



Aston Rowant C+E Primary School
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Headteacher: Mrs Helen France

19th May 2023

Message from the Head Teacher

It was wonderful to see Fox Class dressed up and enjoying their Victorian Day this week. The children were given the opportunity to experience life in a Victorian school, play with traditional games and complete Victorian activities and crafts. The day was linked to the Fox's History unit of Victorian England, their Art topic of LS Lowry, their Victorian theatres for DT as well as the link to their class novel, 'Street Child'. If you haven't read it Street Child is a beautiful book telling the tale of an orphan living in Victorian London, based on the boy whose plight inspired Dr Barnardo to found his famous children's homes. As you will see from the photo page all of the children looked great in their costumes and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Thank you to Mrs Healy for providing such a fun and insightful day.

The Victorians is a great topic for our children to study as it forms a key part of our heritage as a school. The first school in Aston Rowant was actually established during the reign of George III in 1771 and 1784 by the squire of the village. Although it closed in 1787 it was restarted and is believed to have been the day-school mentioned in 1808 diocese records. At a church meeting in Easter 1813 it was decided that a school supported by the parish should be established as soon as a proper house could be procured.

By 1818, there was a lacemaking school, where girls were also taught to read. There was no provision for the boys. The Lacemaking School still existed in 1833, but by that time a day school had also been started. It was supported by Lady Lambert, and in 1833 it had 27 girls and 12 boys. The children began school when they were 6 years old, the boys leaving at 10 years of age and the girls at 13 years.



Our current school is Victorian and was built in 1844 as a National Mixed School on land given by Sir Henry Lambert, Lord of the Manor. If you look carefully you can see this date above the external hall door. Our current hall was the entire school. There were 50 children in 1853 and 60 from 1871 to 1894, including children from Crowell. All of the children were in one class and all of the children learnt the same curriculum. The Victorians didn't have many books, they would share and pass around the few (or even just one) that they had. The school was enlarged in 1891 and 90 children attended in 1903. In 1931 it was reorganized as a junior school for children under 11 years with the seniors being sent by bus to Chinnor.

In 1951 it became a voluntary controlled Church of England school and in 1955 was attended by 23 children. Voluntary controlled (VC) schools means that we are partly controlled by the Church of England and partly by the Local Authority. The LA funds the school, employs the staff and provides support services, and usually controls the admissions process. The church owns the land and buildings and appoints some of the governors.

Today, we have around 80 children attend and the school is flourishing. In our school, children are encouraged to aspire to become the best they can be. Through a growth mind-set philosophy, we encourage individuality, creativity and pro-creativity. Our school is a place where we grow together, where we inspire each other, and we are enabled to achieve our potential as lifelong learners. I think the Victorian founders of this school would be proud.

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 another fabulous week in Hedgehog class. The children have been learning about length and height and how to compare and measure. First, we sorted ourselves into height order and discovered who is the tallest member of Hedgehog class. Then we enjoyed measuring our beanstalks and sunflowers to see how much they had grown. We challenged ourselves to measure the giant beanstalk in our classroom. It took a lot of cubes! In literacy we have been responding in writing to the Giant who this week lost his teddy bear, it turns out he's a bit of a softy! In topic we made some wiggly worms out of tissue and then added water to watch them wriggle and grow. We think it was because tissue gets bigger when it 'absorbs' the water. We also thought about the different ways to sort minibeasts and went on a scavenger hunt to see where they like to live. Finally, we practiced some mini-beast poems and songs which we performed in our celebration assembly on Friday thinking about how to make them funny for the listener. Another really wonderful week with lots of great learning!



Squirrel Class:

A busy week for all but especially the Year 2 Squirrels who have spent this week completing their SATs. They have been so resilient and calm, taking it all in their stride. We are all very proud of them 😊 Likewise, the Year 1s have completed some brilliant outdoor learning this week, with maths games, nature art and games! In English lessons, our Traction Man comics were completed this week, with the children also making puppets and then putting on a puppet show for their classmates! We had lots of original missions and scenarios for Traction Man to complete and it was lots of fun to watch. We have also completed stage two of our Modroc planes. The process was quite tricky (and sticky!) but the children persevered and next week we hope to paint them all once they're dried out. Our R.E lesson this week focused on the parable of The Raising of Lazarus, and we discussed why some people chose to follow Jesus but also why others didn't and the reasons why. The children had some brilliant ideas and questions to share. Well done!



Fox Class:

Well, the Victorians well and truly came to Fox Class this week! On Wednesday, our class time machine took us back to 1893. Children learnt about the rules within a Victorian classroom and were respectful by standing when adults entered the room and displayed excellent manners too. After learning times tables by rote, they tried out drill exercises in the playground followed by practising their copperplate handwriting using 'ink' on well know Victorians phrases. After break (playing with our peg dolls made previously, football and marbles) children carried out some careful nature study using watercolours. Finally, children were split into girls and boys where the girls practised their sewing skills making a bookmark whereas the boys made a thaumatrope and a boat! Sadly, some children were sent to the corner and had to wear the dunce's hat, but they weren't there for long! All in all, it was a fabulous day and a big thanks to parents for the amazing outfits and Victorian lunch that some brought with them. We have also managed other learning this week too! In our science we learnt about pollination and the different parts of a flower that help it reproduce. We also managed to squeeze in some DT where children were completing their Victorian theatres ready to tell a story next week. Phew! Time for the weekend!



Owl Class:

The children have been flexing their creative muscles this week, as they wrote their own version of a letter home from Leonard, the protagonist of Windrush Child. Leonard has been uprooted from his cosy life in 1950's Jamaica, to come and live with his father in Southampton. The children focused on recounting the epic journey that he undertook, including his worries, his observations and people enroute, and also focusing their language to suit that of an informal letter to Leonard's Grannie. What would they share with her, and what might they only hint at? It was a challenging task, and the children have tackled it with the enthusiasm we have come to expect from Owl Class. In Science, we performed investigations with cutting edge technology: jam jars and a ham sandwich! The children have taken samples of white or brown bread, sealed them in various environments around the school and made predictions about which environment would be the best to promote bacteria growth: in short, who can grow the best mould! In Art they continued to assemble mixed media collages about their chosen cause (many are ecological, which shows a strong awareness of current events), now adding poster or watercolour paints, or oils pastels or chalk. They have focused well on this idea: of a cause, that means something special to them, and may well continue to explore activism or an interest in this area as they grow. Time for a well-earned weekend, Owl Class!

Photo Diary of the Week



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Whole School Topic: Summer Term: A Sense of Identity

Values: Harmony

In Collective Worship this week we learnt that being a good friend isn't just about sharing the good times. Sometimes we need to show compassion towards our friends when times are tough. That can often mean listening to them carefully when they want to talk.

'A friend is always loyal, and a brother is born to help in times of need.' Proverbs 17:17

Climate Warriors Challenge

You've probably heard of the 3 R's – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. This week's challenge is to undertake at least one action relating to paper in each of these categories.

Reduce – Collect the junk mail that comes through the door. Can you write a letter or email to ask some of your junk mail providers to remove you from their lists? If your parent/carer agrees, you could put up a 'NO JUNK MAIL' sign by your letterbox. Can you say no to receipts or paper bags (take your own reusable one instead) when you go shopping? Can you make sure you use both sides of the paper when writing/drawing this week?

Reuse – Can you help write the shopping list on the back of an envelope you receive in the post this week? Can you wrap any presents with pages from a magazine or comic? Could you make a pile of scrap paper that can be used for lists and/or staple some pages together to make a notepad?

Recycling – Do your toilet roll tubes make it to the recycling bin? Can you make sure that they don't end up in the bathroom bin that goes with the 'landfill' rubbish? If you have your own composting system you could add some old shredded newspaper to your compost – it's a great 'high carbon' compost material providing a source of energy for the compost microbes – but don't add too much!

Sometimes a fourth 'R' is added - 'Rethink'. Can you change to using recycled paper for printing (when you really need to) - it might look a bit 'off-white' – but does that matter? Could you swap to an 'eco'/recycled toilet paper? Can you choose products/brands that are intentionally trying to reduce their packaging?

Book Review The Land of Roar by Jenny McLachlan, reviewed by Mrs Olsen



A brilliant tale about imagination. Twins, Arthur and Rose, invented a game when they were younger about a place called Roar - to get there you have to crawl through the folding camp bed in Grandad's attic. It's a place where there are mermaids and dragons, as well as other weird and wonderful creatures. The twins are now 11 years old and are set to go to secondary school after the summer holidays. Rose thinks she's too grown up for Roar... that is until Grandad vanishes and Arthur climbs through the camp bed once more.

Happiness Calendar: Meaningful May

This month, we're encouraging you to try find ways to be part of something bigger. You can find this month's happiness calendar [here](#).

Housepoints

<i>House</i>	<i>This Week</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Bethlehem</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>137</i>
<i>Eden</i>	<i>53</i>	<i>152</i>
<i>Galilee</i>	<i>53</i>	<i>146</i>
<i>Jerusalem</i>	<i>53</i>	<i>152</i>

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Emails and Letters Sent this Week.

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
19.05.23	Email	Everyone	PTA	Sydenham Fayre
19.05.23	Email	Hedgehog	Office	Vision Screening

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

May	
Monday 22 nd May	Year 5 cycling test
Friday 26 th	INSET
June	
Tuesday 6 th June	Class photos (before swimming!) and Year 6 individual photos
Friday 9 th	Year 6 Cycling starts - also on 16 th , 23 rd June, 6 th 13 th 14 th July – Test 17 th July
w/c 12 th June	Year 4 Multiplication Check Year 1 Phonics Screening Check
Thursday 15 th	Bags2School
Monday 19 th	Garsington Opera Workshop on The Barber of Seville
Tuesday 20 th	Dance Festival at Lord Williams's School - Fox and Squirrel Classes
Monday 26 th	Science Day at Lord Williams's School
w/c 26 th June	Owl Activity Week including Wed 28 th Hike to Aston Rowant Nature Reserve Thur 29 th Amersham Field Centre at Mop End
Wednesday 28 th	The Look Out Discovery Centre - Squirrel Class trip
July	
Thursday 6 th	RE Inspired Year 6
Friday 7 th	PTA AGM – electing new Chair, Secretary and Finance Officer
w/c 10 th July	Sports Enrichment Week including Sports Day Wednesday 12 th
Monday 17 th	End of Year Reports
Tuesday 18 th	Owl Class visit Wormsley Estate to watch 'The Barber of Seville' by Garsington Opera
Friday 21 st	End of Term 13:30

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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