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Aston Rowant C+E Primary School
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01844 351671 office@aston-rowant.oxon.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mrs Helen Hart



4th September 2026

From the Headteacher:

Welcome back! I hope that you all managed to have a fabulous summer and a relaxing break. It has been wonderful to have the children back and there has been a real buzz of excitement and anticipation about the year ahead. It is also lovely to be able to welcome our new starters and also Mrs Elliott to the team. They are all settling into the Aston Rowant family extremely well.

New Library

We're delighted to report that the new library is really starting to take shape! This week has seen fantastic progress, with the cladding, flooring and many of the finishing touches now completed. Today, the electricians have been carrying out the second fix, and decorating is scheduled to begin early next week. With the finish line now in sight, I'll soon be asking ever so sweetly for a few volunteers to help us move everything into its new home. Watch this space for details, and thank you in advance for your support!

Meet the Teacher Meetings

We will once again be holding our 'Meet the Teacher' meetings for Squirrel, Fox and Owl Classes this year. It is an opportunity to meet your child's teacher in person, meet other families who will be in class with your child, preview the curriculum and ask any questions that you may have. It will also allow you to spend some time in your child's classroom. The dates were as published at the end of the summer term and are also in the calendar at the end of this newsletter as a reminder.

Attendance and Punctuality

We will continue to monitor and address attendance rigorously. Our target for next year is to achieve the school's and OCC's attendance expectation of 97% and significantly reduce both unreported and unauthorised absence.

Attendance at school is a legal requirement, and we expect all families to prioritise their child's education by ensuring they attend school every day unless there is a genuine reason for absence. While many parents assure us that they have carefully considered their decisions regarding holidays and term-time absence, personal thought and consideration **do not** override the **legal** requirement and responsibility for children to be in school.

We will be working closely with OCC to monitor attendance at both a whole-school and individual family level. Where attendance is a cause for concern, family support plans and other interventions will be implemented. Please be aware that ALL unauthorised absences and term-time holidays will be dealt with consistently and robustly. Penalty notices will be issued regularly in line with OCC and national guidance. Fines are charged per parent, per child, and repeated offences may result in increased penalties and further legal action where appropriate.

Please also note that the children need to be in school ready to line up at 8:45, therefore, school gates will close at **8:40** each morning. We ask that **all** children are in school by this time and with the equipment that they need for the school day. Entering via the school office takes up considerable staff time to sign the children in and walk them, or their forgotten equipment, across to their classrooms. Our school registers close at 9:00am and so any child arriving after this time will be marked as late.

Uniform

It was great to see the children looking so smart in their school uniforms this week. Our uniform policy remains unchanged from last year and is available on the website for guidance. Please note children should **only** be wearing sweatshirts and cardigans with the school logo on **not** plain jumpers or cardigans. Footwear should be black school shoes (no trainers) worn with black, grey or white socks (no trainer socks) or black, red or grey tights (not navy). Only **small** red or neutral hair accessories should be worn. All earrings need to be removed for PE or taped up. The children are responsible to do this and provide their own tape and/or storage bag for their earrings.

Please can we ask that all items brought in to school are clearly labelled to avoid them being lost or children being confused about what belongs to them, especially when changing for P.E.

Equipment

Please can we remind everyone that they need to have a coat with them every day and keep a pair of wellies in school. We do go out for play times and enjoy Forest Friday in all weathers and do not want children to miss out if they do not have the appropriate clothing. Please note that all children are required to have their PE kit in school Monday to Friday each week. All children in KS1 and KS2 also need to bring a fully stocked pencil case with them to school each day.

Collective Worship

We will be holding a 'New Year' service in church on Friday 11th September at 9:15am to mark the start of the school year and welcome our new starters and would love to see you there. We will be delighted to continue to welcome parents to join us for our Celebration Assemblies at 2:30pm each Friday, starting on 2nd October with our Harvest Service. Please enter/exit via the hall door.

Kind regards

Mrs Hart

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:

Opening Doors Through Reading

What better way to begin a new school year than by celebrating the skill that unlocks every aspect of learning? Over the first two days of term, our entire school explored the theme '**Opening Doors Through Reading**', reinforcing our belief that reading lies at the heart of a rich and ambitious curriculum. Throughout the school, pupils immersed themselves in high-quality texts, using reading as a springboard for discussion, creativity, writing, drama, art and enquiry. From discovering new worlds and perspectives to developing vocabulary, imagination and confidence, children experienced first-hand how reading opens doors to knowledge, opportunity and lifelong learning.

We were especially delighted to welcome **Som Holliday** to school today, an award-winning children's author and storyteller. Som worked with every class throughout the day, sharing the joy of storytelling and helping children understand that books are created by real people with imaginations, ideas and stories of their own to tell. Her engaging and interactive sessions inspired creativity, listening skills and a genuine love of reading, providing a memorable start to our Year of Reading and encouraging children to see themselves not only as readers, but as writers too.

These two days are just the beginning. To help continue this journey at home, we are challenging every family to make time for regular reading together this term. As we continue to develop a strong culture of reading within school, we are also relaunching our Reading Journals and introducing our new **10 Minute Reading Challenge** to encourage a reading culture outside of school. Children will be able to collect keys as they progress on their reading journey, unlocking rewards and celebrating important milestones along the way. More information can be found in the dedicated Reading letter (sent to parents today), but our message is simple: every child can become a confident, enthusiastic reader when school and home work together. We look forward to welcoming families on this exciting journey and, as always, thank you for your continued support in helping our children open doors through reading.

Finally, with our beautiful new library soon to open, this is the perfect time to celebrate the transformative power of books. We are launching our '**Opening Doors**' Competition, inviting children to design a door inspired by a favourite book, character or story. The winning design will have the honour of helping us officially open the door to our new library, with their artwork proudly displayed inside. A fitting reward for a pupil who truly demonstrates where reading can take us.



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Emails and Letters Sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
04-09-26	Letter	All	Mrs Hart	Reading letter to parents
01-09-26	Email	All	Mrs King	Important Allergy Reminders

September	
Fri 4th	Author workshop visit by Som Holliday – all classes
w/c 7th	Meet the teacher meetings. Mon 7th Owl 2:45pm Tues 8th Fox 2:45pm Wed 9th 2:45pm Squirrel
Fri 11th	09:15 New Year Service in Church – everyone welcome
Mon 14th	Flu Immunisations
Fri 18th	Jeans for Genes Day (wear your jeans with school sweatshirts and make a donation to this charity) 09:00 PTA Meeting – school hall
Mon 21st – Fri 25th	Courageous Advocacy Week
Fri 25th	TBC Library Grand Opening PTA Christmas Card artwork due home for parents to order
Tue 29th	09:30 – 10:30 Open Day for 27-28 Intake
October	
Fri 2nd	14:30 Harvest in school celebration worship (donations for local food bank)
Wed 7th	School Photographs – Individual, Sibling and Class photos
Mon 19th	Open Day for 27-28 Intake
Thu 22nd	Be Bright Be Seen Day – wear bright clothes for Road Safety Awareness (non-uniform day) TERM ENDS 15:15
Fri 23rd	INSET DAY

Academic Year Calendar 2026-27

Please note holidays taken in term time will result in fines charged per parent, per child, and repeated offences may result in increased penalties and further legal action where appropriate.

Autumn 26	
Tue 1st Sept – Fri 23rd Oct	Autumn Term (1) INSET DAYS: Tue 1st Sept, Wed 2nd Sept and Fri 23rd Oct
Mon 26th Oct – Fri 30th Oct	HALF TERM
Mon 2nd Nov – Fri 18th Dec	Autumn Term (2)
Spring 27	
Mon 4th Jan – Fri 12th Feb	Spring Term (1) INSET Mon 4th Jan
Mon 15th – Fri 19th Feb	HALF TERM
Mon 22nd Feb – Thu 25th Mar	Spring Term (2)
Summer 27	
Mon 12th April – Fri 28th May	Summer Term (1)
Mon 31st May – Fri 4th Jun	HALF TERM
Mon 7th June – Wed 21st July	Summer Term (2) INSET Mon 7th Jun

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