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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



Growing Together

10th July 2026

From the Headteacher

Courageous Advocacy

Our children continue to demonstrate what it means to be courageous advocates. We were incredibly proud to take a group of pupils to 10 Downing Street to hand in their petition calling for access to education for children in Gaza. Their commitment and determination were celebrated by our local MP, Freddie van Mierlo, as well as by all of the people they met during the visit. The impact of their work has been so inspiring that the Oxford Diocese is now using it as an example to encourage other schools across the Diocese.

At Sports Day, we will also be supporting a number of child-initiated Young Enterprise projects raising money for a range of charities. Please do support them if you can. Your generosity is not only helping worthy causes; it also encourages and empowers our children to continue working hard, taking action and using their voices to make a positive difference in the world.

Art Week

We have had a fantastic Art Week with the children exploring their creativity and producing some wonderful pieces of artwork that they are very proud of. More information will follow next week, but in the meantime, please do take the opportunity to visit our Art Exhibition next Tuesday after Sports Day and admire all of their hard work and artistic achievements.

Animal Rumble Grumble

Congratulations to Squirrel Class for their fantastic performance of Animal Rumble Grumble, a fun-filled musical adventure packed with lively characters, catchy songs and lots of laughter. The children were absolutely brilliant, confidently learning and performing their words and singing the songs with great enthusiasm and energy. Their wonderful costumes looked incredible and helped bring the story to life on stage. A huge thank you goes to the dedicated Squirrel staff team for all their hard work, creativity and support in making the production such a memorable success. We are so proud of every child for their amazing performance!

School Library Project Update

We would like to share an update on the progress of our new school library project and the next steps towards bringing this project to life. As many of you know, the planning process has taken longer than originally anticipated. During this process, it became necessary to amend the application to relocate the proposed library within the school grounds, resulting in a revised planning application. The new proposal places the library opposite Squirrel Class, adjacent to the climbing frame and alongside the fence line. The design of the library has also been adapted to suit the revised location, including changes to the orientation of the building, which has informed adjustments to the internal layout to ensure the space works effectively for pupils and staff. This location emerged as the most appropriate solution, providing excellent visibility and accessibility for pupils and staff throughout the school day, supporting effective safeguarding, allowing for the ongoing management of the surrounding trees, and enabling the new library to sit sensitively within our unique rural setting while creating a welcoming and accessible space for children.

We are expecting a decision on the amended planning application on 24 July and continue to work closely with our supplier, New Home Improvements, so that, subject to approval, construction can begin as soon as possible. Our aim remains to complete as much of the project as possible during the summer holidays to minimise disruption to the school. However, due to the planning timeline, some elements of the work may need to continue into the start of the autumn term to ensure the library is completed as soon as possible and to maximise the time available for pupils and staff to enjoy and benefit from this new space.

We are also delighted to confirm that our fundraising target of **£53,279.10** has now been achieved. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who has supported the project, including individual donors, our grant funders, the PTA and the wider school community. Your generosity and commitment have made this vision possible. In addition to recognising the many people who have contributed through fundraising events and other forms of support, we would like to give special recognition to Laura Purse, who has overseen this project from beginning to end. Laura has worked tirelessly to turn this vision into reality, navigating numerous challenges and setbacks with determination, creativity and perseverance. Her dedication to the project has been exceptional, and we are immensely grateful for all she has done to make this achievement possible.

The new library comes at a particularly exciting time, as 2026 marks the National Year of Reading, with a renewed focus on encouraging reading for pleasure and supporting children to develop a lifelong love of books. This dedicated, welcoming space will provide children with a calm and inspiring environment to explore stories, nurture their imagination and develop their literacy skills, while creating a lasting resource for our school community for many years to come.

We look forward to welcoming pupils, staff and families into this exciting new space in the new academic year and seeing the library come to life as a special place for our whole school community to enjoy.

Kind regards

Mrs France

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Teaching and Learning in the Classrooms this week:



Hedgehog Class

This week has been full of creativity and excitement! During Art Week, we explored the work of Alma Thompson and created our own beautiful sculptures. We also experimented with concentric circles using colourful brushstrokes in our favourite colours and had lots of fun printing with bubble wrap to create interesting textures. Our cheeky seagulls were still causing trouble by stealing our picnic and leaving their mess behind! We decided to write to Mrs Grinling from *The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch* to ask for her advice. She told us that mustard sandwiches did the trick, so we made Mr Grinling a brand-new lunch, complete with some very special sea biscuits! We also added the finishing touches to our stunning seascapes and are incredibly proud of the finished artwork. With the hot weather this week, we have been learning lots of ways to stay cool and keep ourselves safe in the sunshine. Finally, we are working incredibly hard to earn our marbles so that we can enjoy our much-anticipated water fight next week! We are very close to reaching our goal, and with a little more teamwork and determination, we hope to make it happen. Watch this space for a last-minute announcement! If we are successful, the water fight is likely to take place next **Thursday afternoon**.



Squirrel Class

Squirrel Class has had another exciting and busy week! In Maths, Year 1 pupils have been exploring money by identifying different coins and notes and learning about their values, while Year 2 have been completing their work on time, including telling the time to the nearest five minutes, calculating time intervals, and solving time word problems. We have also been working incredibly hard to prepare for our school play, and I am so proud of the children's fantastic performances in both the dress rehearsal and the main shows this week. Despite the soaring temperatures, they spoke their lines confidently, sang beautifully, and represented the class brilliantly. In Science, we concluded our investigation into litter in the ocean, discovering that plastic is the most harmful type of litter because it does not degrade over time and can create harmful microplastics. To finish the week, we enjoyed an inspiring virtual talk with marine biologist Dan Steadman from Pew Charitable Trusts, who answered our questions about marine life, shared stories from his work around the world, and explained the importance of protecting our oceans for future generations. A great week for the Squirrels!



Fox Class

A week when creativity was oozing out of our class! The whole class have loved all the wide range of art activities covered. We started with creating sculpture based on Jean Debuffet. This involved careful cutting, folding and application of colour and it was a huge success. We then moved onto Roy Lichtenstein and his pop art style. We made our own 'Ben-day' dots then created a picture focussing on the use of primary colours and making our words 'pop' out! Mrs Caughtry's special art lesson was based on the works of David Hockney. Children took images of his pictures and designed their own clothing collection. Each one was different and well thought out. We used string, paint and blocks to print a wide range of colours and shapes and finally we designed our own individual strips of patterns for the whole school art collection! In between this, we took part in Taskmaster maths challenges in small group of 3 with team captains interchanging each day. Tasks ranged from the tallest tower, to making a 'guess our repeated pattern' and keeping a marble moving for 20 seconds. They have been brilliant this week coping with the heat and still managing to stay focussed. Great work Foxes!



Owl Class

This week Owl Class have been extra busy - it was Art Enrichment week and our creative ideas were flowing! Mrs Olsen had prepared lots of amazing ideas and Mrs Coughtrey provided a special ink transfer workshop that gave us incredible results! Whilst this was happening, four of the year 6's ventured into London to present our class petition to Number 10 Downing Street, with Local MP Freddie Van Mierlo alongside them - there are not enough words to express how proud I am of this cohort and their determination, enthusiasm and their confidence at how they spoke about this cause. Our petition is still open to sign until November, and I ask you to sign it if you haven't already - our children have spoken and we can help them be heard by those in the highest offices of power. Year 6 also had a special RE Inspired afternoon session all about change, perfect for the soon to happen transition to secondary school. Well done on surviving the heat Owl Class - I'll see you next week for Sports Enrichment week.

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Art Enrichment Week

This week, creativity flourished across the school, with all four classes engaging in a vibrant range of artistic experiences. From painting and printing to sculpture and design, the week provided every child with the opportunity to explore new techniques and be inspired by a variety of influential artists.

In Hedgehog Class, pupils were introduced to the work of Alma Thomas, an African American artist celebrated for her colourful, mosaic-like paintings. Inspired by her style, the children created their own striking pieces using repeated patterns and bold colours. Alongside this, they explored printing techniques, experimenting with bubble wrap and a range of everyday objects to create interesting textures. To complete their projects, the class also designed imaginative sculptures using recycled materials, demonstrating both creativity and environmental awareness.

Meanwhile, Squirrel Class discovered the work of Keith Haring, whose bold and energetic imagery sparked great enthusiasm. Drawing on his use of bright colours and simple shapes, pupils created eye-catching hanging paper sculptures.

Over in Fox Class, learning was inspired by the Pop Art movement, specifically the work of Roy Lichtenstein. The children produced comic-style artwork, using strong outlines and bold colours to capture his distinctive style. They also ventured into printmaking, creating their own string printing blocks, with some pupils experimenting with ombre effects to add depth and variation. Fox Class explored sculpture by taking inspiration from Jean Dubuffet, resulting in a collection of fascinating paper-based creations.

Owl Class started their week exploring optical art, using geometric patterns to create impressive visual illusions that appeared to move and shift (with a little nod to the World Cup). Their creativity continued through printmaking, where they made their own printing plates to produce detailed designs.

As a whole school, we collaborated on a shared art project inspired by Charles McGee, a self-taught American artist. This activity allowed pupils to explore mark making in depth, experimenting with a wide range of lines, patterns and textures. It was wonderful to see how each class has contributed uniquely to the final piece, which will result in a rich and dynamic display.

As always, the highlight of the week was our visit from Mrs Coughtrey on Tuesday. During these workshops, Hedgehog and Owl Classes had the opportunity to further develop their printing skills, while Fox Class explored the work of David Hockney in greater detail. Inspired by his paintings, they created beautiful 3D relief fashion designs, combining colour, structure and creativity in impressive ways.

All in all, Art Week has been an exciting and enriching experience. The children embraced each activity with enthusiasm and pride, and it has been a joy to see their confidence and creativity grow. We hope you enjoy seeing some of their fantastic work, during our exhibition next Tuesday, in the hall, once Sports Day has finished.





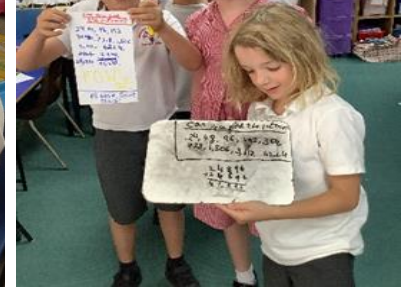
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Photo Diary of the Week



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Courageous Advocacy



Rock Steady Concert



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Animal Rumble Grumble



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Whole School Topic - Summer Term: Window on the World

Value: Resilience

Throughout this week, our assemblies have focused on the theme of overcoming fear, helping pupils explore how courage, resilience, and faith can support them when they face challenges. We have reflected on the importance of persevering when things feel difficult, trying again after setbacks, and remembering that fear does not have to hold us back from reaching our potential. By developing resilience, children learn to approach new experiences with confidence, knowing that growth often comes from stepping beyond their comfort zone. As we continue to encourage one another to be brave and resilient, we are reminded of the words found in 1 John 4:18: "There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear."

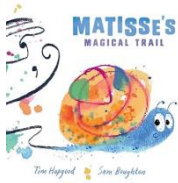
Climate Warriors' Challenge

Thinking as Climate Warriors is especially important during the recent hot weather. As temperatures rise, we can all play a part in looking after both ourselves and our planet. Simple eco-friendly actions such as closing curtains during the hottest part of the day instead of using fans, refilling water bottles rather than buying single-use plastics, and walking in the shade where possible can help us stay cool while reducing our environmental impact. This week's Climate Warriors Challenge is to find one green way to keep cool every day. Can you refill a reusable water bottle, enjoy a picnic in the shade instead of staying indoors with electrical devices, or help water plants in the evening when less water evaporates? Fun Fact: Trees are natural air conditioners! A single mature tree can cool the surrounding area by up to several degrees through the shade it provides and the water it releases into the air. By planting and protecting trees, we can help make our communities cooler and greener for the future.

Reading Missions Challenge July

Read to the Beat – discover how reading and music both ignite imagination and creativity.

Book Review – Matisse's Magical Trail by Tim Hopwood recommended by Mrs Olsen



Matisse's Magical Trail is a colourful and imaginative story that takes readers on an exciting adventure inspired by the artwork of Henri Matisse. Tim Hopwood brings the story to life with lively language and beautiful illustrations that capture the fun and creativity of Matisse's famous cut-out style. The book encourages children to look closely at art and use their imaginations to create their own stories. Perfect for primary-aged readers, it is engaging, inspiring, and full of wonder. This delightful book is an excellent choice for anyone who enjoys art, adventure, and magical journeys.

Happiness Calendar: Jump Back Up July

This month, get the basics right: eat well, exercise and go to bed on time. Use one of your strengths to overcome a challenge today.

Attendance – This Week

School target 97%	97% - 100%	90% -97%	Below 90%
Hedgehog Class	76%	6%	18%
Squirrel Class	89%	0%	11%
Fox Class	84%	3%	13%
Owl Class	84%	0%	16%

Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	33	158
Eden	45	164
Galilee	44	172
Jerusalem	34	154

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Merit | 2024 - 2025Green Tree School
Bronze Award

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Emails and Letters Sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
09.07.26	Email	All	Mrs France	Young Enterprise
09.07.26	Email	All	Mrs King	PE Enrichment week
09.07.26	Email	All	Mrs France	Sports Day
09.07.26	Email	All	Mrs France	Bike and Scooter Day
07.07.26	Email	Selection	Mrs King	Action – Free school meals consent
06.07.26	Email	All	Mrs King	Running Club
06.07.26	Email	New Hedgehog	Mrs King	Final reminder – online enrolment form
06.07.26	Email	Y6 (Select)	Mrs King	Reminder – London trip
06.07.26	Email	Owl	Mrs King	Residential assembly for Owl parents

July	
Sat 11 th	PTA Summer BBQ and Camp Night
w/c 13 th	PE Enrichment Monday to Thursday – PE kits all week except Friday
Tue 14 th	Sports Day – Parents welcome from 11:00 PTA BBQ from 12:30 Young Enterprise Charity Fayre 12:30 – 13:30 on the field Art Exhibition from 13:00 in the school hall
Fri 17 th	09:15 Leavers Service PTA Games Afternoon 13:30 – 15:15
September	
Tue 1 st & Wed 2 nd	INSET days
Thurs 3 rd & Fri 4 th	Children return. Whole School Book with author visit
w/c 7 th	Meet the teacher meetings. Mon 7th Owl 14:45 / Tues 8th Fox 14:45 / Wed 9th 14:45 Squirrel
Friday 11 th	09:15 New Beginnings Service in Church – everyone welcome
Friday 18 th	Jeans for Genes Day (wear your jeans with school sweatshirts and make a donation to this charity) 14:30 First celebration worship in school for parents
Mon 21 st – Fri 26 th	Courageous Advocacy Week
Friday 26 th	14:30 Harvest in school celebration worship (donations for local food bank)

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 Sep, 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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