



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 February 2023

From the Head Teacher

We have lots of fun and exciting things coming up in the next few weeks.

World Book Day

We are celebrating World Book Day on Wednesday 1st March. This year we would like everyone to come dressed as a word! It might be the word 'construction' so come dressed as a builder! How about the word 'brave'? Maybe you could come as a superhero! Choose your clothes to match your word and wear your word with pride! We will be building an Aston Rowant thesaurus of words during the day. We would also love everyone to bring a book to school that they have read, enjoyed but are happy to swap. During the day each House will get the opportunity to peruse the book and take home a new one. Obviously if you are happy to bring more than one even better! Any books not taken will be available after school to 'buy' and any donations made will go towards updating our library books.



Science Week

We have moved our Science Enrichment Week a week earlier to week commencing 6th March. This year's theme is 'Connections'. All of the classes have planned a number of fun and hands on activities, we are sure that the children will tell you all about the things that they have done! We will also tell you more in our weekly newsletter. We are delighted that Mrs Atkins, Mrs Funnel and Dr Wainwright are running a Chemistry workshop for all KS2 on Thursday 9th March. Finally, KS2 are going to Science Oxford on Friday 17th March. There is a lot to look forward to!



DT

If you have any spare material, any size, then we would love donations for forthcoming DT projects.

Cross Country

Coming soon! We are going to be running, sorry I couldn't resist the pun, an inter-house cross country competition. Details to follow soon.



Playtimes

We have recently had feedback from both parents and children that more structured playtimes may help some of our children. We wanted to let you know that we have listened to that feedback. We have trained up some new Playground Leaders from Owl Class and have formed a rota with both the children and staff team to have structured games and play zones on the playground. We are investing in new equipment too. We have a new mud kitchen that we are setting up and would love any old saucepans and cooking implements that you could spare.



Key Areas of Information about Aston Rowant School: How does the school make parents aware of what their child will learn during the year?

The school sends out a termly year group curriculum newsletter to parents explaining what will be taught in every subject for that term. These are also on the year group page of the website. The school has a curriculum section on the school website. Every subject has its own page with information about what is taught and how it is taught. The newsletter also ensures that we update you regularly on all the fun things that we are learning.

Strike Action

You may be aware that the NEU are proposing further strike action on Thursday 2nd March. At the moment we do not know the implication for our school, but I wanted to raise awareness that learning may be disrupted on this date. I will be in touch as soon as I know more.

Kind regards

Mrs France

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Teaching and Learning in the Classrooms this week:



Hedgehog Class:

What a lovely start to the new term. We have already immersed ourselves in our topic for this term; “Paws, claws and Whiskers”, which is all about how to care for animals. We are very excited to have been given the responsibility of looking after the Little Red Hen’s eggs while she is on holiday! We have been predicting what we think will happen to them and learning how to look after them. Her eggs are safe with us! We have also been learning to tell the story of ‘The Little Red Hen’ using expression, varied language and clear speaking voices. We have made paper bag puppets to complement our storytelling. Keep your eye out for our video on the website!



Squirrel Class:

What a fabulous first week! We welcomed a new member to our class, who has had a brilliant start and got stuck in with lots of learning and forging new friendships. Our new topic of ‘The Great Fire of London’ has fired up our English lessons this week. We have been reading the story of ‘Vlad and the Great Fire of London’ and learning lots of amazing facts about life in London 357 years ago. The class have excelled at some brilliant drama and role play and discussed some of the unusual language we discovered whilst reading extracts from the diary of Samuel Pepys. In Maths we have learnt about doubles and near doubles, and Y2 have continued learning about multiplication and division, with a focus on fact families. In Science we researched what animals need to survive, which led to some interesting discussions and amazing fact-files about mammals, birds, reptiles and insects. Well done Squirrels!



Fox Class:

It was great to see everyone back and excited to see what we were going to be learning about this half term. We also welcomed two new members into Fox Class and I was particularly impressed how the class demonstrated our value of Outreach ensuring they felt welcomed and included. We started this week looking at some very unusual metal items I found at the tip! Children described what they saw and had a go at guessing what they were used for using a range of subordinating conjunctions. Moving on, they now know why we looked at these metal items as our text this term is The Iron Man by Ted Hughes. Our maths over the next week or so is focussed on length and perimeter so any opportunity to discuss this at home would be great especially if you’re thinking of buying a new fence! In Science we understood what states of matter means and children enjoyed demonstrating how solids, liquid and gas particles act. Our geography is based on our local area and fieldwork, so children poured over maps and located where our school was and where they lived.



Owl Class:

Welcome back Owl Class! And a warm welcome to our new starter who has settled well into the class and is already making friends and positive contributions to Owl. We began this term by exploring the challenging piece of literature The Lady of Shalott, and have spent the week using roleplay, process drama, story maps and zones of understanding to really pick apart the ideas and themes that this classic poem contains: the children even prepared questions for a visit on the Hot Seat from Sir Lancelot (who looked suspiciously like Mr Manning...). the children onca again have really embraced these learning styles and have thrown themselves into the topic. I can’t wait to see what writing they produce later this half term! In Science, we were exploring our local area again to find different examples of wind pollinated plants, or insect pollinated plants, and then the children dissected a daffodil to identify the reproductive parts of a flower. This was a fantastic practical lesson, and once again I enjoyed all the ideas and excitement that the children brought to the lesson. In ICT we have begun to code a playable maze game, whilst in DT we will begin to use gears and cams to create a space toy! It’s another action-packed half-term here at Aston Rowant, as ever. A note for parents and carers; as Bike Safety lesson will be on the horizon soon, could the children ensure that they have fitting helmets and bikes sized to their current height.

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Photo Diary of the Week



Solid

Liquid

Gas





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Whole School Topic: Spring Term: Once Upon a Time

Values: Outreach

We have a new value for this term which is Outreach. In Collective Worship this week we looked at the word compassion, which is a combination of two words, 'com' which means *with* and 'passion' which can mean suffering. Compassion therefore means being with someone who is suffering or sad, trying to understand how they might be feeling and showing that you care about them.

'Clothe yourself with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.' Colossians 3:12

Climate Warriors Challenge

'Cutting food waste is a delicious way of saving money, helping to feed the world and protect the planet'. Tristram Stuart, author of 'Waste: uncovering the global food scandal'.

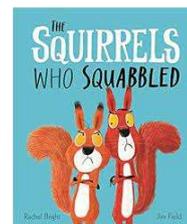
UK households throw away 6.6m tonnes of EDIBLE food each year – that's equivalent to cramming over 95 Albert Hall's full of food waste!!! – and that doesn't include the INEDIBLE waste.

Imagine walking out of the supermarket with four bags of shopping, dropping one in the car park, and just not bothering to pick it up. (Thanks to Dana Gunders, author of 'Waste-free kitchen')

It's time to do some detective work, ascertain which foods are being 'binned', and try out new recipes #lovefoodhatewaste.

Book Review - The Squirrels Who Squabbled by Rachel Bright - reviewed by Mrs Biggin

This cleverly titled book leapt off the shelf to me when I visited my local library recently. I have read a few of Rachel Bright's books and she never disappoints. This story follows two very different squirrels (Spontaneous Cyril and Plan Ahead Bruce) in their quest to gain the very last pinecone of the season. A perilous journey awaits them with dire consequences, unless they can learn the art of sharing and compromise to ensure a happy ending and a new friendship. Lots of laugh out loud moments and wonderful illustrations from Tim Field. A must read!



Fox and Owl Class trip to Science Oxford

If you have not yet already done so, please could you sign the permission slip for your child/children for the above trip and return to the office, (please use the post box outside the office door), please also make payment via ParentMail by the deadline of Friday 3rd March.

Happiness Calendar: Friendly February

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	45	45
Eden	42	42
Galilee	38	38
Jerusalem	43	43

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Emails and Letters Sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
23rd Feb	Email	All Classes	Watlington Library	Free event
24th	Email	All Classes	The Office	No Celebration Assembly
24th	Email	All Classes	PTA	Cake Raffle

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

March	
Wednesday 1 st	Weights and Measures Reception and Year 6
Wednesday 1 st	World Book Day – come dressed as a word! Bring a book to swap.
Mon 13 th – Fri 17 th	Science Enrichment Week
Friday 17 th	Fox and Owl class trip to Science Oxford
Tues 20 th Wed 21 st	Parents' evenings
Friday 24 th	2:30 pm Children's work and books available for parents to look at with children. Please note that to accommodate PTA film night this has moved a week forward.
Mon 27 th – Fri 31 st	RE Enrichment Week
Friday 31 st	School Closes 1:30pm 1:30 PTA film night
April	
20 th April	Hedgehog class trip to Tiggywinkles Wildlife Hospital

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)