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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



From the Headteacher

Year 5/6 Residential

Owl Class have enjoyed a full residential week at Rock UK's Summit Centre in Wales which has been a truly transformative experience, providing children with opportunities to develop confidence, independence and resilience beyond the classroom. As a Christian outdoor adventure charity, Rock UK seeks to help young people flourish through challenge, reflection and shared experiences, welcoming children of all faiths and backgrounds while promoting values such as service, integrity, excellence and strong relationships. Throughout the week, pupils took part in a wide range of adventurous activities, including canoeing, climbing, caving, archery, abseiling, aerial challenges, crate stacking and waterfall expeditions in the beautiful Welsh countryside. Each activity encouraged children to step outside their comfort zones, take managed risks and persevere when faced with challenges. It has been wonderful to see pupils demonstrate courage, determination and self-belief as they discovered strengths and talents they may not have realised they possessed.

Equally important has been the way our children have lived out our school values through their care and encouragement of one another. Friendships have deepened, teamwork has flourished and pupils have shown great respect, compassion and support for their peers as they worked together to overcome obstacles and celebrate successes. In keeping with Rock UK's Christian vision of transforming young lives through outdoor learning, the residential has provided countless opportunities for personal growth, character development and emotional well-being. We have seen children grow in confidence, develop a greater sense of responsibility and gain a deeper appreciation of the importance of community and belonging. We are immensely proud of the maturity, kindness and positivity shown by every pupil throughout the week. They return home not only with unforgettable memories, but also with strengthened character, greater independence and a readiness to embrace future challenges with confidence and hope.

Year 3/4 Farm Visit

On Tuesday Fox Class enjoyed a trip to Village Farm, Emmington where they explored how farming connects to climate change and our natural environment. During the session, pupils learned about the crops grown on the farm, including wheat, barley and maize, and what these crops were used for. They were taken to the milking shed and told about the process of milking and how much milk one single cow could produce. The children particularly enjoyed hands-on activities such as estimating how many seeds would be planted in a 1 metre square, how much flour that would produce and how many loaves! They also took time to listen carefully to the sounds of nature around them. It was a rich, engaging experience that brought their learning to life and deepened their understanding of sustainability and the world around them.

Swimming Gala

Fox Class also enjoyed a fabulous Swimming Gala. The Aston Rowant spirit was on full display, with every single child taking part, encouraging one another and celebrating each other's achievements throughout the day. Every swimmer was cheered on, and those who found their races a little more challenging were often met with the loudest support of all as they crossed the finish line. The morning was packed with fun, excitement and opportunities for everyone to get involved. From relay races and front crawl events to breaststroke challenges, bodyboarding races, seahorse races, running races and noodle-kicking contests, there was truly something for everyone. There was even a hilarious dressing-up relay, where swimmers had to race in a t-shirt before helping the next teammate get ready to swim! Most importantly, the sportsmanship shown by all of our pupils was outstanding. The encouragement, kindness and team spirit on display made the event a wonderful celebration of participation, perseverance and community. We are incredibly proud of every child who took part and helped make the day such a memorable success.

Courageous Advocacy

On Tuesday we will be going on our re-arranged trip to the Houses of Commons and No 10 Downing Street. This is following the work Owl Class exploring an important global issue and creating a petition calling for greater support and funding for children's education in Gaza. The project has provided a meaningful opportunity for pupils to develop their understanding of global citizenship, compassion and courageous advocacy, empowering them to use their voices to make a positive difference for others. If you feel able to do so, we would greatly appreciate your support by signing the petition, "Provide more funding and aid for children's education in Gaza," and sharing it with family, friends and neighbours. Every signature helps to strengthen the message our pupils are sending. Thank you, as always, for supporting our children and encouraging them to be thoughtful, active citizens who strive to make a positive impact on the world.

Kind regards
Mrs France

GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY

Growing together, rooted in God, enjoying fullness of life. (Colossians 2:1-7)

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Teaching and Learning in the Classrooms this week:



Hedgehog Class

This week, we have been enjoying the story *The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch*. We discovered that poor Mr Grinling hadn't eaten all week because the seagulls kept stealing his lunch! The children made him a delicious new lunch, but to our surprise, the seagulls swooped in and stole it again! We tried writing messages to tell the seagulls to stop, but they ignored them. Next, we built a scarecrow and even designed a trap, but the clever seagulls were not fooled. Finally, we wrote letters to Mrs Grinling asking for her help and hoping she has a brilliant plan. We can't wait to find out if it works next week! In Maths, we explored patterns, focusing on AB and ABC repeating patterns. The children created patterns using a variety of resources, including objects, sounds, movements, numbers and letters, and enjoyed spotting and continuing different pattern sequences. In Topic, we continued working on our beautiful seascapes by using watercolours to create a wash. We practised blending colours carefully to create lovely sky and sea effects. We also had a fantastic time taking part in Wheels Day on Friday. It was wonderful to see the children enjoying riding their bikes and scooters while developing their confidence and coordination. Thank you for helping make it such a fun and successful day!



Squirrel Class

This week Squirrel Class has been largely dedicated to rehearsals for our Key Stage 1 production. The children have worked incredibly hard learning their lines, practising the songs, and preparing for the performance - it has truly been a mammoth effort! A huge thank you goes to Mrs Coughtrey and Mrs Lundstrom for generously giving their time to help the children create fantastic masks and other props for the show. In Maths, our Year 1 children have continued their work on place value, using number lines to 100 to identify missing numbers and estimate where numbers belong. Meanwhile, Year 2 have continued learning about time, focusing on telling the time to the nearest five minutes while consolidating their understanding of to and past the hour. In Science, we explored the fascinating work of marine biologists and learned about the pioneering French marine biologist Jeanne Villepreux-Power, who invented the aquarium as a scientific tool to study marine life. Next week we are looking forward to meeting a real-life Marine Biologist (via a Zoom meeting) and we have prepared some questions to ask about his job, passions and experiences. It has been a busy, productive, and enjoyable week in Squirrel Class!



Fox Class

Fox Class have worked extremely hard this week – no change there then! They have tried their best when tackling maths and reading assessments and I am proud of their efforts. We have still managed to squeeze in normal lessons too! In Y3 Maths, children have been working with pictograms and creating their own and interpreting bar charts. In Y4, children have plotted coordinates and made 2D shapes then moved onto understanding translation. In English, we've come to a very exciting point in *The Firework Maker's Daughter* and children made a poster advertising the forthcoming firework display. In addition, they became journalists and wrote about each firework artist's display and compiled them into one newspaper. In our Geography, children mapped the journey of some of the food packaging we had, helping them to appreciate just how far some of our food comes. In keeping with our Geography, we enjoyed a trip to Village Farm in Emmington. We can understand where some of our bread, flour or beer(!) starts. It was a fascinating afternoon and the whole class had lots of interesting questions for Farmer Tom. In our DT, children designed a box for the item they are going to bake thinking about what their packaging must have and who it is aimed at. In our PSHE we learnt about how to deal with bites and stings which is always a useful skill especially at this time of year.



Owl Class

What a fantastic week Owl Class have had at Rock UK in Wales! Alongside all of the adventurous activities, one of the highlights of the week has undoubtedly been our game of *Traitors*. The children have embraced every challenge, mission and dramatic round table with great enthusiasm, strategy and more than a little suspicion! Strangely, Mrs France seems to mysteriously disappear whenever a challenge or round table is about to begin, but fortunately Claudia Winkleman herself – complete with her iconic fringe, eyeliner and sweeping cloak – has made a number of appearances to expertly guide us through the twists and turns of the game. There has been much laughter, plenty of detective work and some truly impressive acting skills on display. There has been a murder each night and even some murders in plain sight! It would appear that no-one is safe... Combined with the courage, teamwork and resilience shown during the residential activities, the week has been filled with friendship, fun and memories that will stay with the children for years to come. We are incredibly proud of everything they have achieved and cannot wait to share more of their adventures with you in a special Residential Assembly to come...

GRATITUDE**RESILIENCE****OUTREACH****WONDER****TRUST****HARMONY**

Growing together, rooted in God, enjoying fullness of life. (Colossians 2:1-7)



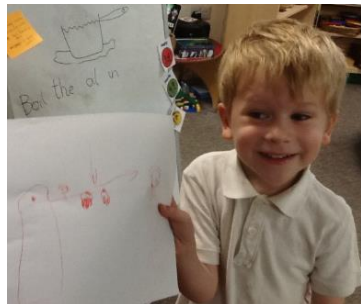
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Photo Diary of the Week



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Residential Week



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Whole School Topic - Summer Term: Window on the World

Value: Resilience

We have continued exploring resilience both in school and also away on residential. The Bible is full of stories about people who faced challenges and kept going, trusting in God along the way. Paul experienced many difficulties during his travels, yet he remained hopeful and faithful. He wrote, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13). We reflected on the obstacles we sometimes face in our own lives. Learning something new, managing friendships, coping with disappointment or tackling a difficult task can all test our resilience. Like a tree that bends in strong winds but does not break, resilience helps us adapt, recover and continue moving forward. By trusting in God's strength and believing in ourselves, we can face challenges with confidence, knowing that every setback is an opportunity to grow.

Climate Warriors' Challenge

Plastic Free July. Did you know that much of the plastic we use for only a few minutes can remain in the environment for hundreds of years? This July, our Climate Warriors challenge is to become Plastic Detectives and spot some of the single-use plastics we use every day. Plastic Free July is a worldwide movement that encourages people to make small changes that can have a big impact on our planet. Take a look around your home, lunchbox or shopping basket. How many items are used once and then thrown away? Could you swap them for something reusable instead? You might choose to bring a refillable water bottle, use reusable shopping bags, avoid plastic straws, or select snacks with less plastic packaging. Why not challenge your family to count how many plastic-free swaps they can make during the month?

Reading Missions Challenge July

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

Book Review Tilly and the Time Machine by Adrian Edmondson reviewed by Mrs Healy!



We have been reading this book in class as part of our reading for pleasure. The whole class have loved it (as have I!). It's about a girl of average height (as she likes to say) who finds her father has made a time machine then disappears. She must find him - in doing so she meets Lord Nelson, Queen Victoria and members of the 1966 England World Cup team! This book deals with a range of emotions but at the core is a child and father dealing with loss after Tilly's mum has died and how they process it differently. I highly recommend this book.

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. You can find this month's happiness calendar [here](#).

Attendance – This Week

School target 97%	97% - 100%	90% -97%	Below 90%
Hedgehog Class	88%	6%	6%
Squirrel Class	89%	0%	11%
Fox Class	100%	0%	0%
Owl Class	96%	0%	4%

Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	51	176
Eden	55	174
Galilee	46	174
Jerusalem	57	177

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Emails and Letters Sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
03.07.26	Email	Owl	Mrs King	Residential update – estimated time of arrival
03.07.26	Email	New Hedgehog	Mrs King	Reminder - Enrolment Applications
02.07.26	Email	Selection	Mrs Healy	Sports Day helpers
01.07.26	Email	Owl	Mrs France	Residential – Wednesday update
01.07.26	Email	Hedgehog	Mrs Hall	Wheels Day Reward
01.07.26	Email	All	Mrs King	Tick Awareness and Safety Advice
01.07.26	Letter	All	Mrs King	PTA Summer events
30.06.26	Email	New Hedgehog	Mrs King	Enrolment Application
30.06.26	Email	Owl	Mrs France	Residential – Tuesday update
29.06.26	Email	Owl	Mrs France	Residential – Monday update
29.06.26	Email	All	Mrs King	Reminder – Free School Meal Checks
29.06.26	Email	Squirrel	Mrs King	KSI Performance Tickets
29.06.26	Email	Owl	Mrs King	Residential update
29.06.26	Letter	Fox	Mrs Healy	Village Farm Trip

July	
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
Fri 10 th	Year 6 Leavers Afternoon Tea 15:00 PTA Raffle
Sat 11 th	PTA Summer BBQ/Camp Night from 16:00
w/c 13 th	PE Enrichment Week
Tue 14 th	Sports Day – Parents welcome from 12pm for PTA BBQ Young Enterprise Charity Fayre
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 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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