

SUPPORT
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Plant | 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

2nd October 2026

From the Headteacher:

National Poetry Day

Thursday marked National Poetry Day – an event established to celebrate the richness and diversity of poetry and to promote its importance in different cultures. Poetry is used all around the world as an important way to express how people are feeling and it is a great way of storytelling. Each year has a different theme, and this year's theme is 'Wonder' – our value for the term! Each class has celebrated in their own way and shared these in Collective Worship today.

Hedgehog Class: looked at a poem called 'Woodlice', which is simple and fun and then went on a minibeast hunt and created some artwork outside based on the theme of Wonder.

Squirrel Class: enjoyed the poem 'A Harvest Mouse'. They then had some great ideas about how the mice use the crops to nest in and produced some beautiful pieces of art of harvest mice.

Fox Class: began their day with a Live Assembly hosted by Michael Rosen and focused on a poem called 'The Great Big Clean Up'. They then created poems based on an environmental problem and how they could solve it.

Owl Class: also joined the Live Assembly with Michael Rosen before looking at the poem 'Citizen Science', which is a humorous but topical poem about reflecting on the nature around us.

Physical Education and Sport at Aston Rowant

At Aston Rowant, we are proud of the broad range of sporting opportunities we provide for our children. As a small school, our aim is to ensure that every child develops the skills, confidence and enjoyment needed to lead an active and healthy lifestyle, regardless of their starting point. Our PE curriculum is carefully planned to meet National Curriculum requirements and provide opportunities for all pupils to make strong progress. We are fortunate to enhance this provision through specialist coaching, delivered by professionals who typically hold degree-level qualifications in Sports Coaching, Sports Management or related fields, alongside our teaching staff. This enables us to combine specialist expertise with high-quality teaching and learning for all children.

We recognise that some pupils develop advanced skills through clubs and training outside school, whilst others may be encountering a sport for the first time. Our challenge is to provide lessons that are inclusive, engaging and appropriately challenging for everyone. Alongside curriculum PE, we continue to offer a range of competitive and enrichment opportunities, including fixtures, festivals and sporting events, whilst also reviewing how we can encourage active play and participation throughout the school day. We are particularly proud of our annual Sports Enrichment Week, which is unique amongst local primary schools and gives children the opportunity to experience sports and activities that they may not otherwise encounter. Combined with opportunities such as tag rugby, cross-country, swimming, football and other sporting events throughout the year, this reflects our commitment to providing a broad, inclusive and enriching sporting experience for all children.

We are often asked whether Aston Rowant could offer more competitive matches, leagues and tournaments. We recognise the value of competitive sport and are always keen to provide opportunities for children to represent the school. However, as a small primary school, organising regular fixtures requires significant staffing, administration, supervision and transport arrangements, often outside of the school day. The success of these opportunities depends upon the goodwill of staff, the commitment of parent volunteers and the cooperation of other schools who are willing and able to participate. We will continue to develop sporting opportunities wherever it is practical and sustainable to do so, and we remain extremely grateful to the staff, families and volunteers who already give their time to make these events possible.

Pencil Cases and Stationery

We have seen a noticeable increase in both the number and size of pencil cases, as well as a rise in novelty stationery items being brought into school. The most effective learning environments are calm, uncluttered and purposeful, enabling children to focus their attention on learning rather than on the resources around them. To support good organisation and maximise learning space, we are asking that children bring only a small pencil case to school. These will be kept in pupils' drawers, while the pens and pencils needed for lessons will be stored in classroom pots provided by the school. Any personal pens or pencils should therefore be clearly labelled.

Reducing the number and size of pencil cases will free up valuable desk space for books and learning resources, while also minimising unnecessary distraction and clutter. Ensuring simple, well-organised workspaces will help children to focus, work efficiently and make the best possible progress. We appreciate your support in ensuring that pencil cases brought to school are practical, appropriately sized and contain only essential items.

Kind regards

Mrs Hart

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 learning all about Creation in our RE-Inspired workshop. The children created beautiful pictures of our wonderful world and talked about how we can care for and protect it. In Maths, we practised counting actions and sounds, saying one number name at a time as Larry played his drum. We continued this learning at the music wall, counting sounds and having lots of fun! In Phonics, we learnt our new sounds 'p' and 'n' and are already using them to write words and sentences. Our teachers are very impressed with the children's growing confidence! We were very excited to open our building area, where we developed our creativity and teamwork while learning how to use, collect and put away equipment safely. We also learnt about Harvest and have been practising a fun song ready for our assembly. What a busy week of learning!



Squirrel Class

This week, the class has worked incredibly hard across all areas of learning. In English, we finished our work on *The Sea Saw* by writing thoughtful thank you letters to the ocean for helping to return Sofia's bear safely back home. The children used lots of emotive language and produced some beautiful work. We have also begun exploring our new class text, *The Storm Whale*, and the children enjoyed making predictions about what might happen in the story. In Maths the children have been learning about one more and one less, as well as comparing numbers using greater than, less than and equal to symbols. They have also been using the symbols to help compare numbers confidently. In Art, we continued our learning about spirals and created unique snail pictures using a variety of materials, including chalk and oil pastels. The children experimented with techniques such as smudging to create different effects and textures. In Science, we investigated the properties of everyday materials and discussed what makes a material suitable for a particular purpose. We also carried out an experiment to discover which material was the most absorbent. The class loved making predictions and were able to explain that, to keep the test fair, each material needed to be submerged in the same amount of water. Well done Squirrel Class, for another fantastic week of learning!



Fox Class

Fox Class have had another exciting and busy week! We were busy preparing wonderful artwork to share with you today at our special Harvest Assembly. The children have enjoyed being really creative and learning how and why we celebrate harvest each year – we even have some experts in our class who have been telling us about life on the farm and what harvest looks like locally. We have also continued our learning journey through the Anglo-Saxon period, exploring how Christianity was brought to England and the impact it had on Anglo-Saxon life. In Science, the children investigated how sound is measured (decibels) and were interested to compare how loud (or quiet!) a whisper is (approx. 40 decibels) compared to a police siren (approx. 140 decibels). We also had a brilliant morning celebrating National Poetry Day, with a fantastic live assembly from Michael Rosen. Our very own Jos even managed to get one of his words used in the live poem which Michael recited! How exciting! Well done, Fox Class, for another fantastic week of learning!



Owl Class

This week in Owl Class, we have been editing and polishing our first big write, which allows us to reflect on what we did well, and how we can make that even better! As it was Poetry Day, we also joined a live conversation with Michael Rosen, created our own poems inspired by either the beastly Minotaur, cruel King Minos, trapped Ariadne, or the noble Theseus, which were full of vivid imagery, personality and repetition of phrases - what an incredibly talented class I have here. In Maths, we have been recapping and embedding our subtraction and addition skills and using the inverse operation to check our work, all while making use of my favourite maths format: the bar model! Science found us using a range of materials to filter out some really dirty water - the children were amazed at how clear we were able to get some murky, black liquid, but also knew straight away that the water was still not safe to drink. In History, we looked at the direct link and the differences between the direct democracy of ancient Athens (which only lasted 101 years) and the representative democracy we have today. The children really responded to this and discussed how our UK politics work, and how we are able to cast votes to elect a single representative to speak out on our behalf. All in all, a brilliant 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 we explored the wonder that can be found in everyday moments. Awe does not always come from huge events or extraordinary sights. It can be found in friendship, laughter, acts of kindness or spending time with family. We reflected on moments that have filled us with joy recently and considered how these experiences help us to appreciate life more deeply. Christians believe that joy is one of God's gifts and that taking time to notice it helps us recognise the goodness around us. "You have filled my heart with greater joy." Psalm 4:7

Climate Warriors Challenge

Have you ever planted a seed and watched it grow? At first, it seems tiny and unimportant, but with care and time it can become something amazing. Looking after our planet is a bit like that. Small actions, when lots of people do them, can make a huge difference. Around the world, children and adults are finding simple ways to care for the Earth. From switching off lights when they leave a room, to walking or cycling short journeys, reducing waste, recycling, and protecting wildlife, every positive choice helps. The good news is that we do not need to solve every problem on our own. We just need to do our bit. This week, why not challenge yourself to complete one extra eco-friendly action each day? You could refill a water bottle instead of using disposable plastic, help a family member sort recycling, pick up litter safely with an adult, or spend time enjoying nature and learning about the wildlife around you. Remember: the future is shaped by the choices we make today.

Book Review 'The Arrival' by Shaun Tan recommended by Mr Manning



Inspired by seeing all the new books head into our new library, I have been thinking about 'The Arrival' by Shaun Tan. This brilliant book is a hybrid of graphic novel and narrative - a fully painted comic book with no dialogue to read, but a dense and rich story that is compelling and can be interpreted in a variety of ways. Even though it is a fantasy book, at its heart, it is about the best topic of all: people. I really recommend this as a gateway to comic book stories, or as a way to talk about stories and images with a partner, which is exactly why it is our current guided reading book!

Happiness Calendar: Optimistic October

October is a great time to focus on the positive and set yourself goals. Please 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	84%	3%	13%
Fox Class	85%	0%	15%
Owl Class	88%	8%	4%

Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	35	158
Eden	29	133
Galilee	30	166
Jerusalem	29	136

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Emails and Letters Sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
02.10.26	Email	All	Mrs King	Library Grand Opening & Reading Week
02.10.26	Letter	All	Mrs Hart	Attendance letter
02.10.26	Letter	Fox	Mrs Elliott	Courageous Advocacy book donation
02.10.26	Email	All	PTA	PTA Minutes and dates
01.10.26	Letter	All	PTA	PTA Bags2School Collection
01.10.26	Letter	All	Mrs King	Photograph and Video Consent Form
01.10.26	Email	Hedgehog	Mrs King	Introduction to CYP 0-19 Service
29.09.26	Letter	Selection	Mrs Hart	SEND Meeting letters
28.09.26	Email	Owl	Mrs King	PTA Christmas Cards
28.09.26	Email	All	PTA	PTA Coffee and catch up for all parents
28.09.26	Email	All	Mrs King	PTA Cake Raffle Reminder

October

w/c 5 th	Opening Doors to Discovery Week (Reading Week)
Mon 5 th	09:00 Bags2School – Donations due for PTA fundraiser
Mon 5 th	Henley Literary Festival – Livestream with author Paterson Joseph - whole school
Mon 5th	15:15 Bookfair with Chorleywood Bookshop
Tue 6 th	SEND Meetings
Tue 6 th	Y6 Lord Williams's Open Evening (see letter for booking details)
Wed 7th	School Photographs – Individual, Sibling and Class photos
Wed 7 th	Henley Literary Festival – Livestream with author M.G Leonard – KS2
Wed 7th	15:15 Bookfair with The Book House – opportunity to donate books to the new library
Thu 8 th	Henley Literary Festival – Livestream with author Joseph Coelho – KS1
Fri 9th	Author visit - Steve Cole with book sale/signing
Fri 9 th	Library Grand Opening Friday 9 th 14:30
Tues 13 th	SEND Meetings
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

November

Wed 4 th	Fill Your Bucket Day (Wellbeing)
Fri 6 th	9:30 Open Day
Wed 11 th	Remembrance
Fri 13 th	H&S Inspection Children in Need (wear spots and dots with your uniform)
Mon 16 th	Full Governor Body Meeting (FGB)
W/c 16 th	Anti-Bullying Week

December

Wed 2 nd	Rock Steady Concert
w/c 7 th	EYFS Nativity 7 th Dress Rehearsal (school) 8 th 5:30 performance 9 th 14:00 performance
Thu 10 th	Christmas Jumper Day (donation to raffle) Christmas Lunch
Wed 16 th	Christingle 18:00
Fri 18 th	Christmas Party Visit from Santa

Academic Year Calendar 2026-27

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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