



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

20th January 2023

From the Head Teacher

Continuing with our new section of the newsletter sharing key information with you about the school, I am delighted to follow on from last week's look at the curriculum to consider:

Key Areas of Information about Aston Rowant School: How does the school support my child's wider personal development?

We work hard to provide a good all-round education and to promote talents and interests of individual children or as Ofsted put it, 'The school's curriculum is well thought out and aspirational.' This relates to the how we approach the national curriculum, explored in last week's newsletter, as well as the wider curriculum and our children's wider personal development.

The promotion of wellbeing and the human rights is woven through all aspects of school life. 'An exceptional culture exists where adults care and look out for every child.' Ofsted 2022. Through the curriculum (especially PHSE and RE) pupils develop a good understanding of different faiths and cultures and show respect and consideration for others. There are many opportunities for pupils to think about and express their feelings and to reflect on their learning and behaviour which helps to promote their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, which is a real strength of the school. Pupils are happy to work well together, again in the words of Ofsted, 'Pupils happily look out for each other'.

There are good opportunities for older pupils to take responsibility in school with various jobs and monitor positions such as House Captains, Worship Leaders, School Council roles, Eco Warriors, Play Leaders, Art Ambassadors etc. The school encourages pupils to be involved in making decisions (such as the school's vision and values and choosing the school charity) and contribute to school policy (such as the Behaviour Policy). This is part of the underlying respect for children that underpins the school's vision and values. 'It may be a small school but everyone has big ideas. The school's strapline of 'growing together' encourages pupils to do this' Ofsted 2022.

Pupils enjoy a wide range of experiences through curriculum days, residential trips, visits, speakers, special days and weeks, clubs, sports and music. Forest Friday allows pupils to be more confident and engage in different learning styles and methods. 'Pupils fight for climate change as 'eco warriors'. Pupils are immersed in opera, chess and charity work.' Ofsted 2022.

Through annually planned events, weekly assemblies, the RE curriculum, PHSE and music, pupils have opportunities to explore values and beliefs. They learn to respect their own feelings and beliefs and those of others. The curriculum allows children to reflect on the values and beliefs of others today, in different countries and in different periods of history. Guest speakers and visits to places of worship enhance spiritual understanding. We celebrate significant experiences such as birthdays and different religious festivals and ensure that children have the opportunity to feel special and valued. Our IT lessons coupled with Internet Safety Day and Anti Bullying Week ensure that pupils help our children feel safe when using technology and social networks.

Our pupils have a strong sense of right and wrong which is promoted in assemblies, through our rewards systems, our behaviour management and most importantly through our six GROWTH values. Pupils apply these principles to their own lives and have high expectations of each other. The School Council impacts on behaviour in school and fund-raising events and help to choose the charities we support each year—giving the children a chance to help and understand the circumstances of those less fortunate than themselves and Eco Warriors provide awareness of ourselves and the world around us.

I make no apology for keep coming back to the opening line of our recent Ofsted report, 'Every child is known and believed in at Aston Rowant.' This is the external validation of how we approach the wider personal development of each child.

Strike Action

You may be aware from media coverage that the NEU have declared strike action, which will take place on four possible dates, the first of which is Wednesday 1st February. The strike is happening because of a national dispute between the unions and the government and not because of any issues at our school. 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

GRATITUDE

RESILIENCE

OUTREACH

WONDER

TRUST

HARMONY



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Teaching and Learning in the Classrooms this week:



Hedgehog Class:

In Hedgehog class we have been very excited to welcome our visitor Bo Chen who is a panda all the way from Beijing in China. He has come to teach us all about his country and to learn some English from us. We have enjoyed writing questions that we would like to ask him and using google to translate them into Chinese. In Maths we have been building stairs thinking about the relationship between consecutive numbers being '1 more'. We have used lots of different equipment to build our own steps too. We have listened and moved to Chinese music thinking about the different instruments they use. We are also having lots of fun designing our dragon puppets and thinking about the materials we will need. Next week we will need lots of big boxes please. We would also be grateful for spare fabric. Thank you!



Squirrel Class:

This week in English we have started to write our own versions of the classic story 'The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse', with a focus on using expanded noun phrases. The children have done brilliantly, with lots of fabulous writing and editing taking place each day. I can't wait to read all the finished stories! In Maths lessons we have been exploring place value and money, finding different ways to make the same amounts and discussing how number facts and bonds really help us to become more efficient mathematicians. Please make use of the Numbots and Times Tables Rock Star logins that were sent home this week, as they're a brilliant tool to consolidate all our learning in school. Science lessons this week were based on life cycles, and we explored how different animals grow. Miss Ceapa also showed us a great tip to remember the different butterfly life cycle stages. Our Humanities learning is based on our local area, and we used Google Earth and other maps to find Aston Rowant School. We then had a go at creating our own aerial map of the school grounds. Finally, in Art we used different mediums to create our own spiral art, exploring colour and design whilst taking inspiration from spirals found in nature all around us.



Fox Class:

In Fox Class this week in English we have been writing about the Thunder Dragon and learning how to entice the reader to read more; making our sentence openers exciting, asking the reader questions and using a wide range of interesting vocabulary. They have enjoyed being able to use their imagination! Times tables have also been key this week with children dividing and multiplying two-digit numbers – this can only be possible if the knowledge is there. Please support your children in learning their times tables by either using the Times Table Rockstars or visiting our class page on the website for more ideas and games. In Science we learnt about magnets and how they can attract and repel without necessarily touching the objects. Isadora and Joan even managed to draw a picture without touching the paper themselves! All directed by magnets under the table! Children learnt what great shipbuilders the Vikings were and the benefits of the longship and even had a go themselves! In Forest School, Owl and Fox Class have been making their own totems! The first step was choosing the perfect stick and then whittling it to the design of their choice before adding on some colour with cotton. Next week we will be adding more embellishments. In RE we looked at the parable of the mustard seed and saw for ourselves how tiny they are. We have planned them and hope that, like our faith, they grow. Finally in Art, we've been looking at how to use texture and shade in our drawing for still life. Children are really engaged and it's a great way to end a busy week.



Owl Class:

In Owl Class, the children have begun to plan and build towards their Big Write using flashback, really looking into how dialogue can reveal so much more about a character than simple description. We have a motto for narrative writing: 'show, don't tell'. The children experimented adapting sample dialogue to be said in different ways: we had ideas such as 'hissed' 'spat' 'mumbled' 'stuttered', all hugely effective. I really look forward to reading the Big Writes that include these sentences! In Science, we looked at the gestation periods of mammals, and were shocked to find out that mother elephants carry their offspring for over two years! In Art, we began to adapt our Mexican themed, Hoichol inspired art from pastel patterns on paper, into woollen collages on card, which was really challenging but exceptionally rewarding! If your Owl comes home covered in PVA and bits of wool, this is how it happened!

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Photo Diary of the Week





Whole School Topic: Spring Term: Once Upon a Time

Values: Trust

Trust is the foundation on which friendship is built. But sometimes we can feel disappointed by our friends. Perhaps they haven't done what they promised they would do, or maybe we thought they would stand by us when life was difficult and they didn't. We looked at that whilst human beings can be unreliable the Psalmist reminds us that God will never disappoint us.

'My God is my strength in whom I trust.' Psalm 18:2

Climate Warriors Challenge

On 30th December 2022, the UK hit a new 'zero carbon' electricity record. Wind farms provided 61% of UK electricity that day. Now is the time for our islands, with their huge potential for wind and wave power, to show the world how to tackle the cost of living crisis and the climate crisis at the same time.

Young Climate Warriors are challenged to reduce fossil fuel consumption - to 'keep the heat in, and carbon emissions down' – by helping their family draw their curtains at dusk, and shut the door on draughts.

World Book Day - dress as a word!



This year, rather than coming dressed as a book character, 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! Let's see what fabulous word collectors you can be – wouldn't it be great if we could all have a different word and build an Aston Rowant thesaurus of words!

Book Review - Bad Dad by David Walliams, Recommended by Russell Year 5

It's all about one terrible Dad, who is very rough, but ends up with a wooden leg! He's also very poor, so he and his son join a criminal mob to get money, but end up being pranked. I really liked this book because it has scary bits and adventure bits, and I like adventure and horror the best. It also has funny bits in it too.

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	38	64
Eden	39	62
Galilee	46	68
Jerusalem	41	72



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Emails and Letters Sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
19 th Jan	Email	All Classes	The Office	Telephone problems

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

January	
Mon 23 rd	AM – Owl Class Oral Health PM – Owl Class Garsington Opera workshop and auditions
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	
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.
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
Thursday 2 nd	World Book Day – come dressed as a word!
Mon 13 th – Fri 17 th	Science Enrichment Week
Mon 27 th – Fri 31 st	RE Enrichment Week
Friday 31 st	1:00-1:30 pm Children's work and books available for parents to look at with children. School Closes 1:30pm

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)