



Aston Rowant C+E Primary School
School Lane, Aston Rowant, Oxon OX49 5SU
01844 351671

office@aston-rowant.oxon.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Helen France

14th July 2023

Message from the Headteacher

Sports Enrichment Week

This week has been our Sports Enrichment Week and what a week we have had! Not only have we had a multitude of sporting activities we have also linked sport to PSHE and focusing on resilience, personal strengths and teamwork. We are grateful to Mrs Healy for all of her hard work and for planning and organising such a fabulous week.

On Monday we had Circus in a Day visit. Hedgehog learnt a scarf and a gymnastics ribbon routine, walked the balance beam, tried pedal-goes and flower sticks. Squirrel learnt to balance a peacock feather in various positions, spin a plate and do tricks, juggle three balls between two and tried flower sticks. Fox and Owl learnt to balance a peacock feather, tried advanced plate spinning routines, diablo, poi, hula hooping and juggling.

On Tuesday we tried out Sumo wrestling. The protective Sumo wrestler costume gave us the freedom to really let ourselves go and tackle our opponents with vigour before inevitably rolling around laughing...literally! The will Zorb balls will be us next Tuesday....

On Wednesday we enjoyed a fabulous Sports Day, despite the ominous weather. Our thanks go to Mrs Healy for arranging such a wonderful event and to Mrs Campbell for work on the day. Well done to all our children who worked incredibly hard and demonstrated great sportsmanship and resilience during all of the activities. It was a joy to see the whole school take part, working together in their house teams. Congratulations to Bethlehem for winning, though I have to say it was incredibly close between all four houses! Thank you also to the PTA for providing the BBQ, ice creams and refreshments, it really helped to make the day a special one.

On Thursday we had yoga lessons. Not only does yoga improve balance, strength, endurance, and aerobic capacity in children it also improves mindfulness and offers psychological benefits for children as well. The children responded well to both the physical element and the mindfulness challenge.

On Friday we had Skip2Bfit teaching us skipping skills. Children (and adults!) had skipping ropes with counters on and had an initial skip to set a score which they then had to beat. I think the adults were the most competitive! As part of our Personal Development and Welfare programme next year we will be running a daily two-minute skipping challenge alongside the daily mile each morning. The school have invested in skipping ropes with counters for each child to use.

Summer Building Works

I am delighted to say that during the summer holidays we will be completing a number of exciting projects. Firstly, the boys' and girls' toilets in the main teaching block will be completely refurbished and secondly our internal classroom within Squirrel Class will be installed. This is for each class to use for 1:1 and small group work as well as a more personal space for children to talk to adults about any concerns they may have. It will be an invaluable space. We will be inviting the children to help us choose a name for it next week.

Parental Survey

Finally, if you have not yet had chance to complete the parental survey please do so. We welcome feedback, both positive and negative, from our parental body and each year like to conduct a parental survey to enable us to capture your views and feedback. Please find attached links to our latest parental survey. We would be grateful if you could take the time to complete it. [Parent Survey](#)



Kind regards

Mrs France

GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY

'Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him.' Colossians 2:7

Teaching and Learning in the Classrooms this week:



Hedgehog Class:

We have had a fabulous week of sport and have really enjoyed all of the different activities. Our absolute favourite was sports day where we put our very best efforts into all our races and activities. The children did us really proud in both their outstanding sportsmanship and their mature commitment to perseverance in each task. We also enjoyed our yoga session where we learnt how to maintain our balance in many different poses. We demonstrated that we had amazing core strength and balance as well as having lots of giggles. We love sports week!



Squirrel Class:

A super week of sports this week, and the children have taken part with great enthusiasm and sportsmanship. A big thank you to Mrs Healy for a brilliantly organised and fun week, with lots of enrichment opportunities for the children. The Squirrel's really enjoyed the circus skills session on Monday and the class learned how to use flower sticks and juggle balls. The flower sticks tested our co-ordination and the juggling required concentration and patience, but it was great fun! Our English lessons this week focused on a visual literacy unit named 'Caterpillar Shoes' and we have been using this as a stimulus for our writing and reading comprehension. In Maths we have finished our work on Time and Y1 will be learning about money next week and Y2 will be learning about data and statistics. We are immensely looking forward to our sandwich making next week and a class picnic to enjoy the fruits of our labour.



Fox Class:

With it being PE Enrichment week this week, sports has been front and centre of the majority of our week. However, in Maths, Year 4 have learnt to identify and name the properties of different triangles and quadrilaterals and Year 3 have been measuring and drawing accurately with their rulers and understanding what vertical and horizontal means especially in symmetry. In our English, children finished their stories based on Fox where they have retold the story from their choice of character. It has been a joy to listen to their stories and see how much their story telling has improved over the year. On Monday, the circus came to Aston Rowant and our class learnt how to hula-hoop, use the flower sticks and spin plates! As well as swimming on Tuesday, children also enjoyed taking part in a sumo challenge – it was a sight to behold! The suits were weighted which meant when they fell they became like upturned tortoises with their legs flailing in the air! Sports Day was a fabulous day where every single child demonstrated resilience throughout the day and regardless of their position finished the day with a smile. A calming yoga session was just what was needed on Thursday followed by a fabulous skipping workshop which whet their appetites to try new tricks when on the playground. Finally, we were fortunate to have a beekeeper come and visit the class. He spent the morning explaining everything about bees: where they live, what they do, how honey is made, what a beekeeper does. It was a brilliant session and the children were enthralled. Hopefully they came home with ideas as to what they can do at home to encourage bees as they are so vital to all our lives.



Owl Class:

It's been a sporty week here in Aston Rowant, with the children displaying the very best sportsmanship and examples of our school values as they competed in a range of fabulous activities across the week. The children were incredibly lucky to have a wide range of opportunities available to them each day: the week began with circus skills, not to take Mr Manning back, but to run a fantastic workshop of unique acrobatic and technical skills. The children tried their hands at spinning 'poy', and there were a few bumps of knees and chests as they spun what was essentially a weighted sock around at great speed, Kane was able to wow all of us with his incredible Diablo skills, and then it all got very competitive with hula-hoop and plate-spinning. As well as the regular swimming session for Year 5 on Tuesday, the children were unleashed, gladiator-style, to duke it out in inflatable Sumo suits! It really was quite something to see! The main event of Sport Day was spectacular, and I know that we had so much positive feedback about the conduct of Owl Class, from staff and parents alike. Both Year 5 and Year 6 set excellent examples, and the team spirit, compassion and outreach to younger children and resilience displayed was outstanding, and I have never been more proud to be the Owl Class teacher. Thursday found Owl chilling out with some Yoga which required great focus, balance and core strength. Friday was the high-energy Skip 2 B Fit workshop, which frankly looked exhausting, but incredible fun. Combined with Year 6 tackling their cycling ability tests, and all the children designing their fruit cocktails to make next week, it's been a busy one! Well done Owl Class.

Photo Diary of the Week



GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY

'Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him.' Colossians 2:7

Photos of Sport's Day



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Whole School Topic: Summer Term: A Sense of Identity

Values: Resilience

We thought earlier in the term about how life can feel like a journey. This week we looked at how life can also feel like a race. We reflected on how resilience might be needed for real life races, such as on sport's day, or for the race of life. Christians believe that Jesus is with them in every challenge that they face in their lives. Just like a good trainer, or parents at sports day, standing at the finishing line of a race encouraging the runners to keep going Jesus is with us encouraging us to endure.

'Let us run with perseverance the race that lies before us. Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from beginning to end' Hebrews 12:1-2

Climate Warriors Challenge

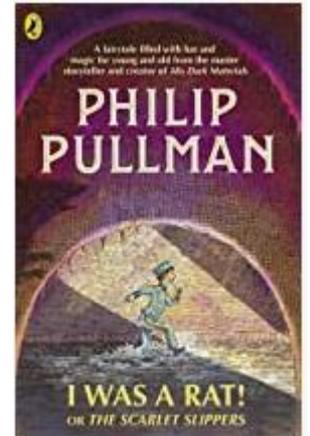
"It is our choices, Harry, that show what we truly are"

Albus Dumbledore to Harry Potter, J.K. Rowling, Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets

This week's Young Climate Warriors challenge is about making 'informed choices'. Sometimes it's more difficult to continue being a Young Climate Warrior when out in the sunshine and having fun. Young Climate Warriors are challenged this summer to move beyond the 'cheapest', 'easiest', 'peer-led' choices to making carbon-cutting choices that can help benefit our planet.

Book Review - I was a Rat! By Philip Pullman

This is Pullman's unique retelling of a famous fairy tale (no spoilers here) with his usual wit and intelligence. Delightful for younger and older readers alike! Bob and Joan are an ageing couple who never had any children. One day, a little boy in a page uniform knocks on their door. When asked who he is and where he came from, all he answers is, "I was a rat!" Bob and Joan take him in, feed him and put him to bed. He says he doesn't have a name (because rats don't have names), so they call him Roger, the name they were going to give their son, if they'd had one. Roger turns out to be a lovely boy, even if a little ratty in his ways – he has a special fondness for gnawing on things, and he sleeps all curled up like a rat in its little nest. This charming story is about how we so often villainize others and refuse to see what's right in front of our eyes, just because dismissing them as evil is easier than trying to understand them and accepting their differences. It's a deeply human and endearing story told in a wonderful manner



Happiness Calendar: Jump Back Up July

This month, we're encouraging you practise resilience and find ways to bounce back. You can find this month's happiness calendar [here](#).

Housepoints

<i>House</i>	<i>This Week</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Bethlehem</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>191</i>
<i>Eden</i>	<i>52</i>	<i>189</i>
<i>Galilee</i>	<i>42</i>	<i>175</i>
<i>Jerusalem</i>	<i>62</i>	<i>184</i>

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Fmails and letters Sent this Week.

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
13.07.23	Letter	Named individuals	Mrs French	WAC and trip payments
13.07.23	Email	Everyone	Mrs Healy	Skipping Workshop
13.07.23	Email	Everyone	PTA	AGM
12.07.23	Email	Everyone	PTA	BBQ
12.07.23	Email	Owl Class	Mr Manning	Garsington Opera

Diary Dates Summer Term 2023 (New or revised dates in bold)

July	
Monday 17 th	End of Year Reports
Tuesday 18 th	Owl Class visit Wormsley Estate to watch 'The Barber of Seville' by Garsington Opera
Wednesday 19 th	Transition Day Years R-5
Friday 21 st	9:15 End of Year and Leavers' Service in church End of Term 13:30

September	
Friday 1 st	INSET day
Monday 4 th	INSET day
Tuesday 5 th	Children start
w/c 11 th September	Meet the teacher meetings

Academic Year Calendar 2023-24

Autumn 23	
Tues 5 th Sept – Thurs 19 th Oct	Autumn Term (1)
Mon 23 rd – Fri 27 th October	HALF TERM
Mon 30 th Oct – Wed 20 th Dec	Autumn Term (2)
Spring 24	
Tue 9 th Jan – Fri 9 th Feb	Spring Term (1)
Monday 12 th – Fri 16 th February	HALF TERM
Mon 19 th Feb – Thurs 28 th March	Spring Term (2)
Summer 24	
Mon 15 th April - Thu 24 th May	Summer Term (1)
Mon 27 th May – Fri 31 st May	HALF TERM
Mon 3 rd June – Wed 24 th July	Summer Term (2)

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