

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



Growing Together

25th September 2026

From the Headteacher:

Courageous Advocacy Week 2026

What an incredible week we have had during our Courageous Advocacy Week! The week was carefully structured to help pupils understand that advocacy can take place at many levels. Children began by making a difference within their school environment before exploring issues affecting their local community, the wider nation and the global community. This progression enabled pupils to develop an increasingly sophisticated understanding of responsibility, citizenship and social justice. Throughout the week, every class explored an issue they felt passionate about, investigated how it affects others and took action to make a difference. Our children demonstrated remarkable compassion, courage and determination as they learned that even young people can be powerful agents of change.

Hedgehog Class: Caring for Our Environment

Our youngest pupils focused on caring for our local environment. Through environmental walks, litter-picking activities and discussions about how to protect our world, they explored the question: "What happens when people don't look after our environment?" The children worked hard to help keep our school grounds clean and shared important messages about looking after nature. The children said: "If we drop litter, animals might get hurt." "We can help the Earth by putting rubbish in the bin."

Squirrel Class: Supporting Our Local Food Bank

Squirrel Class learned about food poverty and the important role food banks play within our community. They organised a collection and discovered how simple acts of kindness can help local families. Exploring the question: "What happens when families don't have enough food?" the children developed a strong sense of empathy and community responsibility. During the class discussion the children remarked: "Everybody deserves food." "We wanted to help families in our community."

Fox Class: Every Child Has the Right to Read

Linked to our school reading priority and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, Fox Class investigated access to books across the UK. Through discussions and campaigning, they explored: "What happens when children don't have books?" Pupils recognised the importance of reading in unlocking opportunities and helping children learn, imagine and thrive and made comments including: "Books help us learn about the world." "Reading should be for everybody."

Owl Class: Children's Rights in the Digital World

As a Smartphone Free Childhood school, Owl Class tackled the important issue of children's rights online. Using the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child as their guide, they investigated: "Are children's rights being protected in the digital world?"

After researching online safety, privacy, wellbeing and play, the children created a Children's Digital Rights Charter which will be presented to our local MP and other members of our school community. In their own words: "Children have rights online just as they do offline." "Every child deserves time to play, sleep and spend time with friends away from screens."

A Week of Courageous Action

Across the school, pupils developed skills in research, teamwork, communication and leadership. Most importantly, they learned that courageous advocates do more than talk about problems; they take action to create positive change. We are incredibly proud of every child for the compassion, maturity and determination they showed throughout the week. From caring for our environment and supporting local families to championing reading and advocating for children's rights, our pupils demonstrated that their voices matter and that they can make a real difference.

Parking, Reversing and Speeding

Following a near miss involving a parent and pupil last week, we would like to remind everyone to take extra care when driving through the village and parking around the school site. The 20mph speed limit is there to protect children. At 30 mph, about 20% (1 in 5) of pedestrians struck by a car are killed, dropping to around 2.5% (1 in 40) at 20 mph. Please drive slowly, and also stay alert for children who may appear unexpectedly, taking particular care when parking or reversing. A few extra seconds of vigilance could prevent a serious accident. Thank you for helping to keep our school community safe.

Finally...Reading Keys

Congratulations to our avid readers who have already earned a sticker for 10 keys and to six children who have already reached 25 keys to earn themselves a bookmark.

Kind regards

Mrs Hart

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Teaching and Learning in the Classrooms this week:



Hedgehog Class

This week in Hedgehog Class, we have been very busy with our learning. We have learnt the sounds 't' and 'i' in phonics, practising how to read and write both. In Maths, we explored the numbers 1, 2 and 3, spending lots of time spotting them in our environment. This has helped us to understand that 3 can be made up of three ones or of 1 and 2. As part of our Courageous Advocacy Week, we started the week by reading the story *Tidy* by Emily Gravett, which sparked an important discussion about littering and looking after our environment. The children were very concerned when lots of litter suddenly appeared in our outdoor learning area! They quickly decided that something needed to be done, so we grabbed the litter pickers and worked together to clean up the space. We then decided to become Litter Superheroes, armed with buckets, bin bags, capes and masks. We made a poster to stop litter dropping around the school. The children showed great care for their environment and demonstrated fantastic teamwork.



Squirrel Class

Squirrel class have been learning about Courageous Advocacy this week. We read the award-winning story by Kate Milner 'It's a No-Money Day' and explored the themes of needs vs wants. We discussed the reality that some families may struggle to have enough money to pay for their needs and rely on the generosity of others to survive. Our school foodbank donation box contributes to our community by supporting those in need locally, and the children decided to create posters and postcards to request contributions. We would be very grateful for your support in restocking our donation box and with volunteers to drive the donations to the drop off location in Thame please. Our Maths lessons this week focused on one more and one less for the Y1 pupils and the Y2 children looked closely at the teen numbers. Our Geography lesson explored directional language and we studied various maps and atlases to find similarities and differences. The class really enjoyed directing each other around the map. In RE we continued our learning on the Creation story and looked at the details of how Christians believe God created the world. Our Art lesson this week was the creation of a different kind...our PTA Christmas cards! The children worked very hard to make them special and we hope you enjoy them and place lots of orders 😊.



Fox Class

What another busy week we have had in Fox Class! The children have blown my socks off by their enthusiasm for Courageous Advocacy Week and their determination to make a difference. It shocked the children to learn that in the UK, 1 in 14 children do not have a book at home. So, they decided to take action against this by raising awareness across the school as you saw in our Celebration Assembly today. We will keep you updated with our progress. In Science, we had lots of fun learning about sound waves and how sound travels through different materials – the cup telephones they created were fantastic! We tested them on the playground and gave each other feedback on how they could be improved to gain a higher quality sound. In English, we have continued our work on Arthur and the Golden Rope – the children have produced fantastic diary entries from a character's perspective. Amazing work Fox Class.



Owl Class

This week has all been about courage in Owl Class - we began by roleplaying and using freeze frame techniques to act as brave characters travelling through the labyrinth - we used individual characters, specialised body language and the children's own ideas to create a bespoke adventure to write about. I can't wait to see how these stories develop. In History, we looked at the differences between life in Ancient Athens and ancient Sparta for boys and girls - the children were quite shocked by the constrictive nature of Athenian life for girls, as well as the brutal hardships faced by Spartan boys! But as this was Courageous Advocacy week, we spent much time devoted to finding our next global topic to focus on. The children have been brilliant and enthusiastic and have chosen 'Are children's rights being protected in the digital world?' as our campaign this year. The children displayed drive and ambition as they created surveys to find out about our online habits, investigated possible risks faced by children online, and, in a move I was very impressed with, asked to contact the heads of their favourite gaming companies to ask them directly what they are doing to help keep children safe. Well done, Owl Class, I can't wait to see where our advocacy takes us next.

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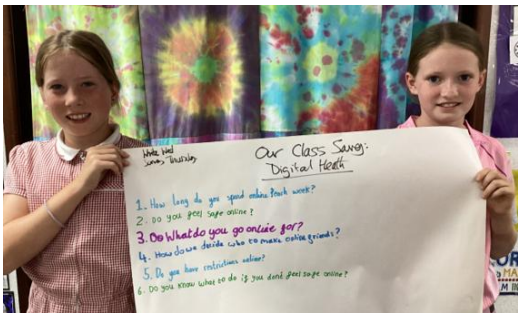
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Photo Diary of the Week



GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY

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Whole School Topic - Autumn Term: Doors to Discovery

Values: Wonder

This week in Collective Worship, we reflected on the incredible variety of life around us. From the smallest insects to the tallest trees, every part of creation is unique and important. We explored how nature is full of colour, pattern and design and considered the Christian belief that the world is a gift from God, entrusted to us to care for and protect. As part of our Courageous Advocacy Week, we thought about how paying attention to the world around us is often the first step towards making a difference. By noticing the things that are overlooked, whether in nature, our community or the wider world, we can begin to understand where change is needed and how we can take action. We reflected on the fact that courageous advocates start by seeing, valuing and caring for something before speaking up and making a positive impact. "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it." Psalm 24:1

Climate Warriors Challenge

As a school we encourage every child to be a thinker. Being a Young Climate Warrior starts with asking questions, exploring ideas and wondering how things work. Why do we recycle? What happens to our old things after we throw them away? And how can recycling help tackle climate change? Could you become a recycling detective and rescue a few forgotten treasures from the 'drawer of doom' - perhaps old chargers, unused cables or other hidden items waiting for a second life. You might even spot things headed for the bin that could be recycled instead!

Links:

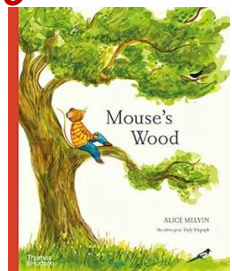
[National Recycling Week](#)

[Recycling glass](#)

[Recycling cans](#)

[Recycling copper - the Great Cable Challenge](#)

Book Review *Mouse's Wood by Alice Melvin reviewed by Mrs Elliott*



Mouse's Wood by Alice Melvin is one of my favourite books due to its connection to nature and the beauty around us. It is a superbly illustrated picture book that takes you on a gentle journey through a woodland across the four seasons. Mouse visits his woodland friends, from Squirrel and Hedgehog to Mole and Dormouse, as the year moves from the cold days of January to the arrival of winter again. The book celebrates the wonder of nature by showing how the wood changes throughout the year. Flowers bloom, berries ripen, birds and animals appear, and the seasons slowly transform the landscape. The detailed illustrations encourage children to stop, look closely and notice the small things that make a woodland special. I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys the little things nature has to offer.

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%	0%	7%
Squirrel Class	97%	0%	3%
Fox Class	91%	0%	9%
Owl Class	84%	8%	8%

Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	34	104
Eden	31	100
Galilee	28	114
Jerusalem	36	106

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Emails and Letters Sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
24.09.26	Email	All	Mrs King	Library volunteers next week please
23.09.26	Email	Hedgehog	Mrs King	Moving on to Primary School Survey
23.09.26	Email	All	Mrs King	Primary Newsletter – School Nurses
22.09.26	Letter	All	PTA	PTA Christmas Cards

September	
w/c 28 th	Library volunteers needed (see email)
Tue 29 th	09:30 – 10:30 Open Day for 27-28 Intake
October	
Thu 1 st	Poetry Day
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 15:15 After school Book Fair with Chorleywood Bookshop
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	14:30 Library Grand Opening Friday 9th
Mon 19 th	14:00 – 15:00 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
November	
Wed 4 th	Fill Your Bucket Day (Wellbeing)
Fri 6 th	09:30-10:30 Open Day for 27-28 Intake
w/c 9 th	Anti-Bullying Week
Mon 9 th	Parents' Evening (Squirrel, Fox & Owl)
Tue 10 th	Parents' Evening (Hedgehog, Squirrel, Fox & Owl)
Wed 11 th	Remembrance Service
Fri 13 th	Children in Need

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 / Wed 2 nd Sept 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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