

*10th March 2023*

## *British Science Week*

Hello to all parents and carers of Aston Rowant! I'm lucky enough to be taking over the front page of the newsletter to let you know all about our amazing children's participation in British Science Week.



British Science Week is a ten-day, school-led celebration of all things science, with hundreds of schools across the UK taking part, and sharing their activities. Great Britain is a science leading country on the world stage, and science will no doubt provide many of the employment opportunities and answers to issues we may

face now or later. That is why it is vital that we, as educators, foster and develop a love of asking questions, creating investigations and forming ideas. This sounds heady, but the way that BSW delivers this message is simply through fun!

We have been running a range of small investigations across this week, from egg rolling, bridge building, space rainbows (which may or may not exist- ask your children!) to data gathering treasure hunts, and, best of all, have held an in-depth, multi-system investigation brilliantly organised and expertly run by Mrs Aktins with fantastic support from more Aston Rowant parents: Mrs Jones, (Oliver, Matilda and Oscar's mummy), Mrs Marriot (Laila-Beth's mummy), Mrs Fincham, (Oliver, Alfie and Riley's mummy), Dr Jones (Aava's daddy), and Mrs Lytzen (Zachary & Toby's mummy), Mrs Funnell



(Joshua & Zoe's mummy) and Mrs Sophie Green (Monty's mummy), as they so generously gave their time, paper and colour printers, to enable the children to each have a fab set of coloured stickers and a fully colour activity book, all about elements, compounds and mixtures to use and reflect on, after the workshop. Hopefully these workbooks have already found their way home so that the children can show you exactly what they did, and how each investigation was performed.



This is just one more example of how lucky we are here at Aston Rowant Primary School: we have such an incredible community surrounding us, both working at and with the school to create wonderful memories, experiences and opportunities for the children.

I hope you enjoy seeing everything that the children got up to this week!

*Kind regards*

*Mr Manning, Owl Class teacher and Science Lead*



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Headteacher: Mrs Helen France

## *Teaching and Learning in the Classrooms this week:*



### *Hedgehog Class:*

It has been an eggs-citing science week in Hedgehog class. Our eggs-periments have centred around the properties of eggs as we await our chicks next week. We have been asking lots of good questions and carrying out our own investigations. Some of us wanted to find out about the weight of an egg. We had lots of fun measuring and comparing different eggs only to realise they don't all weigh the same! We then had a very concerned letter from the little red hen asking us to make some kind of protection for her eggs. We tested the cushioning skills of lots of different materials and found out that foam and cardboard egg boxes are among the best. We looked at how eggs changed when they were immersed in different liquids with some very unexpected results and found out that eggs are strong enough to support ..... books!!! The children came away from the week buzzing with more questions and things they want to find out so we may continue next week! There was even time to fit in some fabulous factual writing about their pets, learn about recycling and use number patterns to make staircases using towers of 5 and 'a bit!' What an 'eggs'cellent week! (sorry!)



### *Squirrel Class:*

It has been a super science week at Aston Rowant and Squirrel class have thoroughly enjoyed all the different activities on offer. We started the week creating our own telephones and investigating how sound travels. It was great fun to talk to our partners from over 2m away! We also discovered that there are rainbows in space (if you have light and water) and created our own rainbow colour emotion wheels. Later in the week we completed an egg rolling experiment, investigating which materials would help an egg travel furthest and fastest down a ramp. We concluded that shiny wrapping paper did the job best and learned about the force of friction and how to ensure a fair test. English lessons this week saw the children working collaboratively to plan a diary entry and the children will now publish them independently. In maths lessons we have been learning times tables, with a focus on the 2x, 5x and 10x tables and discovering how bar models and math drawings can help us when working out word problems. Lastly, our history learning was a fun map reading activity where the children had to search for buried cheese in the school field...Samuel Pepys would have been proud!



### *Fox Class:*

It may have been cold outside this week but our classroom has been a hive of scientific activities giving the children the opportunity to keep their brains warmed up and working! Recapping on their Sound topic, children investigated which material would carry sound the best, moving on to who could build the strongest bridge using just 5 pieces of paper. Some managed to hold over 300g! During the TrashMob we worked with Owl class to investigate the litter situation in Aston Rowant and discovered the main source of litter were snack wrappers. Within our science topic we were asked by Kevin, a hotdog seller, to investigate the viscosity and taste of different ketchups – you can imagine the smell within our classroom! In our English lesson, we focussed on using inverted commas and added some new speech to The Iron Man after acting out the scene first. We also thought about how we could show but not tell emotions in our writing too. A big thank you too to Ellie's mum and helpers for making our Thursday afternoon so entertaining and informative during our Chemical Detectives session. Who knows - we could have future criminologists in the class!



### *Owl Class:*

Wow! What week! We truly have a bunch of budding scientists in Owl class, as the children explored a range of activities across the week that provoked, explored and challenged scientific thinking! As the theme of British Science Week was 'Connections', we looked at a range of possible experiment: using prisms created with a mirror and a glass of water to see how rainbows are created, and then creating hypothesis' s around if a rainbow could form in the vacuum of space, to creating a bridge out of 5 paper sheets and seeing how strong it could be: how could the children shape and adapt their designs to hold the most weight, and for the longest time. This got very competitive! We even braved the sleet and cold to gather data (litter) from our local area as part of the Surfers Against Sewage Trash Mob, so that we could explore the links between nature and science, and how we might use our science skills to change this in the future. Elsewhere in the class, English saw the children explore how to craft journalistic sentences, and plan to convert your back gardens into Dig for Victory allotments in History.

**GRATITUDE**

**RESILIENCE**

**OUTREACH**

**WONDER**

**TRUST**

**HARMONY**

***Photo Diary of the Week***



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*Science Enrichment Week Photos*





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## Whole School Topic: Spring Term: Once Upon a Time

### Values: Outreach

In Collective Worship this week we looked at having the courage to care. We encouraged the children to think about what they could do, perhaps at home, to show their kindness and love for others. Sometimes we are tempted to think that a problem is too big for just one person to solve alone or when we face difficulties or worries that we are all alone, but if we can reach out to others we can work together to make life a little easier.

*'Whatever you did for one of your brothers you did also for me.'* Matt 25:40

### Climate Warriors Challenge

'It is in your hands to create a better world for all who live in it' and 'It always seems impossible until it's done' - Nelson Mandela.

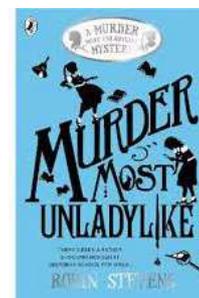
Nearly 1 in 4 new cars sold in the UK in February 2023 were plug-ins. The end of the internal combustion engine in cars is now beginning to look possible. \*Government, businesses and individuals are working together to combat climate change!\*

Hot off the press ... An Oxford Professor of Inorganic Chemistry has predicted that batteries made from seawater, and planes fuelled by ammonia, will become common in the next 10 – 20 yrs. \*Scientists are on the case!\*

It's in our hands ... even if it might seem impossible right now. We need to stick with it, and take action today wherever and whenever we can.

### Book Review - 'Murder Most Unladylike' by Robin Stevens, reviewed by Connie, in Owl Class.

Summary: This is about two girls named Hazel Wong and Daisy Wells who try to find out who murdered Miss Bell and Miss Tennyson. This is really exciting, dramatic and I think it is aimed at years 5 and 6, or older, because it deals with more grown up stuff like murders. I recommend this book because each time I put it down, I wanted to pick it back up again and keep reading!



### Strike Days

We are waiting for confirmation that the NEU strikes are definitely going ahead next week. If they are, I can confirm that Aston Rowant School will be closing on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March. We will however be open for key worker children and vulnerable children. We will let you know as soon as we are able to.

### 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	41	154
Eden	24	129
Galilee	51	111
Jerusalem	30	118

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

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
6 <sup>th</sup> March	Email	All classes	School Health Nurse Team	Newsletter
7 <sup>th</sup> March	Email	All classes	The Kids Packed Lunch Company	New order form
9 <sup>th</sup> March	Email	All classes	The Office	Parent Consultations

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

<b>March</b>	
Monday 13th	8.15pm PTA meeting – The Inn at Emmington
Tuesday 14th	2.50pm PTA Secondhand Uniform Sale in the hall
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> and Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Possible strike days
Friday 17th	Fox and Owl class trip to Science Oxford - NO Celebration Assembly
Tues 21st / Wed 22nd	Parents' evenings
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup>	2:30 pm Children's work and books available for parents to look at with children.
Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 31 <sup>st</sup>	RE Enrichment Week
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup>	Friday 9am Spring Service in church School Closes 1:30pm 1:30 PTA film night
<b>April</b>	
20 <sup>th</sup> April	Hedgehog class trip to Tiggywinkles Wildlife Hospital

***Academic Year Calendar 2022-23***

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