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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



Growing Together

9th October 2026

From the Headteacher:

Opening the Door to Discovery

What a wonderful week it has been in school as we have celebrated books, stories and the joy of reading together. This week has reminded us that reading is so much more than a skill; it opens doors to imagination, knowledge, adventure and opportunity.

The highlight of the week has, of course, been the opening of our brand-new library. For many months, this has been a project that staff, pupils, governors and families have eagerly anticipated, and it has been a delight to see the excitement on the children's faces as they explore their new reading space. We hope that our library will become a place where curiosity is sparked, imaginations flourish and a lifelong love of reading begins.

Our celebrations began on Monday with an inspiring online workshop with Patterson Joseph, exploring his book *10 Children Who Changed the World*. Children also enjoyed a visit from Chorleywood Bookshop, giving them the opportunity to browse an incredible range of books and discover new authors and genres. On Tuesday, our Big, Wild ERIC (Everyone Reading in Class) challenge saw children reading in some wonderfully imaginative locations. From unusual and creative spots to places that held special meaning for them, it was fantastic to see reading being enjoyed everywhere.

Wednesday brought another exciting opportunity for our Key Stage 2 pupils, who joined an online workshop with M.G. Leonard, learning more about her book *Attack of the Sea Dogs*. We were also delighted to welcome The Book House Bookshop, whose visit further fuelled the children's enthusiasm for reading. On Thursday, Key Stage 1 pupils took part in an online event with the renowned poet and author Joseph Coelho, exploring his captivating book *Children of the Throne*. The session inspired pupils to think creatively about language, storytelling and the power of books. The week culminated today with a whole-school live workshop led by bestselling author Steve Cole. Children thoroughly enjoyed hearing from a real-life author and gaining an insight into the writing process. We were especially honoured that Steve stayed to help us officially open our new library.

Today we celebrate the official opening of our library. We were delighted to welcome parents, local residents, governors, donors and friends of the school to join us for tea and cake, explore the wonderful class displays and activities, and enjoy performances from each class. From the whole school singing our especially written values songs to Hedgehog Class's *I Have a Picture Book* song, Squirrel Class's puppet show, the musical performances from Fox Class and the rap adaptations from Owl Class, our children have demonstrated the creativity, confidence and enthusiasm that make our school such a special place.

A huge congratulations must go to Flo C, winner of our Doors to Discovery Door Design Competition and the school representative for the ribbon cutting ceremony. The standard of entries was exceptionally high and choosing a winner was no easy task. My sincere thanks go to Mr and Mrs Turton, who kindly judged the competition and had the difficult task of selecting the winning design from so many creative entries.

As we cut the ribbon and officially open the library, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to making this possible. A special mention must go to Laura Purse for championing the project from start to finish, to Eva French and Tom Sowerby for giving up their summer holiday time to oversee the building works, to Dawn King for co-ordinating our moving in project. And to so many other wonderful friends and supporters who whether through fundraising, volunteering time, donating books, sharing expertise or simply encouraging children to read, have helped create a truly special legacy for our school.

We often talk about opening doors for children. This week, we have quite literally opened a Door to Discovery, and I cannot wait to see where it leads them.

Finally...New Facebook Page

We are delighted to launch our new school Facebook page. As this week has shown, there is so much to celebrate and share at Aston Rowant School. From special events and enrichment opportunities to the wonderful learning that happens in classrooms every day, our pupils achieve amazing things that deserve to be recognised. Our Facebook page will give families, friends and the wider community a window into school life and help us showcase the many opportunities our children enjoy. Please do follow, like and share the page with others. Together, let's continue to celebrate and share what makes our school such a special and unique place to learn, grow and thrive.

Kind regards

Mrs Hart

GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY

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Teaching and Learning in the Classrooms this week:



Hedgehog Class

What a fantastic week we have had, with Reading at the heart of everything! We have enjoyed lots of opportunities to share stories, talk about books and, most importantly, enjoy reading for pleasure. We enjoyed some wonderful ERIC times, relished in *Wild Reading* and discovered just how much fun it is to get lost in a good story. The children even took over the teacher's chair to read a story to the class! We also loved listening to Mrs Hall share an extract from her favourite book, *George's Marvellous Medicine*. It was lovely to see the children so engaged and excited to hear what happened next! We have also been thinking carefully about how books work. Using a song as our inspiration, we created our own picture books, learning about the different parts of a book and the order in which we read. We were incredibly proud to perform our song at the Grand Library Opening! In Maths, we have been practising collecting groups of 3 and checking our understanding of 1:1 correspondence and cardinality. We helped the Three Bears by giving each of them their objects and making sure we had the correct number. We discovered that even when objects are different shapes and sizes, the number remains the same - a very important mathematical idea! During Circle Time, we helped Larry solve a problem with Harry. Larry was feeling in the blue zone because Harry had used unkind hands when he wanted to share but didn't know how to ask. We learnt that we can communicate our feelings and needs safely and kindly and now have new strategies for managing blue and red zones, which the children can now practise and use during their play. In Phonics, we now know the sounds 'm' and 'd' and the children are becoming increasingly confident at completing their phonics books independently. Above all, we have loved seeing the children develop such a joy and enthusiasm for books and reading.



Squirrel Class

What an exciting and action-packed week! We have thoroughly enjoyed our Doors to Discovery themed Reading Week, beginning with a special assembly as part of the Henley Literary Festival. The children were fascinated to hear from author Patterson Joseph about ten incredible children who changed the world, which also linked beautifully with our Black History Month celebrations. We also enjoyed a special livestream with Joseph Coelho, who talked about his books and poems and shared what inspires him to write. In Maths, we have continued to consolidate our understanding of place value through problem-solving activities, as well as comparing and ordering numbers. As part of our class Collective Worship, we took our learning outdoors with a wonderful class nature walk. The children loved exploring our local surroundings, spotting some of the animals that share our environment, including red kites, crows, horses and even some cheeky squirrels! It was a lovely opportunity to pause, appreciate the beauty of God's creation and think about the world around us. In RE, we explored Psalm 8, thinking about how King David praised God and reflected on the majesty of His name. We discussed different ways that we can praise God and appreciate the wonder of His creation. Our Science learning focused on identifying waterproof materials, with the children carrying out an experiment to decide which material would be most suitable for a lollipop person. We agreed that the material would need to be waterproof to keep them dry, but also bright to help keep them safe on the roads. It was decided that polyester was the perfect choice! In Geography, we looked at aerial maps of Aston Rowant, identifying and labelling both natural and human-made features. The highlight of the week was undoubtedly the grand opening of our library, where the children enjoyed using puppets and creating their own puppets to bring stories to life. A wonderful week full of reading, discovery, creativity and opportunities to learn.



Fox Class

What a wonderful week we have had celebrating Reading Week! We were incredibly lucky to kick off the week with an inspiring livestream from the Henley Literary Festival, featuring the wonderful Paterson Joseph. The children were absolutely enraptured as he read one of his stories and answered questions from pupils across the country. It has really sparked their curiosity about children who have changed the world, and we look forward to reading more exciting chapters from his book. The children have also been busy getting creative, making beautiful bookmarks ready for the grand opening of our library. We discussed our favourite books and authors, as well as how we can promote the love of reading through our artwork. They have also learnt a fabulous song to share, which they are very excited to perform! In English, we have started our new text, *Beowulf*, which has already sparked the children's imaginations. They have particularly enjoyed the gruesome parts of the story so far and have been eager to share their thoughts and predictions. We have explored the use of language and how this can change to create different atmospheres for reader. Meanwhile in French, the children thoroughly enjoyed learning how to say 'hello' to each other, altering the phrase based on the different times of day - they moved around trying to say hello in French to as many people as possible in one minute! We also enjoyed an extended sports afternoon outdoors. They returned to class buzzing with excitement, full of energy and ready to tell us all about their sporting adventures! What a brilliant week of books, creativity, imagination and fun! We are so proud of Fox Class and all they have achieved.



Owl Class

It was Reading Week in Owl Class, and we began by joining Fox Class for a live virtual assembly with author and actor Paterson Joseph, who introduced us to his inspiring new book *10 Children Who Changed the World*. The Owls were captivated by the stories of young people making a difference and left feeling motivated to create positive change themselves. Inspired by a love of reading, we then headed outside for our Big Wild ERIC (everyone reading in class), enjoying our books in a variety of weird and wonderful places around the school grounds. The children also became authors and publishers themselves by designing a series of book covers and blurbs for their fictional collection, *Owl Adventures*. These fantastic creations were proudly displayed in our newly opened library today and attracted lots of admiration from visitors. In English, the Owls used character Top Trump cards to inspire exciting action sequences, skilfully blending action, description and consequence to create engaging and dramatic pieces of writing. Meanwhile, in Science, we explored mixtures by creating a range of solid-liquid and liquid-liquid combinations and carefully investigating whether they met the criteria to be considered a solution. The experiments were great fun, highly engaging, and, in some cases, a little wet! It has been a truly wonderful week filled with reading, creativity, curiosity and enthusiasm. Well done, Owls!

GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY

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



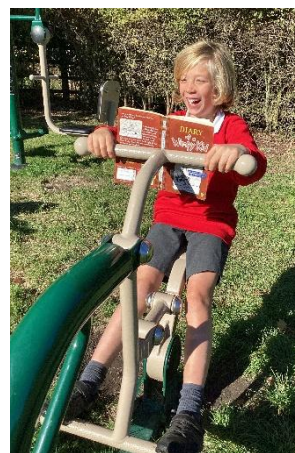
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Photo Diary of the Week



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Library Opening



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Merit | 2024 - 2025Green Tree School
Bronze Award

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Whole School Topic - Autumn Term: Doors to Discovery

Values: Wonder

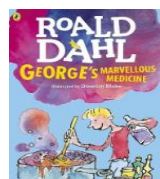
This week in Collective Worship we reflected on the beauty of the world above us. From colourful sunsets to clouds of different shapes, the sky is constantly changing and gives us opportunities to stop and marvel at creation. We thought about how often we hurry from one place to another without looking up and appreciating the wonders around us. Christians believe that creation reveals something of God's greatness and creativity. We challenged ourselves to take a moment each day to notice and appreciate the beauty we can see. "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands." Psalm 19:1

Climate Warriors Challenge

This summer has certainly been one to remember! 2026 has brought the UK its hottest summer on record, with long periods of hot, dry weather. The heat and lack of rain have had a big impact on our farms and food. The cereal harvest was exceptionally early this year, with many farmers harvesting two or three weeks earlier than usual, but yields have been disappointing in many areas. Apple harvests are also expected to be earlier, with smaller crops and lower yields in some parts of the country.

Whilst climate change and changing weather patterns are impacting our UK harvests, in many African countries, harvests suffer far more acutely at the hands of extreme and unpredictable weather. Drought, extreme heat and changing rainfall patterns can make it much harder for farmers to grow enough food. Our children are challenged this week to choose local fruits over imported ones – how many varieties of British-grown apples can they find and eat? Becoming more aware of our homegrown produce and how the weather is impacting our harvests draws our attention to those who are really struggling. Is your apple red, green, golden or stripy? Is it crisp, crunchy, sweet or tangy? Use this webpage to find out more about [different types of British apples](#).

Book Review – George's Marvellous Medicine reviewed by Hedgehog Class



Hedgehog Class have loved reading an extract from *George's Marvellous Medicine* this week. We thought it was very funny and couldn't stop laughing at how mean, grumpy and silly Grandma was. Some children said, "Grandma is so grumpy!" and "She is always telling George off!" One child said, "George is naughty, but I think he is really funny!" We loved imagining what might happen when Grandma takes the medicine. We can't wait to find out what happens next!

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	100%	0%	0%
Squirrel Class	94%	3%	3%
Fox Class	94%	0%	6%
Owl Class	84%	0%	16%

Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	51	209
Eden	56	189
Galilee	41	207
Jerusalem	59	195

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Emails and Letters Sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
07.10.26	Email	All	Mrs King	Reminder – Photo Consent
07.10.26	Email	Squirrel	Mrs Biggin	Worship, Library & Show and Tell
07.10.26	Email	All	Mrs King	Reminder – Book Fair
05.10.26	Email	All	Mrs King	Reminder – Photo Day
05.10.26	Letter	Hedgehog	Mrs Olsen	Reading letter

October	
Mon 19 th	14:00 Open Day for 27-28 Intake
Thu 22 nd	Be Bright Be Seen Day – wear bright clothes for Road Safety Awareness (non-uniform day) 13:00 Nosey Tea for 27-28 Intake 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
Mon 9 th	Parents' Evening (KS1 and KS2)
Tue 10 th	Parents' Evening (EYFS, KS1 and KS2)
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
Fri 20 th	09:00 PTA Meeting
December	
Wed 2 nd	14:30 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 with visit from Santa

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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