



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

24th March 2023

Message from the Head Teacher

Key Areas of Information about Aston Rowant School: What extra-curricular activities are available at Aston Rowant School?

Ofsted 2023 summed this up really when they stated: 'It may be a small school, but everyone here has big ideas.' Ofsted picked up on our Forest Fridays, use of school grounds, Eco Warriors, having our work displayed at the UN COP26 summit, Garsington Opera, chess and our charity work. And that's not all! We are proud to have a whole range of activities available at Aston Rowant School to enrich the curriculum and make a child's time at Aston Rowant more enjoyable.

We have a variety of clubs on offered through the week – TT Rockstars, football, art, choir and chess. We are also looking at the possibility of a dance club and cross-country club.

We provide regular trips for the children to bring the curriculum to life. These sadly were restricted during the pandemic, however, we are delighted that they have started again. This year Reception have been to a Chinese restaurant and will visit Tigglywinkles next month. Squirrel will be visiting Bugs & Beasties Show at The Look Out Discovery Centre. All of KS2 visited Science Oxford last week. Fox are also planning an immersive Victorian day in the summer term. Owl Class enjoy a 5 day residential in alternate years with fun activity days out (more details to follow) in the in between years. This summer Owl Class will also enjoy a day's workshop with Garsington Opera looking at The Barber of Seville before going to watch a performance at the Worsley Estate.

The school provides lots of special enrichment days and weeks across the school year for children to engage with. So far we have had: Science Week, Wellbeing Week, IT Week, Anti Bullying Week, World Book Day, British Values Day, Maths Day, Be Bright Be Seen Day, National Online Safety Day. Next week is RE Enrichment Week with Art, Music and PE to follow in the summer and this year we also hope to introduce an Environmental Week.

We also run special events such as the cake sale, harvest, bird watch and have entered a national coronation competition. Last year we celebrated the Platinum Jubilee and this year we will have our Coronation Picnic. We enter national competitions and were runners up for both the Cop 26 competition and the Oxford Science Competition.

In sport we have our specialist PE coaches and as well as our annual Sports Enrichment Week in the summer, we have maypole dancing, country dancing, cross country, bikability and swimming.

In PSHE we provide activities to support basic life skills – such as first aid workshops, rail safety and for the older children drug awareness.

We ensure that the children have the opportunity to take on roles and responsibilities with opportunities for children to get involved in the wider life of the school with: House Captains and Deputies, Worship Leaders, Play Leaders, Eco Warriors and School Council. Year 6 not only lead Collective Worship on a daily basis they lead our termly church services too. In addition, the choir and all children get the opportunity to participate in services and assemblies.

Finally, we are fortunate to be part of Thame Partnership. Not only do the staff team benefit from joint CPD we also moderate the children's English, Maths and Science together for all years across all of the schools. There is an annual Science Day at Lord William's each summer as well as the dance festival. We share equipment, such as the Bee Bots, across the partnership too.

Having spoken about our many enrichment activities I want to end by thanking the people who put hard work into our inter house cross country yesterday. A particular mention to Mrs Healy who planned and organised the whole event and also to Mrs Campbell who helped pull it together and run it on the day. A thank you to the staff and parent volunteers who ensured that it all ran smoothly and that everyone had a wonderful time. Above all a huge thank you to the children for their incredible resilience and harmony as they dug deep to complete their various courses and cheered one another on. It was a fabulous afternoon.

Kind regards
Mrs France

GRATITUDE

RESILIENCE

OUTREACH

WONDER

TRUST

HARMONY



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Teaching and Learning in the Classrooms this week:



Hedgehog Class:

We have really enjoyed our chicks this week. Sadly some of them didn't quite make it but we have had a lot of fun finding out what things they like to eat, giving them cuddles and observing them grow. We have really enjoyed our time with them and wish them all the best back on the farm with The Little Red Hen who is back from her holidays! We have also done some fantastic writing this week in our non-fiction books all about our pets. We have been learning how to write instructions using bossy words and we think you will agree that our books look amazing! In Maths we have been learning to quickly identify the composition of numbers 6, 7 and 8 using 'five and a bit' patterns. The children have used their creative minds to represent these numbers in a range of ways. Some chose to use different coloured objects, while others used some real 'out of the box' thinking by making musical patterns or using the sides of shapes! The children are excited to show you their work on rhythm, pulse and melody. Watch our website for their performance.



Squirrel Class:

Squirrel class have been busy this week with end-of-term assessments and some practise for the Y2 of SAT style questions. The children have tried hard and shown great resilience, and we have reminded ourselves each day that if we try our best, then we can always be proud. We still had time to squeeze in some learning too, so we have been finishing and editing our information texts on the Great Fire of London and reviewing times tables in maths. Our art lessons saw the children finish their silhouettes based on the Great fire of London and our history lesson focused on a significant individual with links to the local(ish) area – Amy Johnson. In Science lessons we explored why not all offspring look like their mothers and sorted pictures of animals into the correct animal group. The children also enjoyed the brilliant cross-country event on Thursday afternoon organised by Mrs Healy. Lastly, today is the day we say goodbye to the wonderful Miss Harris, as her placement with us comes to an end. We have really enjoyed having you as our teacher and thank you for all your help. We wish you well on your future career – please come back and visit!



Fox Class:

Our first full week for some time and I treated them to some assessments! They all worked really hard. We have also been planning and starting to write our new chapter of The Iron Man thinking about what features we should include to ensure the reader is entertained. In our Maths, both year groups have been exploring fractions ranging from counting in fractions on number line to working with mixed numbers and improper fractions. Using our recorders in Music, children tried their hand at improvising to our reggae song "Three little birds" however they definitely preferred singing it! After our fabulous trip last week to Science Oxford, the class were able to continue their States of Matter journey by looking at how solids change to liquid. We had been asked by Willy Wonka how he could make a chocolate river and at what temperature it would become liquid. The whole class, in groups, had to plan who did what and how. They thoroughly enjoyed using stopwatches, using thermometers and observing what happened to the chocolate. I didn't observe much chocolate around their faces I am happy to report! In our DT children are beginning to make their prototype for their book cover and I am hoping will be able to cut their fabric out too meaning sewing can commence.



Owl Class:

For our first full week back, Owl Class dove straight back into work! In range of activities this week, they bobbed about and found the rhythm and musical pulse to 'You Gotta Friend', in our music lessons, looked into the amazing range of mammals that the world has to offer (including the absolutely bizarre Duck-billed Platypus, and check on our plant clippings to see how they are taking as part of our Living Things topic. Then children also split into groups and had lively discussions about the different points of view of the citizens of Camelot as part of English, as we decided if all of the public might feel the same way about the mysterious death of the Lady of Shalott, and what their different reaction might be. Did they side with the King and his knights? Or were they more worried about their own safety? It was an excellent exercise, and they produced an exciting range of arguments and counter arguments that I am excited to see pop up again in their next Big Write. In ICT we continued to program our own maze game, and discovered how to code our pixel character to move by using the cursor keys! To finish the week, the children took part in our first cross-country event and the children cheered on their teammates, showing that fantastic Aston Rowant support.

GRATITUDE

RESILIENCE

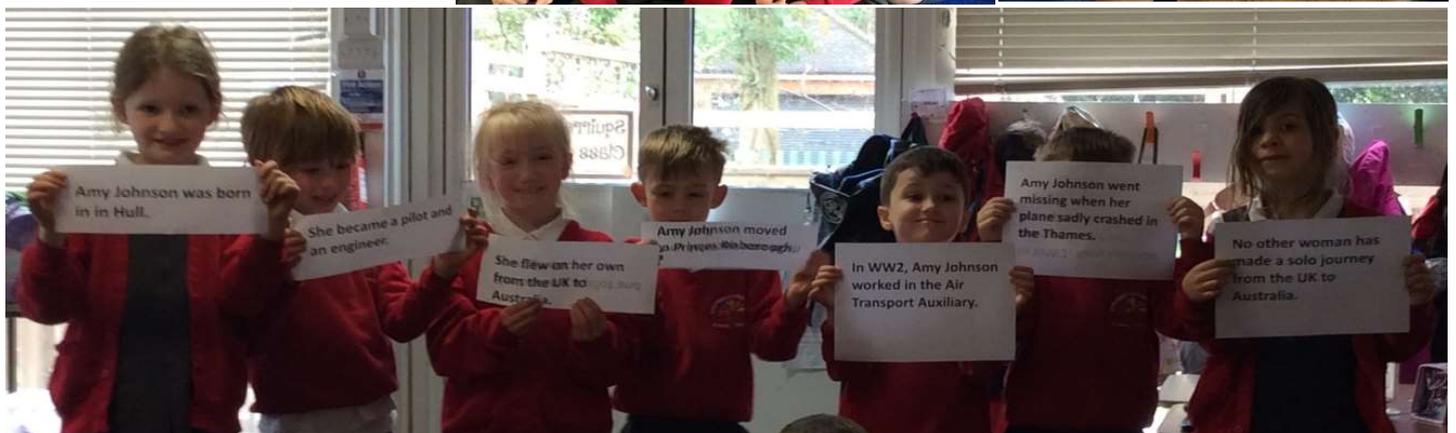
OUTREACH

WONDER

TRUST

HARMONY

Photo Diary of the Week



GRATITUDE

RESILIENCE

OUTREACH

WONDER

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HARMONY

Amy Johnson was born in Hull.

She became a pilot and an engineer.

She flew on her own from the UK to Australia.

Amy Johnson moved to Australia.

In WW2, Amy Johnson worked in the Air Transport Auxiliary.

Amy Johnson went missing when her plane sadly crashed in the Thames.

No other woman has made a solo journey from the UK to Australia.





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Whole School Topic: Spring Term: Once Upon a Time

Values: Outreach

In Collective Worship this week we looked at how Jesus shows kindness and compassion to us when we are in need. We looked at the story of the Lost Sheep who is rescued by the shepherd. We looked at how Jesus is the Good Shepherd who comes to find us and bring us back to him.

‘Jesus said, “I will never leave you. I will always be by your side” Hebrews 13:5

Climate Warriors Challenge

‘Our world needs climate action on all fronts: everything, everywhere, all at once.’

Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary-General, on the release of the IPCC ‘Synthesis Report’ this week.

It’s Earth Hour this Saturday @ 8.30 pm (local time). Join this global initiative, supported by millions of people in over 190 countries around the world - the ‘BIGGEST HOUR FOR EARTH’. What will Young Climate Warriors do this Earth Hour ... check out ‘This week’s challenge’ for some suggestions.

Could an HOUR change the world?

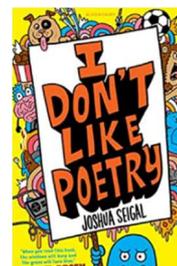
Could it remind us that time is precious?

Could it be the spark we need for change?

Could it remind of us our potential if we ALL act together – doing everything, everywhere, all at once?

Book Review – I don’t like poetry by Joshua Seigal

As a class we have been enjoying poetry this half term and this book is jam-packed full of great poems to make you laugh, think and wonder. If you love Michael Rosen then this book is for you. There are poems on every topic from the power of reading to the joy of fried chicken. A favourite from our class is on the topic of bottoms – I’ll say no more.... His book is perfect for anyone who doesn’t like poetry, it will definitely change your mind!



Happiness Calendar: Mindful March

This month, we’re encouraging you to try something new! You can find this month’s happiness calendar [here](#).

Housepoints

<i>House</i>	<i>This Week</i>	<i>Total</i>
Bethlehem	62	249
Eden	37	185
Galilee	63	193
Jerusalem	48	190



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Emails and Letters Sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
22 nd March	Email	All Classes	PTA	Film Afternoon
22 nd March	Email	Owl Class	The Office	Cycle training
23 rd March	Email	All Classes	The Office	Book Look reminder
23 rd March	Email	All Classes	The Office	Wraparound Care form

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

March	
Mon 27 th – Fri 31 st	RE Enrichment Week
Friday 31 st	9am Spring Service in church 10am Easter Egg Hunt in school 1:30pm School finishes for Easter break 1:30 PTA film night
April	
Monday 17 th	Summer term begins
Thursday 20 th	Hedgehog class trip to Tiggywinkles Wildlife Hospital
Friday 21 st	Year 5 Cycling starts - also on 28 th , 5 th May, 10 th , 11 th , 12 th , 19 th - Test 22nd
May	
Friday 5 th	Coronation picnic and games for families of Aston Rowant School on school field
Tue 9 th – Fri 12 th	Year 6 SATs
June	
Friday 9 th	Year 6 Cycling starts - also on 16 th , 23 rd , 30 th , 7 th July and 14 th – Test 17th

Academic Year Calendar 2022-23

Autumn 22	
Tues 6 th Sept – Thurs 20 th Oct	Autumn Term (1)
Mon 24 th – Fri 28 th October	HALF TERM
Mon 31 st Oct – Tue 20 th Dec	Autumn Term (2)
Spring 23	
Wed 4 th Jan – Fri 10 th Feb	Spring Term (1)
Monday 13 th – Fri 17 th February	HALF TERM
Tues 21 st Feb - Fri 31 st Mar	Spring Term (2)
Summer 23	
Mon 17 th April - Thu 25 th May	Summer Term (1)
Mon 29 th May – Fri 2 nd June	HALF TERM
Mon 5 th June - Fri 21 st July	Summer Term (2)