

SUPPORT
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Merit | 2024 - 2025



Bronze Award

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



18th September 2026

From the Headteacher:

A Fantastic Start to the Year

It has been a wonderful start to the academic year and I would like to congratulate all of our children on the positive way they have returned to school. Across every class, pupils have settled quickly into routines, embraced new challenges and demonstrated a genuine enthusiasm for learning. As part of our continued focus on the idea that Every Child is a Thinker, it has been particularly pleasing to see children asking thoughtful questions, exploring ideas with confidence and showing curiosity in their learning. Our classrooms have been buzzing with discussion, creativity and collaboration, setting an excellent tone for the year ahead.

Jeans for Genes



Today we once again supported Jeans for Genes. This year, rather than collecting cash donations in school, families were invited to make donations online in support of this important charity. This is still open if you haven't had a chance to do so. Throughout the day, children took part in activities celebrating individuality and helping them understand the importance of inclusion, kindness and supporting others. Activities included class discussions, creative artwork, storytelling, reflective circle time and learning about how we can all make a positive difference to the lives of others. Click [here](#) to make a donation or use the QR code to the left.

School Council

Today we held our first School Council meeting of the academic year. Our newly elected representatives were full of enthusiasm and ideas. Discussions included improving outdoor spaces, developing leadership opportunities, fundraising ideas and future school events. It is great to hear the children's thoughts and to see their commitment to making our school an even better place for everyone.

Eco Warriors

Our Eco Warriors also met this week for the first time this academic year. The children demonstrated great passion for environmental issues and generated a fantastic range of ideas for projects they would like to develop. One of our key goals this year is to build on our Green Tree Schools Bronze Award and work towards achieving Gold status. Ideas included increasing biodiversity around the school grounds, reducing waste, encouraging energy-saving habits and promoting greater environmental awareness across the school community. We look forward to sharing their progress throughout the year.

Courageous Advocacy Week

Next week marks the start of our first Courageous Advocacy Week of the year. Courageous Advocacy is about speaking up for others, standing up for what is right and taking action to improve the world around us. Throughout the week, children will explore how even small actions can make a big difference. Younger children will be thinking about kindness, fairness and helping others, whilst older pupils will consider issues such as environmental responsibility, supporting vulnerable members of our community, access to education and children's rights. We would like to invite families to join us for our first Collective Worship of the year, where the children will share their learning, ideas and plans.

Harvest Celebration

Our Harvest Celebration will take place on Friday 2nd October. We will have a special Celebration Assembly that day which as always is open to parents, carers and siblings. We also invite the children to bring in donations for our local food bank, Sharing Life. They are requesting: cereal, soup, pasta, rice, tinned tomatoes, pasta sauce, lentils, beans and pulses, tinned meat, tinned vegetables, tea or coffee, tinned fruit, biscuits, UHT milk, and fruit juice. Thank you in advance for supporting this very worthwhile cause.

Doors to Discovery Week

Looking ahead to the week commencing 5th October, we will be continuing our Door to Discovery initiative. The week will focus on fostering curiosity, creativity and a love of reading across all subjects. The children will have opportunities to explore new ideas, ask big questions and discover where their interests might lead them. The week will culminate in the opening of our library, an exciting milestone that will further strengthen our commitment to developing a lifelong love of reading.

Finally...Open Days

We will be hosting three 'Open Days' for Early Years for those families looking for a place for September 2027. These will be on Tuesday 29th September 9:30-10:30, Monday 19th October 14:00-15:00 and Friday 6th November 9:30-10:30. If you know anyone who might be interested then please do let them know. They can book in via email to the school office.

Kind regards

Mrs Hart

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Teaching and Learning in the Classrooms this week:



Hedgehog Class

What an amazing first full week of learning we have had, Hedgehogs! This week, we enjoyed reading *Avocado Baby* by John Burningham. We looked at photographs of ourselves as babies and talked about the things we couldn't do when we were babies but can do now. It was wonderful to hear the children sharing their ideas and noticing how much they have grown and developed. We have also started our phonics teaching and have been practising recognising, reading and writing the sounds 's' and 'a'. The children have worked incredibly hard and are already showing such enthusiasm for their learning. Our Hedgehogs have been fantastic at getting changed for PE this week! They joined in so well during our sessions and really enjoyed taking part in all the activities. During Exploring Time, we have been enjoying workshops in our different play areas. We have been thinking about how we can challenge ourselves, try new things and develop our learning through play. We have also introduced our talk partners. The children have been learning how to communicate and listen well by facing their partner, listening carefully to their answers and sitting still while someone else is speaking. We are so proud of how amazingly the Hedgehogs have done during their first full week of learning. Well done, Hedgehogs! You have been superstars!



Squirrel Class

It has been another busy and exciting week of learning in Squirrel classroom! In Maths, the children have continued developing their understanding of place value. Our Year 1 children have been consolidating their counting skills by counting objects and numbers to 10, while our Year 2 children have been consolidating their knowledge of numbers to 20, including practising how to spell number names accurately. In English, we have continued our work based on *The Sea Saw* by Tom Percival. The children wrote commands for the ocean to help the bear make his way back home to Sophie, and they also created imaginative lost posters to help find Sophie's missing bear. In Geography, we explored the difference between natural and human features in our school environment. The children enjoyed taking a walk around the school grounds, observing different features and practising naming them. In Science, we began learning about everyday materials, identifying different materials and discussing some of their qualities and properties. Finally, in RE, we read the Genesis 1 creation story from the Bible and talked about the wonder of how our world was made. The children then created beautiful drawings showing how they imagined the world looked once it had been created. It has been wonderful to see the children engaging so enthusiastically with their learning across the curriculum this week!



Fox Class

This week in Fox Class during our Science lessons, we have been investigating how sounds are made. We explored a wide range of musical instruments and discovered that sound is created through vibrations. The children had lots of fun experimenting with different instruments, listening carefully to the sounds they produced and noticing how vibrations can be felt as well as heard. It has been a fun and fascinating week of musical discovery! In English, we have been creating our own short adventure stories. The children have been using their imaginations to invent and describe their very own mythical creatures, developing exciting characters and adventures for their stories. I have been incredibly impressed by their writing, well done Foxes! We have continued exploring stories through art this week, and the children used exaggerated expressions to convey characters emotions – we then enjoyed mimicking these features on our own faces!



Owl Class

This week in Owl Class, we have begun creating vivid descriptions of the terrifying Minotaur for use in our upcoming suspense writing based on Theseus and the Minotaur. The children produced some truly evocative descriptions of the beast, using powerful vocabulary and imagery to create a sense of fear and tension very effectively. Continuing our Ancient Greece theme, in History we explored who lived on Mount Olympus, learning about the pantheon of Greek gods, their roles, powers and responsibilities. We also considered what these gods reveal about the values and beliefs of the Ancient Greeks and compared them with those of modern society. In Maths, we continued to recap our essential skills and took part in a concrete tools workshop on flexible partitioning, where we practised breaking numbers up to 10,000,000 into irregular chunks and checking our calculations using inverse operations. In Science, we caught a case of Gold Rush Fever as the children used sieving to separate a complex mixture of gold nuggets, gold flakes and sand back into three separate materials. It was messy fun! The children used this investigation to plan a method and create correctly presented annotated scientific diagrams to explain their process. Well done on a busy and productive week, Owl Class. Please make sure you have your Big Homework idea ready to confirm with me next week.

GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY

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



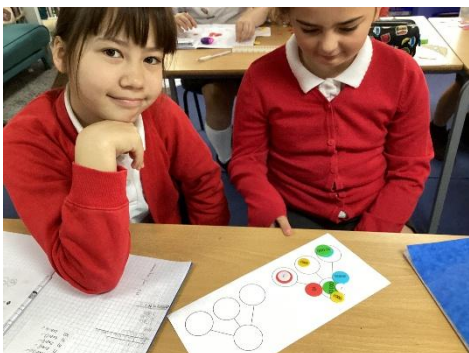
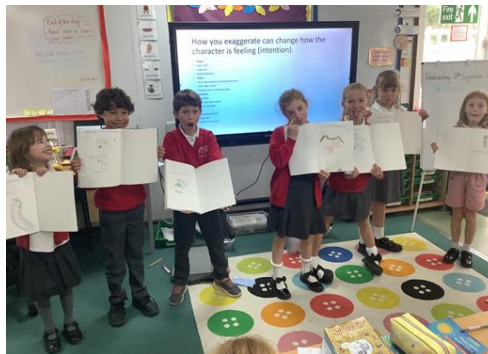
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Photo Diary of the Week



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Whole School Topic - Autumn Term: Doors to Discovery

Values: Wonder

This week in Collective Worship we have been thinking about the vastness of our world and universe. We reflected on how amazing it is that the same sun rises each morning, the stars shine at night and the seasons change year after year. Sometimes we become so familiar with these things that we stop noticing them. We encouraged the children to pause, look carefully and rediscover the Wonder that surrounds them every day. Christians believe that creation points to God's wisdom, creativity and care. We challenged ourselves to notice something this week that makes us stop and say, "Wow!" "When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place." Psalm 8:3

Climate Warriors Challenge

It's a big week for our planet... world leaders are gathering in New York for the UN General Assembly, and it's Global Goals Week (19th-27th September) - a worldwide push to increase action, awareness and accountability for the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. It comes after a summer of record-breaking heat and drought around the world, a stark reminder of why this all matters. This week's challenge is to learn about the Global Goals, think about children around the world who don't have safe water at home, and discover how we can help achieve Goal 13, 'Climate Action', by cutting our own water use.

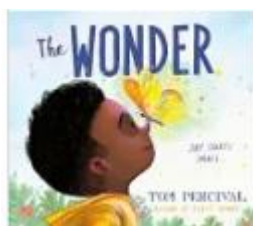
Links of interest:

[Global Goals: World's Largest Lesson](#) - an animated movie introducing the Goals (6 mins 42 secs)

[BBC Bitesize](#) - child-friendly detail on each of the Goals

Book Review

I wonder by Tom Percival reviewed by Mrs Biggin



I Wonder by Tom Percival is a thoughtful and beautifully illustrated picture book about curiosity, feelings and discovering the world around us. The story follows a young boy who begins to wonder about all sorts of things and, as he looks around him, he notices that the world is full of questions and possibilities. His curiosity helps him to see things in a new way and encourages him to explore, think and ask questions. The book also has an important message: it is good to be curious, and we should not be afraid to ask questions or wonder about the world. I would recommend *I Wonder* to children and adults who enjoy stories that make them think and encourage them to look at everyday life differently. It is a gentle, positive and inspiring book that reminds us that even a simple question can lead to something wonderful.

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	94%	3%	3%
Fox Class	88%	3%	9%
Owl Class	96%	0%	4%

Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	40	80
Eden	30	69
Galilee	45	86
Jerusalem	31	70

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Emails and Letters Sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
18.09.26	Letter	Squirrel, Fox & Owl	Chair of Governors	26-27 Parent letter from Governors
18.09.26	Letter	Hedgehog	Chair of Governors	26-27 Welcome letter from Governors
17.09.26	Email	All	Mrs King	Reminder: Jeans for Genes Day
16.09.26	Email	All	Mrs King	Reminder: Donations for Mrs Healy
15.09.26	Email	All	Mrs Hart	Celebration Assemblies – new dates
15.09.26	Email	Squirrel	Mrs Biggin	Spellings

September	
Mon 21 st – Fri 25 th	Courageous Advocacy Week
Fri 25 th	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)
w/c 5 th	Opening Doors to Discovery Week
Mon 5 th	09:00 Bags2School – Donations due for PTA fundraiser (letter to follow)
Mon 5 th	Henley Literary Festival – Livestream with author Paterson Joseph - whole school
Tue 6 th	Y6 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
Fri 9 th	Library Grand Opening Friday 9th 14:30
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)
Fri 23 rd	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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