



**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**

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

## ***Message from the Head Teacher***

### ***Class Photos 2023***

We are sorry that due to illness the photographer could not come this week. The class photos will now be taken next week on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June. Please make sure that your child is in the correct school uniform that day. We will have the traditional whole class photos for each class and leavers photographs for our Year 6 children.

### ***Hot Weather***

As the hot weather is finally with us, please can I remind you to ensure that every day your child has a water bottle, sun hat and you have applied sun cream before school each day. It is important that we respect the sun and are prepared. Please note that children should not be bringing sun cream into school to apply themselves.

### ***Brake Kids Walk to School Day***

Brake's Kids Walk promotes the right of every child to walk in their community without the fear of traffic and pollution and, every year, hundreds of schools take part to support the rights of their students for safe and healthy journeys. This year's Brake Kids Walk is on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June.

We are running a golden boot challenge - a friendly competition between classes to see who can earn the most sustainable travel points. The idea is that we will log the additional distance that children cover on foot or bike for that day. So, if you need to drive can you park further away and walk the last part of the journey? If you walk or cycle can you add to your route? Each class will be collecting their data and working out an average extra distance covered. We are also running a photo competition for the most fun snap of your Walk to School Experience. Do send in your pictures. Finally, we have a poster competition linked to road safety. Please send in your designs to promote safe, healthy and fun journeys so that we can display them around school.

We will be covering road safety as part of our PSHE programme. In addition, Oxfordshire County Council's Road Safety team have also produced some child pedestrian safety guidance. The more we can do to keep children safe when near roads and traffic the better, so please do download the Footsteps guide - a short leaflet that will give some simple activities to use to help you support your child to become a safer pedestrian. The link to the guide is <https://www.365alive.co.uk/cms/content/footsteps>

### ***Office***

Thank you to everyone who has been so positive and patient during this time without an Office Administrator. We have held interviews and are really encouraged by the applicants, more details to follow shortly.

As a gentle reminder, please ensure all children are at school before the gate closes, with all of the equipment that they need for the day, as this makes it easier for whoever is covering the office.

### ***School Day***

As a reminder in line with Government guidelines the school day from September 2023 will be 8:45-3:15. The gate will continue to be opened at 8:30 for the daily mile and 8:40 for the start of the day. The children will line up promptly at 8:45 to go to their classrooms. The gate will be locked promptly at 8:45 and all children should be in school by this time. Children should only come to the office door in case of an emergency rather than as a fall back.

### ***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:*

What a lovely sunny start to the final term in Hedgehog Class. The children have fully engaged with our new topic 'Sun, Sea and Sand'. In our personal reading time we have been investigating under sea creatures as well as reading some wonderful poems in 'Commotion in the Ocean'. We love the poem 'Pirate Pete' by James Carter and thought about effective ways to perform it. We have begun exploring Sea Shanties and this week have used instruments to mark out the strong beat of the song "Wellerman". We are becoming articulate in expressing our views about art by talking about different seascapes and the qualities we like and don't like. In Literacy we have been enjoying the story of 'The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch' and have written signs to the seagulls asking them politely to leave our picnic alone. That didn't help! So, we had to take drastic action and put a cat in the basket. When that didn't work, we used the book to help us to make a plan. Ask the children what they did in the end! Finally in Maths we have been building on our mathematical vocabulary to describe 3D shapes, looking for them in the environment and playing fun games to learn their names. A very busy first week back!



### *Squirrel Class:*

It's been wonderful to be back with the class and begin the final summer term in Squirrel Class. We have started a new topic for English of 'Percy the Park Keeper' books and we will be reading lots of books from the series and comparing similarities and differences between the different stories. The class have also been really excited to learn about the woodland creatures and characters in the book, which links nicely with our new science topic of 'Living Things and their Habitats'. We spent some time discussing how we know something is alive (MRS GREN acronym) and whether it is now dead or has never been alive. In maths lessons we have a focus on fractions, with Y1 looking at the language of 'Part, Whole' and recognising a half and Y2 recognising and identifying halves and quarters of shapes and quantities. Lastly, in DT we have started our new unit of 'Healthy Sandwiches' and we talked about different types of breads, fillings and sauces. The class are very excited to design, make and eat their own sandwiches later this term!



### *Fox Class:*

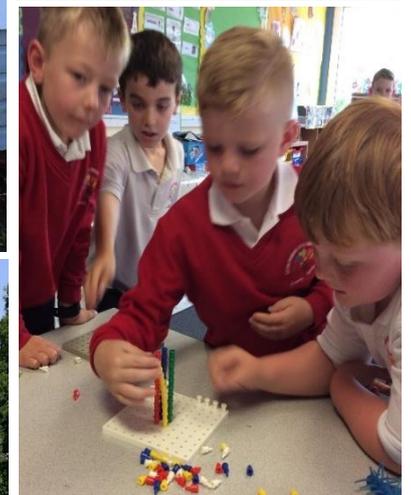
It's been lovely returning to our learning with such lovely weather! It's definitely put a spring in our step! This week we have started work on our new book 'Fox' by focussing just on the first full page illustration. From it, children were able to write super descriptions, a group poem and also focussed on using similes and metaphors. In our Maths, Year 3 have shown they understand money (which is always useful) although of course change is a novelty as most things revolve around using cards. Year 4 have definitely grasped decimals and have been able to demonstrate a deep understanding of this concept. Numbers were used in French this week where children were learning the numbers 11-31 in French. They really enjoyed the French bingo! In our Science this week we learnt about the seven life processes that define if something is living – MRS NERG was there to help us remember what they are! Our topic in Geography this half term is based around bee conservation and our local area so this week we learnt about how useful bees are to us. Our Art lesson this week involved us looking at different artists' work using sculpture and the creative risks they take. This will lead on to the children eventually taking their own creative risks as we progress through this half term.



### *Owl Class:*

It's been fantastic to see the children back this week looking so well rested and refreshed for another term in Owl Class. We dove straight into our exciting new topics: in English we have started to look at 'the Scottish play' Macbeth and understanding the complex characters we will be writing about, and why they want to overthrow their King. This will feed into our lessons next week where we write persuasively to Macbeth to convince him to murder the King Duncan! The children have really taken to this story and have created fabulous profiles of Lord and Lady Macbeth. In Maths, Year Six have been creating fractions fact files for Fox Class and have finished these to a really high standard. We will share them with Fox class next week. In History, we will be looking at the legacy of the Windrush Generation and the impact and benefits that migrants can bring to society, as well as the hardships faced by people of colour in early 1960's Britain, a very different place to today's society. In Science, as part of our Inventor and Scientist topic, we will be touring the 'greatest hits' of science personalities. This week we looked at Leonardo Da Vinci, who wasn't a ninja turtle but an artist, scientist and engineer combined. The children, using his Vitruvian Man and its laws of human proportions, launched their own inquiry into a rule of their own choice, and created their own methods to record their data gathered. What we learnt surprised us: the rules only seem to apply to the boys....

*Photo Diary of the Week*



I can feel fear as the fire races towards me. *Max*  
 Fire spreads all around the trees, raging through the forest. *Monty*  
 In this burning forest, I saw crimson flames dancing in the wind. *Joan*  
 I can feel the scorching heat from the raging flames. *Joshua*  
 The crimson red flames lick the tree's branches as the fire crackles. *Isadora*  
 In the fire I saw flames dancing wildly. *Ellie*  
 The birds wings flap to escape the burning remains of the forest. *Henry*



**GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY**

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

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

***Values: Resilience***

This week we looked at having courage to do something new or challenging. We called it 'stepping out of our comfort zone'. Sometimes just small steps are needed, but they can take us to new and exciting places! We looked at the story of Moses and how his courage was tested, but he took one brave step and then another, and God used him mightily to serve his purposes.

*'Be strong and courageous. ... Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you' Deuteronomy 31:6*

***Climate Warriors Challenge***

This week's Young Climate Warriors challenge encourages children to think creatively – to use their imagination to help combat climate change. How can we move away from our 'throwaway' culture, turn our waste into something useful or creative, and live within the limits of our finite resources? This challenge includes ideas for upcycling and reusing waste materials to make birthday cards and presents or even Father's Day.

It's **Great Big Green Week** – communities taking creative action - find out what's going in your community – and have fun getting involved! This week's challenge is about imagination, climbing into a story and ... upcycling ... and Father's Day ideas!

Links you may find of interest:

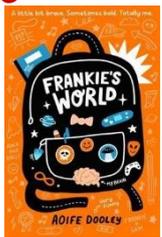
[People 'fixing' the world](#). BBC World Service

[Where's your nearest Repair cafe](#) - over 2,700 worldwide ...

[The most beautiful rubbish you'll ever see](#) - BBC World Service

[RSPB 'upcycling for nature'](#) - other ideas

***Book Review*** Frankie's World by Aoife Dooley



Frankie has always felt different to everyone else. She finds it hard to pay attention in school and sometimes says random things that upset other people. She's smaller than everyone else in her class and has to go to the doctor every week to be measured. Oh, and Nadine and Shauna, the two meanest girls in her class, call her a freak. This lovely, often funny, relatable and sensitive story about Frankie, a girl with autism, was inspired by the author Aoife Dooley's own real-life experiences. You will be cheering Frankie on as she deals with bullies, finds what she's good at and comes to understand herself a little better: a great story about growing up and learning who you are.

***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>
<i>Bethlehem</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>Eden</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>29</i>
<i>Galilee</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>Jerusalem</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>23</i>

Congratulations to **Jerusalem** for winning the housepoint challenge last term – by 1 housepoint!

**GRATITUDE    RESILIENCE    OUTREACH    WONDER    TRUST    HARMONY**

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



**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

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

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
09.06.23	Email	Squirrel	Mrs Biggin	School trip
09.06.23	Email	Everyone	Mrs French	WAC

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

<b>June</b>	
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 Cycling starts - also on 16 <sup>th</sup> , 23 <sup>rd</sup> June, 6 <sup>th</sup> 13 <sup>th</sup> 14 <sup>th</sup> July – Test 17 <sup>th</sup> July
w/c 12 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 4 Multiplication Check Year 1 Phonics Screening Check
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	School Photo Day
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Walk to School Day
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Bags2School
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>	
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Transition Day Years R-5. Year 6 have their own activities
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>th</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)

**GRATITUDE    RESILIENCE    OUTREACH    WONDER    TRUST    HARMONY**

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