



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

9th December 2022

From the Head Teacher

PTA Christmas Jumper Day

Thank you to all of the children who looked amazing in their Christmas jumpers today and donated to the PTA Christmas hampers. Don't forget to buy your tickets, the draw will be on the last day of term.



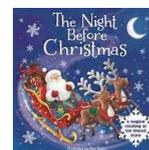
Giving Christmas Cards



There are post boxes in the playground and classroom for children to put in Christmas cards for their friends. These will be delivered to the different classrooms by the Aston Rowant elves! We don't allow children to give out the cards in class as this can take up valuable learning time. If your child wants to bring in cards – please remind them to put them in the post box with the recipient's full name and class on it.

An alternative to cards

Another lovely thought (an eco-friendly idea) is that instead of spending money on cards this year – you could buy a Christmas/wintery book and donate it to the class from your child. You can wrap the book up as a present and write a label to the class on the parcel. Inside the book you could write a message inside the front cover saying it is to the whole class from your child at Christmas 2022. You could even design your own bookplate from your child and stick that inside the book.



Staff News

Mrs Harriman and her family are moving back to her home in the North East ahead of her daughter starting Year 7, which means that we are sad to say that she will be leaving us at Christmas. We are sorry to see her go and are grateful for the incredible work that she has done in Squirrel Class during her time with us. We wish her and her family the very best for their new adventures. Mrs Harriman's last day in school will be Friday 15th December.

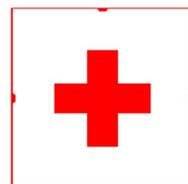


We look forward to welcoming Mrs Biggin who starts as the new Squirrel Class teacher from January. Mrs Biggin's teaching pattern will be the same as it was for Mrs Harriman last year with her teaching Mondays to Thursday and I will be teaching on Fridays. I also want to take the opportunity to thank Miss Bravington who has been a fantastic support in that class this half term and a valued member of the team until Mrs Biggin could start with us. Mrs Harriman, Miss Bravington and Mrs Biggin are having a handover in school on Friday 15th December, this will also be Miss Bravington's last day with us.

Mrs Jones, our SENCo, recently took on a Deputy Head role in a local school and from the New Year has decided to focus purely on that role. We are grateful for her juggling the two roles this term and for her hard work with a number of our children and families. We are delighted to say that we have recruited an experienced SENCo, Mrs Vasey, who starts with us in January. We look forward to welcoming her to the team.

Group A Streptococcus (Strep A)

Many of you will have seen in the news the tragic stories involving some primary school aged children and the Strep A infection. It is important to remember that in the majority of cases Strep A is mild and can easily be treated with antibiotics. Nonetheless there are some cases which are extremely serious. Please remain vigilant for the common symptoms (flu-like symptoms, sore throat, rash which is rough to touch, temperature, sickness and pain or swelling). If your child has any of these symptoms and you are concerned please contact your GP. If they have multiple symptoms or are rapidly deteriorating please call 111. For more information visit www.nhs.uk/conditions/strep-a/



Kind regards

Mrs France

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Teaching and Learning in the Classrooms this week:



Hedgehog Class:

What a lovely first week of advent we have had. The children are gearing up for Christmas by writing Christmas cards, wrapping oddly shaped presents, printing their own wrapping paper and so much more. In the playhouse we have been setting up Santa's grotto and have become elves to help him prepare for Christmas by designing and making toys as well as writing lists and delivering presents. We have also completed some of Nico's fun challenge. This week's challenge was a mini game of skittles. We had to carefully stand them up and write down our scores. This helped us to practice our number formation and improve our dexterity. The children have been working hard polishing up the nativity play for our performances next week, we deserve a really good rest over the weekend to make sure we can give it lots of energy on Monday!



Squirrel Class:

Well done, Squirrel Class, for your excellent research homework about scientists and inventors. You inspired us with your presentations, demonstrations and PowerPoints plus your ability to answer a range of questions. You all had the confidence to stand up in front of the class and share your amazing work. Some of your work is proudly on display in our classroom. Thank you.



Fox Class:

Even though it may be cold outside, there's a lot of heat in our classroom as the children have been working so hard there sometimes seems to be steam coming off their pens and pencils! They have all worked so hard demonstrating what they know in our Maths assessments this week – they were all responsible and determined to show me what they knew. We have finally finished our explanation text and the class really enjoyed reading the book we based our writing on. As you can see from the pictures it's a very long book...literally! In our DT lessons we have been learning about levers and children have been working together to produce a poster explaining to people the importance of recycling. They have been able to demonstrate their creativity and really enjoyed getting to grips with where their split pins should go! In Science children were all able to explain to me the importance of being safe with electricity, what conductors and insulators were, how to make a circuit and more importantly how to troubleshoot if it doesn't work. They are now on their final project but it's a secret and I couldn't possibly tell you what it is...you'll have to wait and see!



Owl Class:

It's been like Strictly's musical week here in Owl class, as after practising for weeks, the children finally were able to show off their singing skills (and sheep waving skills) at the Festival of Music at the Thame Leisure centre on Wednesday evening. The children put on an incredible performance, full of smiles and showmanship! It really was an incredible show, and it was lovely to see so many of you there. In the classroom, the Owls have been making Christmas cards for the village residents, using collage skills to create silhouette nativity scenes to great, eye-catching affect. Do watch for some of these making it home in time for Christmas... It's not all singing and crafting however! Fractions are still our main topic in Maths, as the Year 6 children multiply or divide fractions by integers or other fractions, and the Year 5 children really hone their skills in adding and subtracting fractions, whilst in English lessons they choose powerful descriptive language to create an effective description of the beautiful, yet deadly, Snow Queen of Narnia.

Photo Diary of the Week





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Whole School Topic: Autumn Term: Great Expectations

Values: Gratitude

In Collective Worship this week we thought about different ways to show gratitude. We thought about who we are grateful to. Who has helped us recently. How often we take the time to really say thank you and show our gratitude. We thought about creative ways that we could make others feel valued especially if they go out of their way to support or help us. We have encouraged children to do this at home and at school.

Climate Warriors Challenge

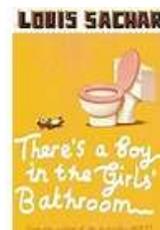
'Nearly half of all bird species are in decline, with more than one in eight at risk of extinction ... however conservation action works'. State of the World's Birds, 2022, Birdlife International.

This report does paint a deeply concerning picture, but it also details many examples of species being saved from extinction, populations recovering, threats managed, and ecosystems restored. There are high hopes for a positive outcome from the UN Biodiversity summit, being held this week in Montreal, Canada. The world only negotiates biodiversity targets once a decade, and the 'Global Biodiversity Framework' needs to drive immediate action to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030. Can you imagine a 'nature-positive' world – with more nature at the end of the decade, than we have now?

This holiday we are encouraging children to pause and take time to support and enjoy our wild birds – listen and recognise their birdsong, learn how to draw a robin... During cold snaps in the winter, food provided by humans could make a difference to a bird's survival. Children are encouraged to make a simple bird feeder – a Christmas wreath for birds - and then watch and wait!

Book Review – There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom by Louis Sachar, recommended by Russell,
Year 5

I love the adventure in the book and the characters get into a lot of trouble. I think that the characters are realistic and they remind me of people I know.



Data Collection Sheets

Thank you to those parents who have already returned their Data Collection Sheets. It is important that we have these contact details checked, so if you have not yet already done so, please could you return them to school at the beginning of next week. It is fine to return them in your child's book bag, or in an envelope through the office door. Thank you.

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	55	296
Eden	68	302
Galilee	61	295
Jerusalem	59	303

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Fmails and Letters Sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
5 th Dec	Email	Hedgehog Class	The Office	Nativity Play
5 th Dec	Email	Owl Class	The Office	Festival of Music
7 th Dec	Email	All Classes	The Office	Information re Scarlet Fever
7 th Dec	Email	Hedgehog Class	The Office	Nativity
7 th Dec	Email	All Classes	The Office	Updated Scarlet Fever Information

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

December	
3 rd – 11 th Dec	Festival of Trees at Chinnor Parish Church
Monday 12 th	2:00 Hedgehog Nativity dress rehearsal
Monday 12 th	5:30 Hedgehog Nativity performance
Tuesday 13 th	Year 1 parents' evening
Wednesday 14 th	5:30 Hedgehog Nativity performance
Friday 16 th	PTA Christmas film night (NB no football club)
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)

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