



**Aston Rowant C+E Primary School**  
**School Lane, Aston Rowant, Oxon OX49 5SU**  
**01844 351671**      [office@aston-rowant.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office@aston-rowant.oxon.sch.uk)  
Headteacher: Mrs Helen France

*16<sup>th</sup> June 2023*

### *Message from the Foundation Governor*

Hello! My name is Gill Tyler and I am the Foundation Governor (a governor chosen and appointed by the diocese) at Aston Rowant School. You may remember following Victorian Day, Mrs France explained the history of our school and how in 1951 it became a voluntary controlled Church of England school. Here I explain a little more about church schools.

The introduction of Sunday Schools in 1780s (to teach literacy and the Bible to children who worked in a factory the other six days of the week) led to the church establishing The National Society for Promoting Education in 1811. At this time there was no state system of education in place and the Society's hugely ambitious vision was to open a church school for week day schooling in every parish.

It was always intended that church schools should be open to all of the children of the parish, so these schools are not 'faith schools' in the sense of presuming that children are practising Christians, or attempting to make converts of them. However, the ethos of the schools is based on distinctively Christian values and they will offer children an experience of faith through collective worship and links with the parish church. Religious Education in church schools will always include teaching about other faiths and encourage the questioning of belief and non-belief.

In essence then a Church of England school is a community school with a distinctive Christian character. Here at Aston Rowant, our Christian vision, '*Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him*' (Colossians 2:7), is the foundation stone on which our school vision is built, '*Growing together we inspire each other to achieve our full potential as courageous lifelong learners*'. It drives all the decisions we make, enabling us to work together with one purpose. In fact, you should find a distinctive difference in the way a church school is rooted in Christian values, which will affect the way everyone treats one another. As a governor and retired Headteacher, I am in the privileged position of visiting the school on a regular basis and I have seen so many examples of this enabling both children and adults to flourish right across our Aston Rowant School family.

*Kind regards*  
*Mrs Gill*

**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:*

The children have done a wonderful job at coping in the heat this week! We have used the opportunity of this beautiful weather to imagine ourselves on an Island in the sea to create our own story boards. We've used artwork and drama to create settings, characters and plan a sequence of events in preparation for writing our own Island stories next week. In Maths the children have been exploring patterns. We have begun to use our problem-solving skills to spot the deliberate mistakes in Larry's shape patterns and use movement patterns to create some sea shanty dances using ABB and AAB pattern structures. To explore the artistic composition of seascapes we made a class collage thinking carefully about the foreground and background.



### *Squirrel Class:*

A warm week at school but the children have coped well and been responsible to look after themselves in the sunshine. We made use of the lovely weather to complete lots of outdoor learning in maths, drawing fractions with chalk or finding fractions of quantities in the natural environment. Our English lessons continued with the Percy the Park Keeper stories and we focused on the story 'One Springy Day', where fox gets into a rather sticky situation! The children completed drama and freeze frames, wrote letters in role and created a 3D story scene with their table group, focusing on teamwork and innovation. They did so well, and their creativity shone through. Our Science lessons looked at animal habitats in detail, and we discussed some of the varied habitats found across the world, including savannas, plains and oceans. We have also enjoyed learning some songs for collective worship and learning all the actions too. A super week!



### *Fox Class:*

Fox Class have been busy beavering away in their learning. In Maths, Year 3 have started working with time and understanding how to read the time to the minute and comparing analogue time to digital time. Could I please ask parents to work with their child helping them understand time throughout the weekend and evenings please? It is a tricky concept for some and the more practise the better. Year 4 have had an interesting week. Besides moving on to working with money using their decimal knowledge, they have also completed the Multiplication Tables Check. All of them have worked hard at learning their times tables fluently as they only have 6 seconds to answer each question. I am very proud of how calmly they approached this activity – well done! After such a successful week of descriptive writing about fire, this week we have been looking at the characters within the story. Lots of discussion about the intentions and what may or may not happen. It's amazing from can be gleaned from one illustration! In our Science, we looked at how we can sort and group animals looking at different attributes such as nutrition or the animal group. MR FAB helped us remember the groups! Using Mrs Healy's animals, they discussed how they could be grouped, and it was lovely to hear so much scientific language in their thinking. We have also been thinking about attributes in our Computing lessons as this week we have started to make branching databases. We know to ask yes/no questions but this week we looked at the attributes of each so we could fine tune our databases. In Geography, with bee conservation in the forefront of our thinking, we learnt how invaluable bees are to our lives. From pollinating much of our food to helping in the cotton growing we then discussed what we are doing to harm bees. In Art this week, we looked at nests. We used a range of pencils and tried different methods of sketching being bold and brave in our attempts! Not a bad week's work in this heat!



### *Owl Class:*

Despite the scorching heat, the Owls this week have worked super-hard applying their minds to some big, big questions. How do you persuade a hero to betray his king and become a villain? That's one of the big questions the children have been working on in English, as they plot, plan and prepare their persuasive letter from Lady Macbeth to the troubled Macbeth. They began the week by taking the arguments for and against the betrayal and linking them into persuasive sentences that ranged in tone, from supportive to chiding. The children have really embraced this exposure to our most valued writer, Shakespeare. In Science, the big Questions did not stop, as we tackled black holes in outer space. Linking this project with the work of Professor Stephen Hawking, we identified the cause of the formation of black holes, how matter cannot escape the event horizon. We even made our own black hole in the playground! Year sixes have also begun their transition work for their secondary schools...

**GRATITUDE    RESILIENCE    OUTREACH    WONDER    TRUST    HARMONY**

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

***Photo Diary of the Week***



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**Whole School Topic: Summer Term: A Sense of Identity**

**Values: Resilience**

We have been looking at St Paul this week who when he was a prisoner in Rome sent a letter to his friends saying, 'I can do all things through him who strengthens me.' *Philippians 4:13*. We thought that sometimes life feels like a journey. Sometimes the route can be easy, the weather is fine and sunny, there are lovely views, and we reach our destination no trouble at all. At times the route can be difficult, the weather might be stormy, we can't see very far and we need courage and resilience to reach our destination. But like Paul we know that we are not alone and we can put our faith in God to strengthen us for whatever lies ahead.

**Climate Warriors Challenge**

This week we're thinking 'pulses' ... and how being a Young Climate Warrior, might need us to be adventurous and brave - trying new things, and welcoming change. Food systems are responsible for a whopping 40% of global emissions, transitioning to 'alternative' proteins can substantially reduce this. This week Young Climate Warriors are encouraged to be courageous with pulses. If we want change to happen it might need courage, just a little grit and possibly some determination.

Links that may be of interest:

[What are pulses? #lovepulses](#)

[Should we be eating more insects? BBC Newsround](#)

[The little things that run the world. National Insect Week \(not the eating kind!!!\)](#)

[Case for Stubborn Optimism on climate. Christiana Figueres](#)

**Book Review Macbeth- A William Shakespeare story, retold by Andrew Mathews & Tony Ross.**



Owl Class are recommending our classes topic book this week, as this adaptation has gripped the our imagination this term! It tells the familiar dastardly story of betrayal and revenge, but adds in illustrations similar to Quentin Blakes, and has been cleverly rewritten to be accessible to younger readers, but without any of the edge removed. It's been a fantastic way to introduce the children to one of the nation's greatest treasures and has fuelled particularly visual and snappy writing.

**Happiness Calendar: Joyful June**

This month, we're encouraging you to look for what is good. You can find this month's happiness calendar [here](#).

**Housepoints**

<i>House</i>	<i>This Week</i>	<i>Total</i>
<b>Bethlehem</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>Eden</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>68</b>
<b>Galilee</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>Jerusalem</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>59</b>

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***Emails and Letters Sent this Week.***

<b>Date</b>	<b>Email/Letter</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Concerning</b>
14.06.23	Letter	Reception 23	Mrs Hall and Mrs Olsen	September 23

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

<b>June</b>	
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Garsington Opera Workshops on The Barber of Seville Owl Class
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Dance Festival at Lord Williams's School - Fox and Squirrel Classes
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Science Day at Lord Williams's School
w/c 26 <sup>th</sup> June	Owl Activity Week including Wed 28 <sup>th</sup> Hike to Aston Rowant Nature Reserve Thur 29 <sup>th</sup> Amersham Field Centre at Mop End
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup>	The Look Out Discovery Centre - Squirrel Class trip
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Vision Screening for Reception
<b>July</b>	
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup>	RE Inspired Year 6
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 taster day Lord William's
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup>	PTA AGM – electing new Chair, Secretary and Finance Officer
w/c 10 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports Enrichment Week including Sports Day Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup>
Mon 10 <sup>h</sup> and Tues 11 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 transition days Icknield
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup>	End of Year Reports
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Owl Class visit Wormsley Estate to watch 'The Barber of Seville' by Garsington Opera
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup>	9:15 End of Year and Leaver's Service End of Term 13:30

***Academic Year Calendar 2023-24***

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

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