



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

13th January 2023

From the Head Teacher

Homework

We are aware that a number of children are finding it tricky to complete their homework even with a week to do so. It is a key part of their learning experience and is important to support the learning that takes place in the classroom. Homework for all three classes is due in on a Monday. We are aware that occasionally it can be forgotten. For any homework not completed and handed in by the Tuesday we are creating a homework club. Children will be given the opportunity to complete their homework in school with all of the resources that they need readily available.



Allergy reminder

Just to remind everyone that we have a number of children in school with various food allergies which means that we are a 'nut free' school. Please do check your child's packed lunch carefully. Please can you also ensure that you keep us up to date of any allergies or medical needs/conditions that your child may have. Thank you.



Keep in Touch



We want to work in partnership with all families to offer the best support and learning environment for all of our children. Please do let us know if:

There has been change of contact details: If anyone has been lucky enough to have a new phone for Christmas, please make sure that Mrs Coates has the details so that we can update our contact systems. Also if you have any changes to your address or email details. Thank you.



Changes in medical needs: Has your child been recently diagnosed with anything that school should know about? Are they now Asthmatic and require an Asthma Care Plan? All these things school should be aware of. If your child requires medication a form must be completed before school can administer anything.



Changes in circumstances: If you feel there has been a change within the family which you think could affect your child and we should be aware of please let us know. By us understanding we can monitor your child and help if required.

Birdwatch

On Friday 10th February the whole school will be taking part in a Birdwatch. Please could all children, over the next couple of weeks, bring in a small amount of bird food, to enable us to start attracting the birds ready for that Friday? Please note, the bird food **MUST NOT** contain any nuts as we have a child with a severe nut allergy in school. Please be careful that any mixed bird food you find does not contain any. Thank you.



Key Areas Of Information: Is there a good range of subjects available at Aston Rowant?

For the next few weeks we will be having a new section on the newsletter highlighting key areas of information that is useful to know. If you have any key questions that you would answering please do let me know. This week we are looking at the curriculum we teach. There is an excellent range of subjects available at Aston Rowant. All national curriculum subjects are taught: Maths, English, Science, Music, French, Art, DT, IT, History, Geography, PHSE, R.E and P.E. PE is run by external coaches and many subjects, like RE and French, are taught by subject specialists. We also run Forest Friday each week for every year from Reception to Year 6. Children go swimming in Year 5 and 6. Our website has a curriculum page that outline what each subject looks like at Aston Rowant School and each class page has the topic web for each term.

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 had a very cultural week getting stuck into our topic on China. This week we have been learning about how Chinese New Year is celebrated. We used some books, videos and songs to help us learn some facts and then we wrote a collaborative letter to Larry's Pen Pal in Beijing. The children had lots of fun making Chinese lanterns, trying some Chinese writing, and learning how to eat noodles using chopsticks in the Chinese restaurant. In our expressive Arts we have been researching and discussing different dragon puppets ready to make our own. We have also learnt a special song which shows us how to say Happy New Year in Mandarin. Gung Hey Fat Choy!



Squirrel Class:

We have had a busy week in Squirrel class, getting to know each other and hitting the ground running with our new learning this term. In Science we are studying Animals (Including Humans) and the class spent some time outside searching for animals in our local environment. A deer, numerous red kites, a robin redbreast and slugs were some of the highlights discovered by the children! We then classified the animals according to the animal groupings used by scientists. We also researched primary colours in Art, looking at the work of Piet Mondrian and his use of these in his abstract art. The children then designed their own pieces in their sketchbooks. A wonderful first week!



Fox Class:

What a week! After the surprise of finding a dragon's egg in the playground and a nightcam of a dragon in Aston Rowant, the class have been immersed in all things dragon! We learnt about the Aston Rowant Ridgeback dragon and were lucky enough to have some dragonologists in to talk about them! We're learning a dragon song in music and children played glockenspiels as part of the warmup. In Science, children learnt how to carry out a fair test looking at variables investigating what surface a protractor move best on. Lots of excitement, great teamwork and really great science talk was had. The Vikings were the topic of conversation in our History and children researched what they were like as warriors, drawing and labelling the key items of clothing and weaponry used. They even made their own Viking name! Finally in Art, children really enjoyed looking at the still life art of Paul Cezanne and noted key parts of his pictures in their sketchbooks using chalk pastels.



Owl Class:

In our first full week back, Owl class have been extremely busy getting immersed into their new topics: in Science, the children have separated information from data, and compared the growth of human babies over course of one year, separated by gender. The children then displayed this data as a line graph to clearly display both growth rates and then discussed what information we could gather from this data. In English, the children have been busy crafting effective flashback narratives, experimenting with story structure to create a broken timeline of a narrative in preparation for our Big Write, whilst in Maths year six are exploring ratio and how to express values in a ratio format, using juice as practical example, as Year 5 consolidate their division skills. Add in some really active PE with circuit and strength training, and our first full week back has been a super busy one!

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Photo Diary of the Week





Whole School Topic: Spring Term: Once Upon a Time

Values: Trust

We used our time in Collective Worship this week to introduce our new value for this half term, Trust. We can trust that God cares for us enough to want the best for us. We can take our needs, cares, hopes and dreams to Him and we will listen with all of his attention. and the Bible verse that we use as a school to understand it.

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

Climate Warriors Challenge

Stubborn optimism is a choice. Optimism is not the result of a success, it is the necessary input for addressing any challenge if we want a chance of success. Christiana Figueres, and Tom Rivett-Carnac Founders of Globaloptimism.com, and instrumental in achieving the UNFCCC Paris Agreement

2023 can be a year of hope, ambition, dreams and ideas ... it depends on our mindset, being a 'stubborn optimist' is a choice, what choice will you make? How about these big ticket items finally EU carbon taxes on imports, over \$360bn in US incentives to cut industrial carbon emissions, new leadership at the helm in Brazil heralding hope for the Amazon, scientists achieving a nuclear fusion breakthrough ...

Young Climate Warriors are challenged to take a blank page and fill it with their hopes, ideas, dreams and plans – and then squirrel it away – finding a hiding place where they can then search it out, or stumble across it in a few months or years, and see what they were thinking 'way back' in January 2023.

Book Review – Mrs Healy

The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane by Kate DiCamillo (Walker Books) 8+

Edward Tulane is an impressive and immaculate china rabbit. Abilene, his owner, adores and cares for him completely, but Edward does not return her love. Edward is self-centred, proud and heartless; he cares nothing for love.

Then, through a series of accidents Edward is separated from Abilene. His fine clothes, pride and his body are damaged as he passes through the hands of a fisherman, a homeless man and a farmer's daughter. He learns about love and experiences the pain that comes with loss and death. He wonders if he can bear to risk loving again.

Edward's journey, both physical and emotional, is movingly told and full of vibrant characters.

Each chapter is short and contains lots of opportunities for book talk. If you would like to borrow my copy, then please ask!



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	26	26
Eden	23	23
Galilee	22	22
Jerusalem	31	31



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Emails and Letters Sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
11 th Jan	Email	All Classes	The Office	Headlice
12 th Jan	Email	All Classes	The Office	Wrap Around Care Payments

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

January	
Wednesday 18 th	Bags to School
Wednesday 18 th	Governor's Vision and Values Meeting
Thursday 19 th	Choir resumes
Friday 20 th	PTA meeting in the school hall
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 6th	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 book character
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)