

Message from the Head Teacher

It has been a busy week here where the children have been demonstrating their hard work, perseverance and creativity.

The Year 6 children have had their SATs and children have been amazing. Their work ethic has been outstanding and their test skills exemplary. Congratulations to all our Year 6 children for their hard work this week and throughout the year. We are extremely proud of them all and know that they tried their best and have shown the school value of resilience throughout. They have grown in confidence and ability which will serve them well at secondary school. A special thank you to all the staff who have helped in supporting and encouraging the children to do their best. Next week our Year 2 children will have their SATs and we know that they will make us equally proud.



At Aston Rowant School we want to excite young people about the future and to learn about life beyond the classroom. Young Enterprise projects provide fantastic opportunities to learn essential life skills -like money management and entrepreneurship - by putting them into practice. As part of our PSHE programme we have been working on a Young Enterprise initiative to deliver practical, activity-based projects which will provide the children with the opportunity to develop key business skills and make the connection between school and the world of work.



As part of the project we deliberately encouraged the children to think about goods which will appeal more widely to our whole Aston Rowant School family, not only for their own families to buy, and also to sell to the general public at The Sydenham Fayre in June. Please do continue to support them if you possibly can. Could you adopt a Hedgehog Friend? Or buy a spider plant in a beautiful pot? Or maybe buy a plant pot or pencil pot? The children are hoping to raise enough to buy an author's chair for the school.

Key Areas of Information about Aston Rowant School: What clubs and extra-curricular activities are available at Aston Rowant School? Running a Young Enterprise project is just one of the range of activities available at Aston Rowant School to enrich the curriculum and make a child's time at school more enjoyable. The school provides special days and weeks across the school year for children to engage with: World Book Day, British Values Day, Maths Day, Science Week, RE Enrichment Week, Art Enrichment Week, Music Enrichment Week, Walk to School Week, Be Bright Be Seen Day, Anti Bullying Week, National Online Safety Day as well as our workshops with Garsington Opera. We also provide activities to support basic life skills – such as First Aid workshops and Bikeability.

We have a variety of clubs on offer across the school year – football, choir, art, timetable rockstars, chess, Eco Warriors and we are about to start a dance club. We have swimming for Years 3, 4 and 5 and Forest School for all year groups. We also provide opportunities for children to get involved in the wider life of the school with: Play Leaders, House Captains, Worship Leaders, Eco Council and School Council. We provide regular trips for the children or in school experience days to bring the curriculum to life. We also engage in activities with our local partnership of schools – which includes Science Day, Dance Festival and Literacy Workshops. There are many initiatives to celebrate and a lot to be proud of.

'The school's curriculum is well thought out and aspirational.' Ofsted 2022

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:

This week has been a magical week for Hedgehog Class. After growing some successful beanstalks we were able to write to Jack and tell him how to grow his magic beans. Suddenly a Giant Beanstalk appeared in the classroom bringing the children a real sense of awe and wonder. The children have really enjoyed immersing themselves in the narrative through role-play and creative writing. In Maths we have been getting to grips with the concept of capacity in order to choose the best possible container to quench Larry the Lizards insatiable thirst! In our topic we have been building bug hotels to encourage minibeasts into our garden so that we can observe and identify them. In the children's plan and play we have seen some fantastic teamwork as they work together to build dens to camp in. They came up with some brilliant designs and have been developing their problem-solving skills. An excellent week!



Squirrel Class:

Another short week but we have still managed to squeeze in lots of learning and fun! English lessons saw us starting our new text of 'Traction Man' and the class have been working hard identifying the superhero's different missions and using drama to act out the story. In maths lessons Y1 have been working on multiplication and division (2x, 5x and 10x) and Y2 have been revising some aspects of the curriculum and going over concepts in preparation for SATs next week. In Science we have been observing our cress plants and discussing how to keep our plants healthy and strong to ensure successful growth. We rounded off the week with a fun Art lesson where we created our internal 3D structures (made from foil and newspaper) in preparation for our Modroc planes we will be creating and then painting over the next few weeks. Have a great weekend!



Fox Class:

What a busy week we have had in Fox Class! Our feet haven't touched the ground! We have continued with our study of Street Child and I was thrilled by some of the list poems children created demonstrating the tension of Jim escaping the workhouse. We also had a conscience alley where children on one side of a line had to think of a reason why Jim should leave the workhouse and the other side had to think why he should stay. Their reasons were very thoughtful. This has been our first week swimming and I was thrilled to hear how respectful and tenacious the class were from all the adults who took them. In science, we looked carefully at the use of the stem in plants again using the digital microscope. We also investigated how the stem worked by putting white flowers into coloured water. The class have been brilliant at observing the flowers and were thrilled to see a slight tinge in some of the petals the next day. We will continue to monitor them! In our history we learnt how the Industrial Revolution changed Britain not only in the landscape but in the jobs available and the quality of life. We also managed to squeeze in an artist study of L.S. Lowry and children chose their own materials to create a replica picture focussing on the factories and people heading to work whilst listening to the song attributed to his life.



Owl Class:

The Owls have been working so hard this week: the Year Six children have been focusing on their SATS and have shown fantastic perseverance and resilience. It isn't easy to arrive into school to be greeted by an exam each morning, but there have been no grumbles, just smiles and a fantastic work ethic. It just shows what being an Aston Rowant child produces from our tiny reception Hedgehogs to our wise Owl fives and sixes. Speaking of the Year Fives, they have hit the roads of the village en-masse as part of their cycling training each day this week, as well as studying the signs of the highway code to make sure they are able to be road safe. All of the class have taken part in our regular Science lessons too, sorting a range of living things into the Linnaean classification system, whilst in Art they created an exciting range of mixed media collages about a cause close to their hearts. In PE, the coaches have been teaching a range of track and field exercises, including extremely competitive baton relay races! Well done Owls, enjoy your weekend!

Photo Diary of the Week



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Whole School Topic: Summer Term: A Sense of Identity

Values: Harmony

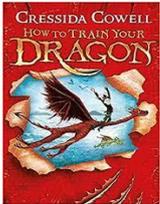
This week in Collective Worship we listened to a story about how some good friends supported one of their group. We reflected about our own friends and how we can support them in difficult times. We reflected on the nicest things we have ever done for our friends and the nicest things our friends have done for us. We thought about ways that people show their friends that they care about them. We looked at a story where friends of a paralysed man wanted to help him get well. They carried him to the house where Jesus was and even made a hole in the roof to lower him through. Jesus saw the faith of the friends and the man and gave the paralysed man an even bigger gift than healing – he forgave him.

When Jesus saw their [the friends] faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven." Luke 5: 20

Climate Warriors Challenge

A healthy sustainable planet requires us to tackle climate change and needs us ALL to take action. **60% of our 2035 carbon emissions reductions target relies on consumer choices** (UK Committee on Climate Change, 2022). Young Climate Warriors' challenges encourage families and our wider community to take small actions each week. Together, these cumulative actions can make an impact. 'Little by little, a little becomes a lot'. Think about your walk to school. Avoiding the car where possible can reduce car exhaust emissions, and there's scope for fun along the way. Cloud-spotting, whistling bird song, a 'funny faces' trail, or dew-bathing – what choice will you make as a family? Why not share your photos with us and we can include them in the newsletter?

Book Review by Max P in Squirrel Class:



How to Train your Dragon by Cressida Cowell (Suitable for 8+)

This book is brilliant as it's about dragons, Vikings and heroes. They have great adventures, and the characters have cool names like Hiccup, Toothless and Wodensfang. I really like dragons and this describes them really well. My favourite part it when Hiccup meets the Furious Dragon. It's cool that they have made some of the stories into movies too! 5 stars!

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>27</i>	<i>100</i>
<i>Eden</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>99</i>
<i>Galilee</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>99</i>
<i>Jerusalem</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>100</i>



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

Emails and Letters Sent this Week.

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
12.05.23	Email	Everyone	Office	Green Living Event
12.05.23	Email	Years 4, 5, 6	Mr Manning	Owl Activity Week
12.05.23	Email	Years 1, 2, 3, 4	Mrs Healy	Dance Festival

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

May	
w/c 15 th May	Year 2 SATs
Wednesday 17 th	Fox Class Victorian Day
Monday 22 nd May	Year 5 cycling test
Friday 26 th	INSET
June	
Tuesday 6th June	Class photos (before swimming!) and Year 6 individual photos
Friday 9 th	Year 6 Cycling starts - also on 16 th , 23 rd , 30 th , 7 th July and 14 th – 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
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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