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Plant | 2024 - 2025



Greener 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

16th October 2026

From the Headteacher:

A Message of Thanks

This week, our school welcomed inspectors as part of our recent Ofsted inspection. While the process can be challenging, it also provides an opportunity to showcase the wonderful community we are privileged to be a part of every day.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the many parents and carers who took the time to speak with inspectors at the school gate and to those who completed the online survey. Your positive comments, support and confidence in our school were greatly appreciated and helped inspectors understand what makes our school special.

I would also like to thank our dedicated staff team. Inspections inevitably bring additional demands, and staff gave countless extra hours in preparation, while continuing to ensure that the children remained at the heart of everything we do. Their commitment, professionalism and care for our pupils were evident throughout the inspection.

Most importantly, I want to thank our greatest ambassadors: the children. They spoke proudly, thoughtfully and honestly about their experiences in school. They demonstrated the kindness, resilience, enthusiasm and respect that we see every day and of which we are incredibly proud.

Whatever the outcome of the inspection, this week reminded me that our school is far more than a set of judgements. It is a community of children, families, staff and governors working together to help every child flourish. Thank you for your continued support.

School Photographs

We hope you're as excited as we are to see this year's school photographs! Individual and sibling photograph proofs have been sent home with the children this week, so please do keep an eye out for them. To place your orders, please follow the instructions on your proofs and remember to place orders by Friday 23rd October to receive the early bird bonus plus free delivery to school. Class photographs will be issued later in the school year. We hope there are lots of smiles and wonderful photographs to treasure!

Nosey Tea Invitation

Do you know a family looking for the perfect start to their child's school journey? Please kindly help us to spread the word about our upcoming Nosey Tea Party for children starting school in September 2027. Prospective families are warmly invited to enjoy a relaxed visit, meet our friendly team, explore our learning spaces and discover how our children learn, grow and flourish within our setting. Please do share with any friends, family or neighbours who may be interested – we'd love to welcome them! The Nosey Tea will take place next Thursday 22nd October from 1.00pm–2.00pm in Early Years. Free tea and cake provided and no booking required – just turn up! Please share the attached flyer with those who may be interested. Thank you.

Communication

As a small village school, we value the strong relationships between families. We know parents often speak to one another and share experiences in person and through social media. However, if you ever have a question, concern or worry, however small, please do come directly to us. We may not always have all the answers immediately, but we will always listen and work with you. Speaking to the school first ensures that concerns are addressed accurately and swiftly, rather than relying on second-hand information, which can sometimes lead to misconceptions about everyday school matters.

Finally...Rev'd Dr Jacky Barr

This week we say a very fond farewell to Rev'd Jacky as she leaves our parish to begin a new chapter in her ministry. For the past six years, Jacky has been a much-loved part of our school family. Many of our children have grown up knowing her through collective worship, Open the Book and her regular visits into school. Whether sharing stories, leading reflection or simply spending time with children, she has always brought warmth, kindness and a genuine interest in every child she meets. Jacky has also played an important role as a governor, offering both support and challenge in equal measure. She has been instrumental in helping us develop and embed our vision and values, ensuring they are not just words on a page but something that can be seen and felt throughout our school community.

We are incredibly grateful for the time, care and dedication that Jacky has given to our school over the years. While we will miss her wisdom, encouragement and friendship, we know that she will make a tremendous difference in her new parish. On behalf of the children, staff, governors and wider school community, we thank Jacky for all she has contributed to our school and wish her every happiness and success in the future. We know she will always receive a very warm welcome when she comes back to visit.

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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Bronze Award

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Teaching and Learning in the Classrooms this week:



Hedgehog Class

What a fantastic week of learning we've had! For Black History Month, we continued learning about Ruby Bridges, who showed incredible bravery as one of the first Black children to attend an all-white school in New Orleans. Building on our discussions about what it means to be brave, we explored fairness and equality and how everyone deserves to be treated fairly. We created a beautiful ring of hands, decorating them in our favourite colours to celebrate how we are all different but can still belong together. In Maths, we've had so much fun exploring the different shapes we can make with the number 4! We used bricks and crates to build large shapes in our construction area and got creative making tractors and lorries with four wheels, two on each side. We also investigated the composition of 4 by throwing beanbags and frisbees into hoops, counting how many landed inside and how many landed outside. In Phonics, we've been practising reading and writing the sounds 'g' and 'o', using our growing knowledge of sounds to read words. We challenged ourselves with our word trails, jumping from lily pad to lily pad and reading each word as we went. To top off our week, we celebrated our marble jar reward with a cosy pyjama day on Friday! What a brilliant week full of learning, creativity and fun!



Squirrel Class

It has been another busy and exciting week of learning in our class! In English, the children wrote sentences explaining how they would rescue the beached blue whale, using emotive language and conjunctions to make their ideas more effective. In Maths, Year 1 explored ordinal numbers and number lines, while Year 2 used part-whole models to represent numbers in different ways and investigated systematic number bonds. In RE, we reflected on how and why we should care for God's creation. In Geography, the children explored the purpose of symbols on maps and planned a route for the Gingerbread Man through the village, ensuring he passed specific features along the way. In Art, we looked closely at shells and created continuous line drawings in our sketchbooks, experimenting with both pen and pencil. Science was a particular highlight, as the children used their observation skills to investigate the properties of different materials, identifying whether they were soft or hard. The class thoroughly enjoyed this hands-on investigation! As part of our Black History Month learning, we also explored the life of Dido Elizabeth Belle, reflecting on the importance of fairness, kindness and inclusion. Through discussion, art and writing activities, the children considered how we can celebrate differences and help make our school a place where everyone feels valued and respected. They also made meaningful links to our food bank courageous advocacy project, reflecting on the important question, "What happens when families don't have enough food?" and considering how we can show compassion and support others in our community.



Fox Class

We have been incredibly busy in Fox Class this week, with lots of exciting learning taking place across the curriculum! In English, we have continued to explore our class text, Beowulf. The children have been busy creating and acting out powerful verbs to describe the way a monster might move. They have used their imaginations to bring these fearsome creatures to life! We have also become fronted adverbial spotters, learning how these sentence starters can add extra detail and make our writing more interesting and descriptive. In Maths, we have begun our new unit of work on addition and subtraction. We have been exploring how to add 1s, 10s, 100s and 1,000s to numbers, thinking carefully about how the value of each digit changes. Our Science learning took us outdoors this week! We investigated the relationship between distance and volume, exploring how the loudness of a sound changes as we move further away from its source. The children thoroughly enjoyed using decibel readers to measure how loud or quiet a sound was at different distances. It was a fantastic opportunity to put our scientific skills into practice, make observations and investigate our ideas first-hand. Finally, year 3 enjoyed their guided reading in the pavilion this week, enjoying some of the last Autumn sun. Well done, Fox Class, for another fantastic week of learning, creativity and curiosity. We are looking forward to seeing what next week brings!



Owl Class

This week we have reflected on the role of Omoba Ina as part of our Black History Month. We explored her life as a Nigerian princess who found her life uprooted after her parents were killed, and began a new life in Victorian England. Education formed a vital part of her journey and paved the way for more women of colour in the future, which was a key part of our own learning. Science found us comparative testing and establishing variables as we found out how we could speed up the rate of salt being dissolved in a range of different temperature solvents. The children were diligent in taking the temperature, recording the time for the salt to dissolve with timers and finding the mean average time. We even kept the spillages to a minimum! In English, we stretched our writing muscles as we crafted powerful action sentences and then put these to use in a powerful paragraph that we crafted the premise of as a group. This led to our second Big Write, as we made deliberate choices with tenses to move our story from present, the past and look to the future. In PSHE we had a fantastic session as we found ways to advocate for our own feelings, and be assertive and respectful at the same time. The children wowed me with their structured conversations that took the other persons feelings into account and still supported their own right to be heard. Well done on a challenging 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

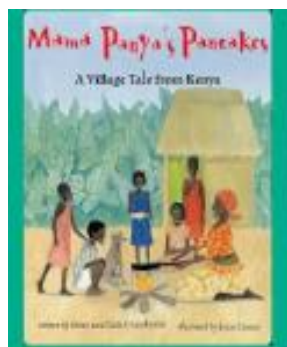
Values: Wonder

This week we explored the wonder of diversity. No two people are exactly the same, and every living thing has its own special qualities and purpose. We reflected on the richness that comes from different talents, personalities and experiences. Christians believe that each person is uniquely created and valued by God. We considered how celebrating our differences can help us learn from one another and build a stronger community where everyone feels included and appreciated. "How many are your works, Lord! In wisdom you made them all." Psalm 104:24

Climate Warriors Challenge

'Vampire power' is the name sometimes given to electricity used by appliances when they are left on standby. Even when we aren't actively using them, some appliances can continue to use a small amount of energy. The challenge this week is to become an Energy Detective! After dark, take a torch and, with a parent or carer, have a look around your home. Can you spot appliances with little lights showing that they are switched on or on standby? How many can you find? Check with a parent or carer before touching anything electrical. Together, decide whether each appliance really needs to be left on standby, or whether it could be switched off when it isn't being used. **Remember – never switch off fridges or freezers!** Small actions like switching things off when we have finished using them can help us to save energy and avoid wasting precious resources.

Book Review - Mama Panya's Pancakes reviewed by Mrs Biggin



Mama Panya's Pancakes by Mary and Rich Chamberlin, a heartwarming story set in a Kenyan village. The story follows Mama Panya and her son, Adika, as they head to the market to buy ingredients for pancakes. Along the way, Adika invites his friends to join them, leaving Mama Panya wondering if she will have enough money and food to feed everyone! Through this delightful tale, children discover the importance of sharing, generosity, friendship and community. The colourful illustrations bring the village to life and offer opportunities to explore Kenyan culture and everyday life. This book encourages us to think about how even when we have very little, sharing what we have can bring people together. It also links beautifully to our courageous advocacy food bank project, prompting us to consider the question: "What happens when families don't have enough food?" We highly recommend this lovely story as a reminder that kindness and generosity can make a big difference!

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	90%	0%	10%
Fox Class	85%	9%	6%
Owl Class	88%	4%	8%

Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	67	276
Eden	71	260
Galilee	50	257
Jerusalem	53	248

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Emails and Letters Sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
14.10.26	Email	All	Mrs French	Collective Worship Cancelled
12.10.26	Email	All	Mrs King	Ofsted letter and survey

October	
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) 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 (KSI and KS2)
Tue 10 th	Parents' Evening (EYFS, KSI 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 at Chiltern Padel Café - Postcombe
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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