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

23rd October 2026

From the Headteacher:

Black History Month

As we draw to the end of Black History Month, I have been immensely proud of the thoughtful learning taking place across the school. Through the inspiring stories in *Ten Children Who Changed the World*, our children have explored themes of courage, fairness, inclusion and the power of education to transform lives. Each class has reflected on how individuals can make a positive difference in their communities and linked this learning to their own courageous advocacy projects. Black History Month provides a valuable opportunity to celebrate diversity, learn from others and encourage our children to be compassionate, informed and active citizens.

Hedgehog Class (EYFS) - Ruby Bridges: Everyone is Welcome
The children have been learning about Ruby Bridges and how her courage helped make schools fairer for all. Through stories, discussion and creative activities, Hedgehog explored friendship, belonging and inclusion, considered how they can help everyone feel welcome in our school community. They have linked this to their courageous advocacy project about *Keeping our school environment clean and tidy*.

Squirrel Class (KS1) - Dido Elizabeth Belle: Everyone Belongs
The children have been learning about Dido Elizabeth Belle and reflecting on the importance of fairness, kindness and inclusion. Through discussion, art and writing activities, they explored how we can celebrate differences and help make our school a place where everyone feels valued and respected. The children made links to their food bank courageous advocacy project and the question: *What happens when families don't have enough food?*

Fox Class (LKS2) - Billy Sancho: Books Change the World
Inspired by the story of Billy Sancho, who later became Britain's first Black librarian, Fox Class have been exploring how reading and knowledge can influence people's lives. They reflected on the power of books, libraries and learning, making strong links to our new school library and their courageous advocacy project, *Every Child Has the Right to Read*.

Owl Class (UKS2) - Omoba Ina (Sara Forbes Bonetta): The Power of Education
Owl Class have been exploring the remarkable story of Omoba Ina (Sara Forbes Bonetta) and considering how education can create opportunities, overcome barriers and change lives. Through their work, the children have been reflecting on how they can use their own learning to make a positive difference in the future.

Be Bright Be Seen Day

With the clocks changing this weekend and the darker mornings and evenings returning, our Be Bright Be Seen Day provided an important opportunity to reinforce key PSHE messages about staying safe. Visibility is especially important at this time of year. Government statistics show that 2,432 children were killed or seriously injured on Britain's roads in 2025, with almost half of weekday child casualties occurring between 3pm and 6pm, when many children are travelling home from school. We encouraged the children to think about practical ways to stay safe, including wearing bright or reflective clothing, using lights when cycling and choosing well-lit routes whenever possible. Small actions can make a big difference in helping children to be seen and stay safe.

Fill Your Bucket Day

On Wednesday 4th November, we will be celebrating **Fill Your Bucket Day**, based on the story *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?* by Carol McCloud. The children will explore how acts of kindness, encouragement and friendship can help to "fill the buckets" of those around us, creating a happy and supportive community where everyone can flourish. As part of the day, children are invited to bring an item that is meaningful to them and helps fill their own bucket, whether that is linked to a hobby, sport, book, toy, craft or special interest, which they can share and talk about with their classmates.

Finally...Friendship Matters

At school, we spend time helping children understand the important difference between friendship difficulties and bullying. Friendships can sometimes involve disagreements, misunderstandings, fallings-out or unkind behaviour. Whilst these situations can be upsetting and require support from adults, they are often a normal part of children learning how to build and maintain positive relationships. We take friendship issues seriously and work with children to understand different perspectives, resolve conflicts, repair relationships and develop the skills they need to navigate friendships successfully.

Bullying is different. It is behaviour that is repeated, intentional and designed to cause harm. By helping children and adults develop a shared understanding of the difference between friendship difficulties and bullying, we can better support children in resolving conflicts, repairing friendships and recognising when adult intervention is needed.

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

What a lovely week we've had exploring, learning and sharing lots of wonderful experiences together. We had a great time on our Autumn Walk and we discovered lots of signs of Autumn for our display. In Maths, we've been learning all about sorting and grouping. We started by using buttons to spot similarities and differences, looking carefully at their features to help us sort them into groups. We then put our new skills to the test with all sorts of things, including teddy bears, pasta and even ourselves! We've had lots of fun noticing what makes things the same and what makes them different. We also enjoyed spending some special time in the library this week, chatting about our favourite types of books. We've also been enjoying our library rhyme time, learning to say some simple poems off by heart. It has been wonderful to see the children joining in, building their confidence and having fun with rhythm, rhyme and language. This week, we certainly stood out as we celebrated Be Bright, Be Seen Day! The children looked wonderfully bright and colourful, and you could spot our Hedgehogs from a mile off! During Circle Time, we began exploring the Red Zone and big feelings, thinking about how our emotions can sometimes feel overwhelming and what we can do to help ourselves when this happens. We also started talking about different strategies we can use to resolve conflicts, helping us to understand how we can work through tricky situations with our friends. It's been a lovely week of learning, sharing and growing together. Thank you for all your continued support, and we hope you all have a wonderful, restful half term filled with lots of fun, laughter and perhaps a good book or two!

SquirrelClass

What a busy and exciting week we've had to wrap up this first half term! In English, we have been writing sentences using adjectives to create noun phrases, as well as exploring different sentence types and identifying them by their punctuation. In Maths, our Year 1 children have been learning about number bonds to 10 using part-whole models, while our Year 2 children have been exploring number bonds to 20 using part-whole models. The Y2 children have also been practising addition, exploring adding more and adding together, and using number lines to help solve problems. In Science, we rounded off our learning about everyday materials by identifying what different objects are made from and explaining why their properties make them suitable for particular purposes. In Geography, we finished our unit on the UK and map skills by creating maps of our school grounds, using symbols and a compass to show direction. This sparked some great conversations about how our school site has changed recently. In Art, we completed our topic by creating our own spiral drawings, and in RE, we reflected on our learning about Creation and how we can care for the wonderful world God has created for us. One of the highlights of the week was our very first visit to our new school library! The children were incredibly excited to choose a book to enjoy over the half-term break. We hope you all have a lovely, restful half-term and look forward to seeing everyone when we return in November!

Fox Class

The children have absolutely blown me away with their dedication, enthusiasm and creativity with their project homework! We have been treated to an incredible range of imaginative creations, including Anglo-Saxon towns, an amazing array of shields and swords, fascinating fact files, cornets with live demonstrations, homemade instruments and some fabulous homemade helmets. It has been wonderful to see the time, effort and thought that the children have put into their projects. We have thoroughly enjoyed sharing our creations with one another, showing off our designs and answering each other's questions about how and why we chose to build our objects. The children have shown such pride in their work, and it has been lovely to see their creativity and curiosity shine through. In English, we have now completed our unit of work on *Beowulf*, finishing with the children writing their own alternative endings to the story. They have enjoyed using their imaginations to put their own unique spin on this exciting mythical tale, and I have been so impressed with their ideas and writing. In Science, we have been investigating pitch, exploring how sounds can be high or low and discovering how we can change the pitch of different sounds. In Art, we have been busy bringing our imaginations to life by creating 3D sculptures of mythical creatures. The children have been exploring different ways to shape, join and build materials to create their own unique creatures, thinking carefully about their features, textures and overall designs. It has been wonderful to see such a fantastic variety of imaginative ideas emerging!

Owl Class

This week in Owl Class, we have been in awe of the fantastic selection of Big Homework projects that the children have made as part of our English and History topics of Ancient Greece. We have been surrounded by terrific temples, fascinating fact-files, dazzling dioramas and brilliant board games. It is a real testament to the creativity and ingenuity of the children here. In Maths, we have completed our final unit of the term, and the children sat the end of unit assessments and showcased their progress made in the term so far. We then finished the term with a special autumnal-themed investigation. The weather meant we had to head inside for PE, and the hall echoed with the sounds of circuit training, as the children showed resilience (and patience) as Mr Manning joined in! Our 2D drawing to 3D sculpture project was also completed this week, as the children scaled up their initial designs using a grid, transferred them onto carboard and covered them in themed collage materials, all based on our Ancient Greek learning. Finally, in our last Science lesson of the term, the children explored evaporation, and set up a salt reclamation project that we will look at the results of after half term! Well done on a very busy first half term Owl Class, enjoy your break.

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

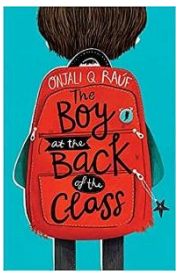
This week we thought about the wonder of things we cannot always see. Just as we cannot see the wind but can feel its effects, there are many important things in life that are invisible, such as love, hope, kindness and trust. We reflected on how these qualities help shape our lives and relationships. Christians believe that faith involves trusting in God even when we cannot see the whole picture. We challenged ourselves to recognise and value the unseen things that make life meaningful. *"For we live by faith, not by sight."* 2 Corinthians 5:7

Climate Warriors Challenge

As part of our challenge to *wonder* and live life in all its fullness, we are encouraging our children to spend time outdoors this half term enjoying the sights, sounds and colours of autumn. The natural world is full of surprises at this time of year, from crunchy leaves and conkers to fascinating fungi and changing woodland habitats. Why not challenge your child to become an autumn nature detective? They could spot three different types of tree, listen for birds preparing for winter, search for signs of wildlife, or create a colour chart using leaves collected on a family walk. For those who enjoy being creative, natural treasures can be used to make autumn collages, woodland creatures or seasonal artwork.

Autumn is also a wonderful time to appreciate the hidden connections within nature. Beneath our feet, fungi form vast underground networks that help trees and plants share nutrients and water, supporting healthy woodland ecosystems. Scientists are continuing to discover just how important these networks are in helping our environment thrive. As we explore the outdoors, we can all play our part by respecting nature, staying on paths where appropriate and leaving habitats undisturbed for wildlife to enjoy. We would love to hear about any autumn adventures your family enjoys over the half-term break!

Book Review – *The Boy at the Back of the Class*



The Boy at the Back of the Class is a heart-warming and inspiring story about friendship, kindness and standing up for what is right. The story is told by a young boy whose class welcomes a new pupil, Ahmet, who has come to the UK as a refugee. At first, Ahmet is quiet and keeps to himself, but as the children learn more about his experiences, they become determined to help him. I enjoyed this book because it is both funny and emotional. The children's ideas do not always go according to plan, which leads to some amusing moments, but the story also tackles serious themes such as kindness, courage and belonging. The characters feel realistic, and it is easy to imagine them as children in any primary school. One of the things I liked most was the message that even young people can make a difference. The story encourages readers to think about how they treat others and reminds us that everyone has a story worth listening to.

Happiness Calander: 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	97%	0%	3%
Fox Class	100%	0%	0%
Owl Class	96%	0%	4%

Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	48	324
Eden	55	315
Galilee	56	313
Jerusalem	60	308

Congratulations to **Bethlehem** for winning this term's housepoint challenge.

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Emails and Letters Sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
23.10.26	Email	All	Mrs King	Wrap around booking form
23.10.26	Letter	Choir	Mrs Hall	Choir performance at The Lambert Arms
21.10.26	Email	All	Mrs King	Ways to help your PTA
20.10.26	Letter	Selection	Mrs Hart	SEND Meetings
20.10.26	Email	Squirrel	Mrs Biggin	Half-term home learning
19.10.26	Email	Fox	Mrs Elliott	Art project request

November	
Wed 4th	Fill Your Bucket Day (Wellbeing) **NOT mufti but bring an item that fills your bucket**
Fri 6th	9:30 Open Day
Mon 9th	Parents' Evening (KS1 and KS2)
Tue 10th	Parents' Evening (EYFS, KS1 and KS2)
Wed 11th	Remembrance
Fri 13th	H&S Inspection Children in Need **(wear spots and dots with your uniform)**
Mon 16th	Full Governor Body Meeting (FGB)
W/c 16th	Anti-Bullying Week **Mon 16th ODD SOCK DAY**
Fri 20th	09:00 PTA Meeting at Chiltern Padel Café - Postcombe
Sun 29th	**14:00 Choir performance at The Lambert Arms Christmas Market (arrival 13:30)**
December	
Wed 2nd	14:30 Rock Steady Concert
w/c 7th	EYFS Nativity 7th Dress Rehearsal (school) 8th 5:30 performance and 9th 14:00 performance
Thu 10th	Christmas Jumper Day (donation to raffle) Christmas Lunch **(see attached Kids Lunch Company flyer)**
Wed 16th	18:00 Christingle Service at Aston Rowant Church
Fri 18th	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 1st Sept – Fri 23rd Oct	Autumn Term (1) INSET DAYS: Tue 1st / Wed 2nd Sept Fri 23rd Oct
Mon 26th Oct – Fri 30th Oct	HALF TERM
Mon 2nd Nov – Fri 18th Dec	Autumn Term (2)
Spring 27	
Mon 4th Jan – Fri 12th Feb	Spring Term (1) INSET Mon 4th Jan
Mon 15th – Fri 19th Feb	HALF TERM
Mon 22nd Feb – Thu 25th Mar	Spring Term (2)
Summer 27	
Mon 12th April – Fri 28th May	Summer Term (1)
Mon 31st May – Fri 4th Jun	HALF TERM
Mon 7th June – Wed 21st July	Summer Term (2) INSET Mon 7th Jun