



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

27th January 2023

From the Head Teacher

NSPCC Number's Day and Times Tables Rock Stars Relaunch



As you will have seen from the Diary Dates, Monday 6th February will be our NSPCC Numbers Day and Times Tables Rock Stars relaunch. We have lots of fun activities planned for this day, including Times Tables Rock Stars competitions. We would like the children to come dressed in either their best rock star outfit or, perhaps for the younger ones, as anything to do with numbers (for example a t-shirt covered in favourite number, or a character from *Numberblocks*). We will be raising money for the NSPCC so, if you can spare it, please can children bring with them a suggested donation of £1. It is a very worthwhile cause. Thank you.

Aston Rowant Book Swap!

On World Book Day, we would 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.



Garsington Opera



We were really fortunate to have Garsington Opera come into to school to run a workshop with Owl Class and also provide the children with the opportunity to audition for fully-funded places to join the Garsington Opera Youth Company. I am delighted to say that eight of our children were successful. Garsington Opera return in the summer term to to run a full day music and drama workshop for KS2 before we get to watch an interactive performance of *The Barber of Seville* at the opera house on the Wormsley Estate near Ibstone.

Parking

We have been asked to remind parents not to park their cars on the nearby village green. The green is private property and cars, when parking on the edge of, and totally on the green, are damaging it. Please could we ask that you all park considerately when dropping off and collecting from school. Thank you.



Key Areas of Information about Aston Rowant School: How can I raise concerns?

If a parent has a concern they can speak to the teacher informally at the end of the day or email them via the class email address. Parents can speak to class teachers about their child's progress at parents' evenings each term. You can also call or email the school office with a concern or to ask for an appointment or phone call with myself as Headteacher or with Mrs Vasey as SENCo. Each class has a parent class representative who can also ask questions or feedback key information.

We would ask parents not to approach other parents about their children. If you have a concern about the way another child is behaving or acting at school or about something you feel is happening between them and your child please speak with the class teacher to resolve it. It is much better for the teacher to speak to other parents having established a full and accurate picture of anything that has happened at school. It also helps to avoid unnecessary tension, worry, anger or upset between parents.

Kind regards

Mrs France

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Teaching and Learning in the Classrooms this week:



Hedgehog Class:

This week in Hedgehog class we have been practicing our number facts to 5 and using the language of number sentences like 'altogether' 'and' 'equals', whole and parts. The children were set challenges to demonstrate the partitions in creative ways. We had models, stories, songs and all sorts. Some of us used a system to make sure we had all the different ways. In English we are role-playing the story of the Chinese zodiac called 'The Great Race'. We are thinking about ways to perform the story through drama, film making and storytelling. This is helping us to practice our clear speech and being aware of the listener. We have been excited to start making our dragon puppets this week. We are practising skills such as covering our boxes or painting them to look like dragon heads. In phonics we enjoyed learning about plurals by adding an 's' to the end of words.



Squirrel Class:

An action-packed week was had in Squirrel Class. Our story retells of 'Town Mouse and Country Mouse' in English have now been completed in draft form and most children are now in the editing process. Some are even at the publishing stage and turning their writing into book form, with a front cover and blurb for the back – I can't wait to see the finished products. In maths we have been finishing up our learning on place value and money, in preparation for new learning next week on number lines and multiplication. We have also been exploring how to approach maths challenges and problems, looking at strategies such as trial and error or simply showing our working/thinking. In Geography we spent time looking at housing and homes in Aston Rowant and comparing them to those found in other localities. Science learning involved lots of movement and energy, as we investigated the effect of exercise on the human body. We predicted which activities would increase our heart rate and then tested it out...jumping jacks, running, lunges...a great workout for us all! Lastly, we looked at another artist famous for his abstract art – Wassily Kandinsky – and then created our own concentric circles using primary and secondary colours.



Fox Class:

Dragons feature highly again during this week in Fox Class. We continued our journey of using the possessive apostrophe but this week on plural nouns. Children were also excited to create their very own dragon and then become dragonologists in order to write their own report about it. In Maths, both year groups have been working on their multiplication and the inverse, division. In Music, the class were able to accompany our Dragon Song using the recorders in two parts – I was very impressed! Science is always an exciting lesson to teach as the class are so enthusiastic to investigate and explore. This week we were learning about how opposites attract and how the same poles repel; great vocabulary was used throughout the lesson. After last week's successful teamwork in building a Viking long ship, this week children learnt about what life was like in Viking times. They chose an area to explore then designed an information poster about it. Art produced some super results where we explored the use of shade in still life. Starting with a range of pencils from H to B, children carefully examined some fruit and drew the shade on the fruit and the table. We moved on to using felt tip pens to show shape, texture and shade.



Owl Class:

We are especially proud of our Owls this week, after our visit from the Garsington Opera team this Monday. The professional performers were really impressed the participation and talent on show from the children. The children were engaged and incredibly creative as they joined in the activities on offer. What was exceptional was that all the children were able to sing and perform in front of the professionals, which has resulted in eight places being offered in the Garsington Opera scheme: this is a fantastic opportunity for the children and will be something that they will always remember fondly! In other lessons, the Owls explored changes in the human body undergoes during puberty in Science, completed our flashback narrative Big Write in English and tasted some of the flavours of Mexico in Geography! You may have noticed some Bookflick cards coming home too: these are a fun way to encourage reading for pleasure at home. Each book that is read and reviewed earns a red sticker, and a full card earns a prize!

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Photo Diary of the Week





Whole School Topic: Spring Term: Once Upon a Time

Values: Trust

This week in Collective Worship we looked at how God's promises are true and that we can trust them. They are like sturdy platform that we can stand on. He tells us that when we pray to him, we will be listened to and will receive strength when we are facing hard times. He promises that nothing, absolutely nothing, can separate us from his love.

'I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you.' Isaiah 31:10
'Give all your worries to me because I care for you.' 1 Peter 5:7

Climate Warriors Challenge

This week has been World Environmental Education Day ... a great day for learning about our magnificent, mighty oceans, how they are struggling due to climate change, but also how they have much to offer in our mission to tackle it. This week's challenge is to explore and learn about our mighty oceans, as well as helping their families reduce their 'consumption' of plastic packaging.

There is a wealth of options and avenues to explore when talking about our oceans - we thought you might like these ones:

- [Ocean Cleanup project, Great Pacific Garbage Patch](#)
- [What on earth is Blue Carbon?, Conservation International](#)
- [Farming Seaweed, WWF](#)
- [Project Seagrass, Wales, BBC Bitesize](#) (scroll down for the video)

Absences

If your child is going to be absent from school due to illness, please email or call the school **before 8.45am that day**. Thank you.

Book Review - The Great Explorer by Chris Judge – reviewed by Hedgehog Class



- This is a good book because Tom has lots of adventures. (Oscar)
- I like it because I like that Tom rescues his own dad. (Elsie)
- It's a good book. (Jake)
- I like it because Tom went on different adventures. (Jos)
- I like that the boy saved his dad. (Rudi)
- I really liked that Tom was on an adventure and there was a polar bear. (Annie)
- I liked the bit where Tom saw his dad in the tent and his leg was in a cast! (Barney)

Happiness Calendar: Happier January

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	28	92
Eden	29	91
Galilee	45	113
Jerusalem	29	101



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Emails and Letters Sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
23 rd Jan	Email	All Classes	The Office	Oxford Brookes Science Bazaar
24 th Jan	Email	All Classes	The Office	February Half Term Football Camp
25 th Jan	Email	All Classes	The Office	PTA Minutes
25 th Jan	Email	All Classes	The Office	Strike Action
27 th Jan	Email	All Classes	The Office	PTA School disco

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

January	
30 th Jan – 17 th Mar	Trainee teacher, Miss Harris, joins Squirrel Class working with Mrs Biggin
Mon 30 th – Fri 3 rd	Children's Mental Health Week
February	
Wednesday 1st February	NEU National Strike Day – school closed
Mon 6 th - Fri 10 th	ICT Enrichment Week including Internet Safety Day 7th
Monday 6 th	NSPCC's Numbers Day - and relaunch of TTRockstars. Dress up as a RockStar (£1 suggested donation for NSPCC). Competitions and maths activities.
Wednesday 8th February	Squirrel – meet the teacher 2:45pm
Fri 10 th	PTA Valentine's Disco
Mon 13 th – Fri 17 th	Half Term
Monday 20 th	INSET
March	
Wednesday 1 st	Weights and Measures Reception and Year 6
Wednesday 1st	World Book Day – come dressed as a word! Bring a book to swap.
Mon 13 th – Fri 17 th	Science Enrichment Week
Tues 20th Wed 21st	Parents' evenings
Friday 24th	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

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)

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