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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 Hart



11th September 2026

From the Headteacher:

It was fabulous to gather together in church at the start of the year to welcome all our new starters, both in Hedgehog and across the school, to our Aston Rowant family. Thank you to our friends and parents who joined us, it was lovely to have a full church.

House Teams

Our House Team system facilitates the opportunity for vertical learning when children across all the year groups come together for special events or activities, it can also foster friendly competitive spirit along the way through various inter house competitions or the gaining of house points.

We are excited to confirm that Millie and Harry (**Bethlehem**), Max C and Esme (**Jerusalem**), Alfie and Jacob (**Galilee**) and Bodie and Evelyn (**Eden**) will be our House Captains this year.

Housepoints are totalled each week by the House Captains and announced in the Celebration Assemblies. At the end of each half term the winning house collectively chooses their reward. Individual housepoints are also totalled. When individuals reach 25 housepoints they are recognised in Celebration Assembly, for 50 housepoints they receive a sticker, for 75 housepoints they receive a certificate and for 100 housepoints a special gold badge that can be worn as part of their uniform for their whole time with us at school. Housepoints are reset for individuals at the end of each term.

School Council

Our School Council provides children with a voice in shaping school life, enabling them to represent the views of their peers and contribute to decision-making. Through regular meetings and collaborative projects, council members help drive positive change and promote a sense of responsibility and citizenship throughout the school. We are delighted to announce that Grace is our School Council leader this year working with Ted (Owl), Elsie and Billie (Fox) and Nora and Rocco (Squirrel).

Wellbeing Leads

Our Wellbeing Leads promote positive mental health and emotional wellbeing across the school, helping to create a supportive and inclusive environment for all. By encouraging kindness, resilience and healthy relationships, they play an active role in ensuring every child feels valued, listened to and supported. The new Wellbeing Lead roles will be taken up by George and Tabitha.

Eco Warriors

Our Eco Warriors inspire the school community to make environmentally responsible choices, raising awareness of sustainability and conservation. Through campaigns, projects and practical initiatives, they encourage others to care for the environment and take pride in making a positive difference to the world around them. Jenson will be Eco Warrior Leader working with Georgie (Owl) Jos and Leon (Fox) and Charlie and Uliana (Squirrel).

Librarians

Our Librarians foster a love of reading throughout the school by helping to maintain an inviting and organised library environment. They support their peers in discovering new books, promote reading for pleasure and help develop a culture where literature and learning are valued and celebrated. Our new Head Librarians Annamarie and Aly will also help us look at the keys children have earned through their reading journals. For individuals: 10 keys earn a sticker, 25 keys earn a bookmark, 50 gain a stationery item, 75 a keyring, 100 is a toy such as a small squishy and 500 is a new book or book token. Classes can also earn rewards.

Play Ground Leaders

Our Playground Leaders help to create a positive, inclusive and active play environment during breaktimes and lunchtimes. By organising games, encouraging participation and supporting younger children, they promote teamwork, friendship and enjoyment while helping everyone to feel happy, safe and included. Our Year 5 children will rotate as Playground Leaders.

Parent Reps

We are looking for volunteers to be parental representatives for each class again this year. The main aim of the parental meetings is to use the voice of our parents to help us achieve the best possible outcomes for our children. It is an opportunity for the Headteacher to share information about the school development priorities and for the parent representatives to share feedback from their class. Information shared is always thematic rather than an opportunity for individual circumstances to be discussed.

And finally... Jeans for Genes

Jeans for Genes is a national fund-raising event which supports the Children's Medical Research Institute and helps find cures for children's genetic diseases. Next Friday the children can wear jeans for the day but with their school polo shirts and jumpers. The children are encouraged to make a donation today [online here](#) which goes directly to the Children's Medical Research Institute.

Kind regards

Mrs Hart

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Teaching and Learning in the Classrooms this week:



Hedgehog Class

We are so proud of the children and how brilliantly they have settled in. They have already learned so much, from using their listening bodies and joining in with stories and songs, to using pegs during exploring time and learning to negotiate and work together with friends. In P.E we have been practising stopping and starting and listening carefully to instructions. We have enjoyed reading Supertato, where Evil Pea closed some of our play areas! We had to work together and do some fantastic tidying to earn them back, learning where resources belong and how to wait patiently. We also read Super Duper You, which reminded us that we are all special and unique. We really enjoyed sharing our lunches together this week! Next week, we will be learning about how we grow healthy and strong. **Please could you send in a named photograph of your child as a baby for our special book? These will be returned to you.** Thank you!



Squirrel Class

The Squirrels have had a positive start to the new academic year, with lots of learning, growing and exploring taking place. We enjoyed a wonderful Teddy Bear Day, where the children completed some lovely writing linked to our leading text, *The Seesaw* by Tom Percival. They described their favourite teddies or cuddly toys and wrote sentences about them in their books. In Maths, we recapped our counting skills, with the Year 1 children exploring sorting objects and efficient ways of counting to ten, while the Year 2 children worked on counting and ordering numbers to 50. In Geography, we explored the countries of the UK, identifying some of the features that make each country unique, as well as learning about their capital cities. The children then wrote postcards explaining where they are from in England and what makes their area special. In Art, we began our new half-term focus on spirals, discussing where spirals can be found in everyday life and nature before using different mediums to create spirals of various shapes and sizes in the playground and in our sketchbooks. We also started our daily reading lessons, using this first week to help the children settle into their new routines, develop positive reading behaviours and build the foundations for a year in which reading can truly flourish. Alongside this, the children have begun their daily phonics lessons and started learning their new sounds for the year. Overall, it has been a fantastic first week, and there is already so much to be proud of!



Fox Class

Fox Class have had a very busy and exciting week! In Maths, we have been learning about number and place value, showing fantastic resilience and concentration as we tackled some tricky challenges. We have been really impressed with the children's positive attitudes towards their learning so far. We have also made a great start to our new History topic, learning about how the Anglo-Saxons came to settle in Britain and why they chose to make their home here. Did you know that parts of Scandinavia were so prone to flooding that it could be difficult to grow crops? England offered much better farming opportunities, which was one of the reasons the Anglo-Saxons were attracted to settle here. The children have been fascinated by what they have discovered! We have had lots of fun getting creative with artwork linked to our English text, *Arthur and the Golden Rope*. We focused on the work of Darrell Wakelam, who has spent his working life creating artwork with children and young people, particularly character designs. We then had a go at becoming sketchbook artists ourselves, recreating pictures of Arthur and exploring how artists can bring characters to life. The children absolutely loved being creative, and we have seen some fantastic artwork developing in our sketchbooks. Florence even ended the day on Wednesday with a magic show which was delightful! What a wonderful week of learning, creativity and perseverance!



Owl Class

Welcome back to our Year 6 family, and welcome to Owl class to our new Year 5 parents - this is where you will find out all about our learning journey each week. After meeting so many of you face-to-face at the start of the week, we have already been so busy! we started all of our topics - using Ancient Greece as the doorway to our learning in both History and English - taking a virtual tour of Athens in its prime, and writing postcards home about what we have seen there: the Parthenon, the statues and banners of Athena and the bustling shipyards and markets, before hopping across the water to Crete to find the cruel King Minos waiting for us. We listened to the story of Theseus and the Minotaur, then used prompt cards to help us recall the key events and create story maps. We also used Adam Peats' 'Imagine 3' method to create a wonderful range of story openers! In Maths, we joined the rest of the school as we recapped number order, place value, dividing and multiplying by powers of ten, with an escape room themed lesson, and Year 6 even practised some SAT's questions to get that challenge going! Science found us establishing just what a mixture is, concocting a range of different blends including: ground (decaff) coffee, sand, sugar, salt, paperclips and soil. Messy work! Big Homework and spellings (children have been told their spelling groups) are ready to find on the class page, and I will be sending out some children with reminders of their Doodle logins today as some have forgotten over the break. What a busy week! Time for the weekend.

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Photo Diary of the Week



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Whole School Topic - Autumn Term: Doors to Discovery

Values: Wonder

This week we explored the wonder of new beginnings. Just as leaves grow again in spring and tiny seeds become flourishing plants, new opportunities appear throughout our lives. Sometimes change can feel exciting and sometimes it can feel a little scary, but Christians believe that God is always at work, bringing new possibilities and helping us grow. We reflected on the ways we have learned, changed and developed this year and considered what new things we might discover about ourselves and others in the weeks ahead. "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?" Isaiah 43:19

Climate Warriors Challenge

Climate change and it's impact on our UK weather is becoming more pronounced... no longer can we avoid taking action to counter 'the elephant in the room'.

With our positive, fun and practical approach to tackling our climate crisis and encouraging sustainable living opportunities, we aim to inspire young pupils via our series of weekly challenges. This first one kick-starts the school year with a look at how much electricity we are ACTUALLY consuming and a link to [Gridwatch](#) to see how much electricity renewable sources are ACTUALLY producing now!

Book Review 'What a Wonderful World'



As an introduction to our school value of 'Wonder', Hedgehog class read *What a Wonderful World*. This book brings the much-loved song to life through Tim Hopgood's vibrant and colourful illustrations. Each page celebrates the beauty of our world, encouraging children to look closely at the wonders all around them, from bright skies and blooming flowers to friendly faces and bustling communities. The uplifting message and beautiful artwork make this a joyful book to share.

Happiness Calendar: Self Care September

Self-care isn't selfish. It's essential. It is an investment in you. You can find this month's happiness calendar [here](#).

Attendance - This week

School target 97%	97% - 100%	90% -97%	Below 90%
Hedgehog Class	93%	7%	0%
Squirrel Class	97%	3%	0%
Fox Class	100%	0%	0%
Owl Class	88%	4%	8%

Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	40	40
Eden	39	39
Galilee	41	41
Jerusalem	39	39

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Emails and Letters Sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
11.09.26	Letter	Year 6	Mrs King	Secondary School Open Evenings
10.09.26	Letter	All	Mrs King	The JR Sports Group – Football Club
10.09.26	Email	All	Mrs French	ACTION REQUIRED – Flu consent reminder
10.09.26	Email	All	Mrs King	Donation request for Mrs Healy
10.09.26	Letter	All	PTA	Cake raffle
08.09.26	Email	All	PTA	Welcome back from the PTA
08.09.26	Email	Squirrel	Mrs Biggin	Cuddly toy request
07.09.26	Letter	All	Mrs King	ACTION REQUIRED – FLU CONSENT

September	
Mon 14 th	Flu Immunisations
Thu 16 th	14:30 EYFS – Phonics and Early Reading parent meeting
Thu 17 th	6-8pm Year 6 Open Evening at Icknield Community College (no booking required)
Fri 18 th	Jeans for Genes Day (wear your jeans with school sweatshirts and make a donation to this charity) 09:00 PTA Meeting – school hall
Mon 21 st – Fri 25 th	Courageous Advocacy Week
Fri 25 th	TBC Library Grand Opening PTA Christmas Card artwork due home for parents to order
Tue 29 th	09:30 – 10:30 Open Day for 27-28 Intake
October	
Fri 2 nd	14:30 Harvest in school celebration worship (donations for local food bank)
Mon 5 th	Henley Literary Festival – Livestream with author Paterson Joseph - whole school
Tue 6 th	Lord Williams's Open Evening (see letter for booking details)
Wed 7 th	School Photographs – Individual, Sibling and Class photos
Wed 7 th	Henley Literary Festival – Livestream with author M.G Leonard – KS2
Thu 8 th	Henley Literary Festival – Livestream with author Joseph Coelho – KS1
Mon 19 th	Open Day for 27-28 Intake
Thu 22 nd	Be Bright Be Seen Day – wear bright clothes for Road Safety Awareness (non-uniform day) TERM ENDS 15:15
Fri 23 rd	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 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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