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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



26th June 2026

From the Headteacher

Heatwave

With the recent hot weather, it certainly hasn't been the easiest week, with temperatures reaching some of the highest we have experienced in some time. However, we would like to begin by thanking all our families for working in partnership with us to ensure both the best possible learning and the safety and wellbeing of every child. Making decisions in such conditions is never easy, but we are always guided by two clear priorities: keeping children safe and maximising their learning opportunities. We carefully consider the needs of our whole school community, including the provision of wraparound care for working families. We would also like to recognise and thank our incredible staff team, who have gone above and beyond to provide engaging, targeted and fun learning for all children, despite the challenges of very warm classrooms and hot, tired pupils. Their dedication, creativity and care have ensured that the children have continued to learn, enjoy and feel supported throughout the week.

WOW – Active Travel Assembly

We kicked off the week with an exciting and interactive assembly introducing WOW – our pupil-led initiative encouraging active and sustainable travel to school. From September children will share how they travel each day using our WOW Travel Tracker, building awareness of healthy and environmentally friendly choices. Pupils who travel sustainably at least once a week are rewarded with special collectable WOW badges, which has already created a buzz of motivation! The tracker also enables us to analyse travel habits, celebrate classes leading the way, and engage with national initiatives. It was inspiring to see pupils take ownership of their choices and understand their role in contributing to a healthier planet.

Move-Up Day – Building Relationships for Success

Our Move-Up Day was a fantastic opportunity for children to spend meaningful time with their teachers and teaching assistants for the next academic year. Carefully planned activities allowed pupils to build relationships, develop trust, and familiarise themselves with expectations and routines in a calm and supportive environment. Experiences like this are vital in ensuring smooth transitions, promoting emotional wellbeing, and enabling children to feel confident and ready to learn from day one in September. Mrs Elliott also joined us and thoroughly enjoyed meeting the new Fox Class. On Wednesday, Hedgehog Class benefited from an additional dedicated transition morning with Mrs Biggin.

Owl Class Opera Experience

Following their recent workshop, Owl Class had the incredible opportunity to visit the Opera Pavilion at Wormsley on Tuesday. The children enjoyed a bespoke, interactive performance of *Il Ritorno d'Ulisse*, where they became part of the production - singing as a massed chorus and engaging directly with the performance. The experience brought music to life, allowing pupils to explore orchestral instruments, understand storytelling through opera, and gain insight into what happens behind the scenes. Their enthusiasm, participation, and confidence were wonderful to see, and this rich cultural experience will undoubtedly have a lasting impact on their appreciation of the arts.

First Aid Training – Skills for Life

On Wednesday, both Fox and Owl classes took part in valuable first aid training, developing key life skills that form part of our PSHE curriculum. Fox Class focused on essential skills such as recognising an emergency, understanding how to get help, and basic first aid responses including treating minor injuries. Owl Class built on this knowledge with more advanced learning, including how to respond in emergency situations, placing someone in the recovery position, and understanding basic lifesaving techniques. These sessions empower pupils with confidence, responsibility, and real-world knowledge that could make a difference in critical situations.

Primary Science Quality Mark (PSQM)

We are delighted to share that we successfully renewed our Primary Science Quality Mark (PSQM), recognising our commitment to excellence in science teaching and learning. The PSQM is a highly regarded, evidence-informed programme that supports schools in developing high-quality science education through strong subject leadership, professional development, and a clear vision for continuous improvement. This achievement reflects the dedication of our staff in inspiring curiosity, enquiry, and a love of science across the school, enabling pupils to develop the knowledge, skills, and confidence they need to succeed as young scientists.

Celebrating Achievement

We are incredibly proud to continue to celebrate the outstanding achievements of our pupils. Ted recently represented the school in an inter-school maths challenge and achieved joint first place with an almost perfect score - an exceptional accomplishment! Archie is ranked 17th in the UK for U9 tennis and finished 6th place in the Lexus National Championships. Max C also achieved an incredible result for competitive running, placing 2nd out of 500 participants. These achievements reflect not only talent, but also determination, resilience, and a commitment to excellence - we are delighted to celebrate their success with our school community.

Kind regards

Mrs France

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Teaching and Learning in the Classrooms this week:



Hedgehog Class

Despite the hot weather, plenty of learning has still taken place in Hedgehog Class. The children have been busy revisiting all their sounds in phonics, using what they know to write full independent sentences. We have been so impressed with the children's writing this week, with some children choosing to make their own books, write letters and some bringing in writing from home to show us. To keep ourselves cool, we have been learning to make our own paper fans, which has helped to strengthen our fine motor skills. In RE this term, we have been learning about 'Special Places' with a focus on the church and what we would expect to see in one. On Tuesday afternoon, we had the joy of visiting our church - which was a cool relief from the hot classroom! Rev. Barr was kind enough to meet with us and gave us a tour. We learnt lots about things that are common in all churches as well as a little history about our own.



Squirrel Class

It's been a tough week with lots of changes and challenges, but the Squirrels have approached these changes with great resilience. We started the week off by completing some end of year assessments, and the children worked hard, with lots of them reporting that that they were fun to complete! That's a first for me! We also finished off our letters in English this week, writing as Sunny the meerkat to the members of our family. In Maths Y1 continued their learning on place value to 100 by reviewing numbers from 50-100, partitioning numbers into tens and ones and counting in tens to a hundred. The Y2 children have pushed forward with their learning about time, exploring time past the hour, to the hour and telling the time to the nearest 5 minutes. The class also enjoyed transition afternoon on Monday. Miss Turner also taught her final science lesson this week, linked to our learning on ocean littering, with the class producing a giant watercolour poster for display in the classroom. We officially say goodbye to Miss Turner this week (although she has kindly offered to pop back and support with our class production) and we wish her all the best with her future teaching career in the neighbouring borough of Berkshire. Lastly, Mrs Hall provided a wonderful Music Zoo and quiz this week which we all enjoyed immensely. Enjoy the weekend and see you next week.



Fox Class

I must congratulate the whole of Fox Class on their resilience and harmony getting through a very tough week. They tried their best, were in great spirits and were still keen to learn. We started each morning with our Wake and Shake as part of the Music Enrichment week. This week in Maths, Year 3 were learning how to draw polygons accurately and describing the properties of 3D shapes. Year 4 worked with line graphs, both reading, understanding and plotting them before moving on to our position and direction topic. In our English, children wrote about the fire fiend focussing on using powerful verbs and including a range of exciting features to draw the reader in. They also wrote some amazing fire poetry. In Science, we continued our Grip Championships with our focus now on finding out if wearing gloves would affect which fruit they could hold. Thank you for providing the most amazing range of gloves to use! On our hot days, children enjoyed listening to the class story, started making flextanglers (!) and popping bubbles in the shade outside! We also said goodbye to Miss Shinn and wished her good luck in her new job in the New Forest. It's not been easy, but we have worked together as a great team should.



Owl Class

Despite the heatwave, Owl Class have shown true resilience and maturity this week - they checked on one another, reminded each other to drink water, shared hats and generally were fantastic in trying circumstances. Well done Owl Class. It was a pleasure to spend time with them at Garsington Opera on Tuesday, and once again Aston Rowant school behaviour and attention was noticeably of high quality. In the classroom, surrounded by fans, Year 5 have worked really hard to complete their Summer Assessments in Reading, SPaG, and Maths - well done again. Year 6 have provided excellent support as they dove into deeper projects, and planned their animals to be added to the mural on the school grounds - this has become a tradition. Year 6 also had a sun splashed water fight with Mrs Healy, as I met the soon-to-be Year 5 on our Transition Day, where we had great fun building marshmallow and cocktail stick structures (the tallest reaching nearly 30cm!) before overcoming challenges by painting with...forks! These will be on display in our new class in September. We also had a wonderful Music Zoo enrichment workshop led by Mrs Hall, where we were able to handle and experience a range of exciting and unusual instruments! Well done Owl Class, enjoy your weekend!



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Photo Diary of the Week



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Music Enrichment Week

Despite a slightly disrupted timetable due to early closures, our Music Enrichment Week, “Let Me Entertain You,” was a joyful and inspiring success. In true Aston Rowant spirit, staff and pupils embraced the opportunity with positivity and flexibility, ensuring that the week remained rich in meaningful musical learning experiences. The focus on music in entertainment provided a vibrant and engaging theme, allowing children to explore how music shapes mood, storytelling and performance across film, television and live events. From composing soundtracks and experimenting with Foley sound effects to designing bands and developing performance pieces, pupils showed real creativity, curiosity and enthusiasm.

A particular highlight of the week was our ‘Instrument Petting Zoo’, where children had the opportunity to explore and play a wide range of real instruments, developing their understanding of how sound is created and the role of different instruments within an ensemble. Alongside this, pupils relished taking part in interactive challenges such as the ‘Guess the Theme Tune’ quiz, where they demonstrated impressive listening skills, musical recall and knowledge of popular culture. The excitement continued with activities such as creating mini musical scenes, building soundscapes for stories and experimenting with how music can convey emotion - ensuring all pupils were able to access and succeed regardless of prior experience.

Throughout the week, there was a wonderful sense of collaboration and confidence-building, with children working together to share ideas, refine their compositions and take pride in performing to others. Opportunities to perform - both informally within classes and collectively - helped to build resilience, self-belief and a real sense of achievement. Although some planned elements had to be adapted, the energy, participation and enjoyment across the school were undeniable.

Music remains a strength of our wider curriculum at Aston Rowant, and this week exemplified our commitment to providing high-quality, inclusive and enriching experiences for all pupils. It was a true celebration of creativity and expression, showcasing the talents of our children and providing a memorable and uplifting week despite the heat.



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Whole School Topic - Summer Term: Window on the World

Value: Resilience

This week, we explored the idea that courage involves being brave enough to make the right choices, even when they are difficult or uncomfortable. We reflected on the story of Jeremiah, a prophet chosen by God. Prophets are people who listen carefully to God's message and share it with others, even when that message is not welcomed. Jeremiah was chosen and blessed by God to deliver His word to the people. Despite facing many hardships, he remained committed to his mission. His determination to continue speaking God's truth, no matter the opposition, shows true perseverance. Jeremiah's unwavering faith during difficult times is a powerful example of resilience in action.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

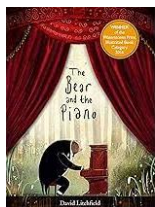
Climate Warriors' Challenge

It's National Insect Week – a perfect opportunity to *stand up for the small!* Insects are essential to our world, and right now they need our support. Bees, in particular, are facing increasing challenges due to climate change, alongside the loss of natural habitats and the growing use of chemicals in our environment. Pollinators like bees play a vital role in helping plants grow, yet they are often overlooked. It's time to take action and make a difference. We are encouraging children to create simple ways to support bees by providing food, water, and safe spaces to live. You could plant pots of flowers outside your home, grow herbs on a windowsill (which provide valuable nectar), leave out a shallow dish of water with stones for insects to rest on, or allow part of your garden or school grounds to grow a little wild. This week's challenge is all about being curious about nature while also taking practical steps to help bees and other pollinators thrive.

Reading Missions Challenge June

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

Book Review – The Bear and the Piano by David Litchfield



Following our brilliant Music Week, we recommend *The Bear and the Piano* by David Litchfield. It is a beautifully illustrated and heart-warming story about a bear who discovers a mysterious piano in the forest. As he learns to play, his music brings joy to animals and eventually to people far beyond his home. The story gently explores themes of courage, friendship, and staying true to yourself, all woven together through a love of music. The expressive illustrations and emotional journey make it a captivating read, and it has sparked wonderful discussions about how music can connect people and tell powerful stories.

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 (Heatwave)

School target 97%	97% - 100%	90% -97%	Below 90%
Hedgehog Class	94%	0%	6%
Squirrel Class	71%	0%	29%
Fox Class	70%	3%	27%
Owl Class	60%	0%	40%

Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	21	125
Eden	24	119
Galilee	19	128
Jerusalem	23	120

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Emails and Letters Sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
26.06.26	Letter	All	Mrs King	PTA Summer BBQ and camping
26.06.26	Email	All	Mrs France	Supporting Our Children's Voices – Please Share
26.06.26	Email	Fox	Mrs King	Reminder – Swimming lesson 30 th June
26.06.26	Email	Y6 (some)	Mrs France	London trip update
25.06.26	Email	Owl (some)	Mrs King	Reminder - Medical forms for residential
25.06.26	Email	All	Mrs France	Thank you – Arrangements for Friday
24.06.26	Email	All	Mrs King	No PE Thursday
24.06.26	Email	All	Mrs France	Thank you – Arrangements for tomorrow
23.06.26	Email	All	Mrs France	Heat update
22.06.26	Letter	Y6	Mrs France	RSE for Year 6
22.06.26	Email	Fox	Mrs Healy	Class requests
22.06.26	Email	All	Mrs France	Warm weather measures

June	
Mon 29 th – Fri 3 rd	Owl Residential
Tue 30th	Fox Class – Emmington Farm Visit
July	
Fri 3 rd	No Celebration Assembly
w/c 6 th	Art Enrichment Week
Tue 7 th	14:00 KSI play Trip to 10 Downing Street / Houses of Parliament (Group of Year 6)
Wed 8 th	14:30 Rock Steady concert 17:30 KSI play
Thu 9th	Year 6 RSE
Fri 10th	Year 6 Leavers Afternoon Tea No Celebration Assembly PTA Raffle
Sat 11th	PTA Summer BBQ with camping (see attached flyer)
w/c 13 th	PE Enrichment Week in Sports Day TUE 14 th July Young Enterprise Charity Fayre
Fri 17 th	9:15 Leavers Service - Church 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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