi) Edirisinghe (Vocal Director), and Georgie Malcolm a professional opera singer. The day began with warm-ups, team-building activities and introductions before the children explored the music and story of *Il ritorno d'Ulisse*. They then worked creatively to devise their own music, words and movements, culminating in a performance to share with teachers and pupils at the end of the day. We are very much looking forward to extending this experience on 23rd June, when Owl Class will visit the Opera Pavilion at Wormsley for an interactive performance. This will include opportunities to sing as part of a massed chorus, watch scenes from the opera, and gain a fascinating insight into orchestral performance and what happens behind the scenes.

On Friday, our Year 5 pupils completed their Highway Code test as part of their preparation for next week's cycling proficiency test. We wish them the very best as they take this important step in learning how to stay safe on the roads.

Looking ahead to next week, a group of Year 6 pupils will be visiting the Houses of Parliament and 10 Downing Street to present their petition regarding education for children in Palestine. We are incredibly proud of their commitment, compassion and willingness to engage with important global issues - this is citizenship in action.

Next week is also Drowning Prevention Week. Mrs Boddy will be leading a special assembly, and pupils will explore this important topic further through their PSHE lessons. Learning how to stay safe in and around water is a vital life skill, and we are grateful for the opportunity to raise awareness. Fox Class – please don't forget a pair of shorts and a t-shirt for your swimming lesson.

Looking Ahead: Careers and Aspirations

We are hoping to hold a special careers event for our pupils and would love your support in bringing it to life. At this important stage in their development, children benefit enormously from seeing the wide range of possibilities that the future can hold. Hearing real-life stories from parents and members of our community can make a lasting impression, helping them to understand how skills, interests and dedication can lead to fulfilling and varied careers.

We warmly invite any parents, carers or community members who would be willing to visit the school and share their experiences. Whether you would like to talk about your current job, your career journey, or a particular area of expertise, your contribution would be incredibly valuable. Even a short talk, informal discussion or demonstration can spark curiosity, build confidence, and inspire ambition in our young learners. If you are interested in taking part, please do get in touch.

It has been a joyful and purposeful week, filled with learning, creativity and memorable experiences. Thank you, as always, for your continued support - we are very proud of all that our children are achieving.

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 fantastic week of learning we have had! In Art, we became seaside artists and created stunning seascape collages. We explored the different parts of a seascape, including the foreground and background, and carefully selected colours and textures to represent the sand, sea, and sky. In Maths, we worked hard on our sharing skills with Larry at the beach shop. We bought different seaside items and practised sharing them equally with our friends. We soon discovered that some numbers cannot be shared fairly between everyone - these are called odd numbers! In English, we brought poems to life through performances and began creating our own ocean-inspired poems. We used exciting descriptive language to help our readers imagine the sights, sounds, and feelings of the seaside. Our Topic lessons have taken us back in time as we learned more about seaside holidays in the past and wrote sentences about our discoveries. We were also delighted to receive a postcard and holiday photographs from Queen Wobble Bottom! We can't wait to turn her pictures into a special photo book and write postcards back to tell her all about our learning.



Squirrel Class

It has been a really busy week in Squirrel Class! We are incredibly proud of all the children who completed the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check and the fantastic effort they showed throughout. We also enjoyed an exciting school trip to Beale Park, where we explored wildlife, took part in outdoor activities and learnt about the importance of caring for nature as part of our commitment to education and the environment. The children loved meeting a variety of animals and even had the chance to see some exotic species up close! The day was great fun and full of memorable experiences. Back in class, the children have been busy practising songs for our KS1 end-of-term production - we are very excited to share this with you soon. In English, we have been learning about the features of a letter in preparation for writing our own next week. In Maths, Year 2 have been working hard on fractions, while Year 1 have been using Beebots to develop their understanding of directions in a fun and practical way. In Geography, we have continued our learning about Africa and have now learnt the Continent Song - we have been singing it non-stop in school, and we imagine you may have heard a few renditions at home too! What a wonderful and busy week it has been!



Fox Class

We managed to squeeze some unusual learning into our week in Fox Class! In our Science, we held the Grip Championships (!) to see if the widest hand span could pick up the largest fruit! We tried out a range of fruit from grapes to a watermelon! The whole class worked methodically and carried out their investigation just like scientists! In our Maths, both year groups are now working with shapes with the learning starting with angles and turns. Well done to Y4 for completing their Multiplication Check - I was so proud of how they carried out this and I know their 3 minute challenge would have prepared them well! In our English, we continued our journey with Lila and wrote 2 letters both from different characters demonstrating a range of emotion! We also wrote a setting description working on our descriptive skills and figurative language. In our Geography, we learnt about Fair Trade and how farmers and workers benefit from being part of a cooperative. The class made leaflets explaining the benefits. In our DT, the class worked carefully and using nets made their own 3D shapes. They particularly enjoyed making a net pop up with string becoming a 3D shape. This took lots of skills in cutting, glueing and threading - it looked brilliant! In our French, children have been learning the names of vegetables (fruit last week), so if any of you are travelling to France in the summer you will be able to rely on your children to know what to ask for! Finally, we enjoyed an online meeting with Michael Morpurgo, the acclaimed children's author who shared excerpts from his book Flying Scotsman and the Best Birthday Ever and answered questions about his life and inspiration.



Owl Class

What a fantastic and productive week it has been in Owl Class! The children have shown excellent focus, creativity, and determination across all subjects, and we are incredibly proud of their hard work and achievements. In English, the children produced impressive factual writing based on the design and build of a Mars Rover, where they worked hard to use formal language, develop their sentences using subordinate clauses, and include advanced openers such as "meaning that..." and "accordingly...". Guided by Miss Lewis, they demonstrated great dedication and produced some excellent pieces of writing. In Maths, Year 5 focused on translating shapes across all four quadrants, showing a strong understanding of position and movement, while Year 6 completed an exciting and in-depth theme park design project, carefully considering ride design, building, labour, maintenance, and advertising costs, all within a £5 million budget; the level of thought and planning in these projects has been outstanding. In Geography, the children explored different types of energy sources by sorting and comparing renewable and non-renewable energy, before taking part in a Diamond 9 activity where they ranked fuel sources from best to worst and justified their choices with thoughtful reasoning, leading to some excellent discussions. In Design and Technology, we continued our work on bridges by creating incredible spaghetti bridges, testing how much weight they could hold and exploring how different structural designs impact strength; the creativity, teamwork, and resilience shown throughout this challenge were fantastic. Overall, it has truly been a brilliant week of learning, and we look forward to building on this success next week.



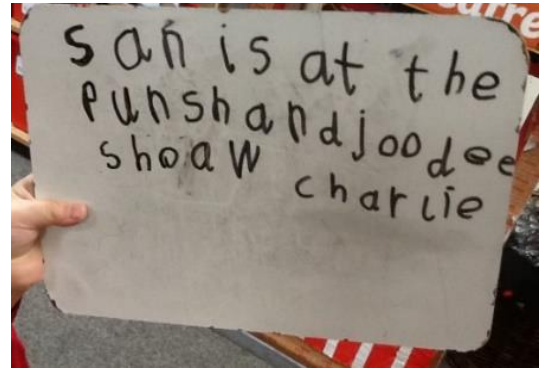
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Photo Diary of the Week



GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY
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Enrichment: Beale Park and Garsington Opera



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Whole School Topic - Summer Term: Window on the World

Value: Resilience

This week, our focus has been on resilience and the courage it takes to choose what is right, even when it is not the easiest path. We explored the story of Queen Esther, whose bravery and faith led her to stand up for her people at great personal risk. Despite knowing the danger, Esther approached the king uninvited - something that could have cost her life - because she trusted in God and was determined to do what was right. Esther's story reminds us that true courage is not the absence of fear, but the willingness to act with faith and determination in the face of it. She used her voice and her position to bring about justice, showing us the power of standing up for others and trusting in God's plan. Her example encourages us to be brave, to support one another, and to do the right thing - even when it feels difficult.

"I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish." (Esther 4:16)

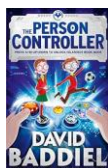
Climate Warriors' Challenge

This week, we're linking our value of resilience to the choices we make to care for our planet. Did you know that the way we produce food has a big impact on climate change? Making small changes to what we eat - like choosing more plant-based options - can make a real difference. This week's challenge: "Power Up with Pulses!". We're encouraging our young Climate Warriors to show a little courage and try something new by tasting foods made with pulses, such as beans, lentils or chickpeas. You might discover a new favourite meal! Trying something different can take determination and confidence - but that's what resilience is all about. Every small step counts, and together we can make positive choices for our world. Why not share your creations and inspire others to give it a go?

Reading Missions Challenge June

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

Book Review - The Person Controller by David Baddiel reviewed by Florence, Owl Class



Ellie Stone and her twin Fred are sent a mysterious package that gives them a controller and blue bracelet- when Fred wears the bracelet, Ellie finds out that she can control his every move. She decides to use the controller and her brother Fred to win her under 12's football match and deal with the school bullies at the same time. However, Ellie begins to get jealous of all the attention that Fred is getting as the new star player. I gave this book four and a half stars because I loved the mystery that built up and how the magical effects were revealed.

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	94%	0%	6%
Squirrel Class	100%	0%	0%
Fox Class	97%	0%	3%
Owl Class	80%	0%	20%

Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	58	104
Eden	54	95
Galilee	54	109
Jerusalem	54	97

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Emails and Letters Sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
12.06.26	Letter	Y6	Mrs King	Year 6 Transition – School Nurse Health Team
12.06.26	Email	All	Mrs King	School Health Newsletter
12.06.26	Letter	All	Mrs France	Expecting Ofsted
10.06.26	Letter	KS2 (some)	Mrs King	KS2 Partnership Sports Event
10.06.26	Email	Fox	Mrs King	Shorts and t-shirts for swimming 16.06.26
09.06.26	Letter	Y6 (some)	Mr Manning	10 Downing Street visit
09.06.26	Email	Owl	Mrs King	Reminder – Garsington permissions

June	
Mon 15 th	Thame Partnership Maths Challenge Year 3/4 (some)
Tue 16 th	Trip to 10 Downing Street / Houses of Parliament (Group of Year 6)
Wed 17 th	8:45 Rehearsal - Thame Partnership Dance Festival 16:30 Thame Partnership Dance Festival - Performance arrival time
Thu 18 th	KS2 Partnership Sports Event at Mill Lane School 15:45-16:45
Fri 19th	Cycle proficiency test
Tue 23 rd	Opera First – Garsington Opera trip Owl Class
Wed 24 th	First Aid Training KS2
Fri 26th	14:30 Last Celebration Assembly
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
Fri 10th	Year 6 Leavers Afternoon Tea No Celebration Assembly PTA Raffle
w/c 13 th	PE Enrichment Week in Sports Day TUE 14 th July
Fri 17 th	9:15 Leavers Service PTA Games Afternoon 13:30 – 15:15

Academic Year Calendar 2025-26

Summer 26	
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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