



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

16th December 2022

From the Head Teacher

Thank You



On behalf of the whole staff team I would like to thank you for the gifts, cards and encouraging messages that we have received this week. We are very grateful for your kindness.

Christmas Celebrations

Hedgehog Class were wonderful in both of their productions of 'Hey Ewe' this week. I hope that they are incredibly proud of their themselves for their acting and singing. It was truly a delight to watch. Do see the review written by one of our 'critics' on the penultimate page.

We are also looking forward to The Christingle service on Monday in church. Each child will have the opportunity to make their own Christingle on Monday and have been practicing various songs and carols for the service. Those children having music lessons on Thursdays will be playing as well as the first live performance of the adult and children choir. We hope to see as many as possible there for this whole school community event. I would like to take the opportunity to express my gratitude to Mrs Atkins for all her hard work with the choir and for playing at the service.



Christmas Parties and Party Food



We will be running our annual Christmas parties on the last day of term, with music, games and fun activities. We will be providing party snacks for the children with the profits made from Biscuit Fridays. Please note, The Kids Packed Lunch Company will still be providing food at lunchtime and those who bring in packed lunches should still do so.

Children can come to school on the day of their party wearing party clothes with sensible shoes please. Please make sure the party clothes are warm as we will still be outside for break and lunchtime.

Uniform

Despite the freezing temperatures and snow on the ground this week we have had a number of children without coats or a change of footwear. Please do ensure that the children are wrapped up warm with a change of footwear. We have continued to make the most of our beautiful grounds and have been outside each day, and therefore the children need to be dressed appropriately for break and lunchtime. We cannot let the children play in the snow if they do not have a change of footwear and it is a shame for them to miss out.



Stationery



We have had a number of children without the stationery items that they require for their learning this term. As a reminder KS1 and KS2 children need a pencil case with: pencil, pencil sharpener, rubber, ruler, glue stick, coloured pens/pencils. KS2 also need blue ink pens (no biro's). Please ensure that the children have spare pens or ink cartridges too. These make wonderful stocking fillers if the children are running low.

Safeguarding Matters

Finally, we know that some children have their own phones or will receive one for Christmas. There is a useful resource that has been developed by EE and is designed to help children keep themselves safe when using their phones (or indeed their parents' phones!) The link is: <https://eephonesmart.co.uk/>



Punctuality



Please note that the school day begins at 8:50am. That means that the children should be lined up on the MUGA at this time. We have had a number of children arriving after the gates have been locked and going straight to the office door. This should be an exception and not a routine. Not only does it mean that the children are not starting the day with the rest of their class and missing key learning time but it also takes valuable time from the office staff to let them in and escort them to the classroom. Please can you work with us to ensure that the school day starts promptly and efficiently.

Finally

All that remains for me to do is wish everybody a happy and safe Christmas and New Year. We look forward to seeing you back again on Wednesday 4th January 2023.



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 been having lots of Christmas crafty fun in Hedgehog Class this week. We have been blessed by the support of Fox Class for some of the week who worked with us to make gingerbread, carefully measuring ingredients and adjusting the consistency of the dough to ensure it made the perfect biscuit. They also helped us to make some Christmas tree decorations and completed a review of our nativity play (see below). To show off our amazing phonics progress we have made and written our own Christmas cards using our tricky word spellings and clever sounding out to write personal messages. We have also been making books of the 'The very first Christmas' by composing and writing sentences in sequence. Our teachers are extremely proud of our outstanding Nativity performances this week and would like to thank the parents for all their hard work on the costumes. They think we all deserve a much-needed rest this weekend!



Squirrel Class:

We have had a wonderful last few days together enjoying the beautiful scenery. The wintery weather has inspired us to write acrostic and shape poems. In Maths we have investigated the properties of 2D and 3D shapes. The children were able to find real examples of these around the school. We would like to thank you for your kind words, cards and gifts. We wish you all a very happy Christmas and all the best for the coming term.



Fox Class:

A slightly unusual week in Fox Class this week. Children were excited to write using 'The Polar Express', using the book and film as stimulus. Lots of Christmassy activities filled our week but Friday saw an exciting turn of events. Our classroom had become a crime scene! When we entered there were pieces of munched carrot and strange round brown things on our tables! An email then arrived containing a video from Father Christmas who had noticed that his SantaCam had been triggered from our classroom. Three very naughty reindeer had managed to get into our classroom and have a great time dancing on the tables! Father Christmas asked us to write back what we found which the children duly did!



Owl Class:

The fabulous weather enabled Owl Class to take their own walk in Narnia. We used all five senses to experience first-hand the frozen scene that the Snow Queen rides into. This enabled us to produce some wonderful descriptions in our Big Writing. In Maths we were challenged to make our own flexangles, which are flexible polyhedron connecting 6 tetrahedra on opposite edges into a cycle. This tested our visual awareness and our shape recognition as well as our resilience! In RE we completed our unit on 'What is Best for Our World' by designing our own global charities. We created our own vision and mission statements and thought through how we could make a real difference to the world. Finally, in Art and DT we made our own Christmas crackers as well as painting Owls and making nests for them. It may have been cold outside but we have been far too busy to notice!

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Photo Diary of the Week



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Whole School Topic: Autumn Term: Great Expectations

Values: Gratitude

In Collective Worship this week we took time to remember that we may have a lot to be grateful for this Christmas but that there are others known to us, and not known to us, near to us and far away that have less to be grateful for. There are many for whom Christmas can be a difficult time. We looked at how sometimes the smallest things can make the biggest difference.

'For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.'
John 3:16

School absences

If your child is going to be absent from school due to illness, please email or telephone the office (there is an answerphone to leave a message) **before 8.45am at the latest**. The office hours are 8.30am to 3.30pm, but the answerphone is always on. If your child is off ill for a second or third day you still need to let us know every morning before this time, we cannot assume that because they have not come in, they are still poorly. Please do not ask a sibling to pass on the details of their poorly brother or sister to a teacher. Thank you.

Nativity Review – “Hey Ewe” (The Nativity) Performed by Hedgehog Class, Reviewed by Aava

On Monday, I had the pleasure of watching the Nativity play by Hedgehog Class about Jesus being born. I found it outstanding how well the narrators also played the part of sheep and angels. Angel Gabriel was played beautifully by Sloane. Mary, Joseph and the Donkey were played very well by Finetta, Harry and Reuben.

The singing was perfect! I could hear all the words perfectly. My absolute favourite part of the play was when the kings handed out the three presents – gold, frankincense and myrrh - to the baby Jesus. The shepherds, sheep and the emperor were also excellent.

The actors were just brilliant, especially for children of four and five! Just for everything they did, I think all of them deserved the huge round of applause.

Happiness Calendar: Do Good December

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	51	345
Eden	47	349
Galilee	46	341
Jerusalem	42	345

Congratulations to **Eden** who are the winners for this half term!



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Emails and Letters Sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
13 th Dec	Email	Year 6	The Office	Dental survey
14 th Dec	Email	All Classes	The Office	Wrap Around Care booking form
15 th Dec	Email	All Classes	The Office	Spring Term Football Club

Diary Dates Autumn/Spring Term 2022-23 (New or revised dates in bold)

December	
Monday 19 th	5.30pm Christingle for whole school in church followed by mulled wine and mince pies
Tuesday 20 th	Christmas party 1:00 Hamper raffle in hall 1:30 Break up for Christmas
January	
Wednesday 4 th	Spring Term begins
Wednesday 18 th	Bags to School
Friday 20 th	PTA meeting in the school hall
February	
Mon 6 th - Fri 10 th	Children's Mental health Week
Fri 10 th	Valentine's Disco

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)