



**Aston Rowant C+E Primary School**  
**School Lane, Aston Rowant, Oxon OX49 5SU**  
**01844 351671**

**[office@aston-rowant.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office@aston-rowant.oxon.sch.uk)**

**Headteacher: Mrs Helen France**

**2<sup>nd</sup> December 2022**

### ***From the Head Teacher***

We have recently been showing several families around the school who are looking to start school in Reception from September 2023 (34 families to date for our 15 places!) One of the questions that has been frequently asked is around the expectations that we have of our children. The short answer was given in our recent Ofsted report, which highlights that we have 'ambition for every child to achieve well with no limits placed.' However, it is also worth looking at the longer answer about how as a school we have high expectations for all pupils in many aspects of school life.

The school has a presentation policy which outlines expectations for how work in books should be set out and presented in all lessons. This is shared with children so that they understand what is expected, for example, no scribbling or doodling, dates and learning questions neatly underlined, with one neat line through any work that needs correcting etc. We will have another open afternoon at the end of spring term where you will be able to come and look at your children's books and see this in action.

The school has clear expectations of the work that needs to be completed during the lessons. All of the work is differentiated according to the children's needs which means that it is carefully designed to consolidate prior learning as well stretch the children's knowledge and understanding. It is important that the children focus to complete the tasks set and so within each classroom we have concentration stations to enable children to work without distraction. Opportunities are also given to children who have not focused to the best of their ability in lesson time to catch up at break time.

The school has high expectations of attendance for all pupils – as set out in our attendance policy. Attendance at Aston Rowant is currently lower than the attendance figure for Oxfordshire. If your child misses school, they miss out. Whilst we would not want sick children at school, please help us to give your child the best opportunities that we can by sending them to school even if they are a little under the weather and also by getting them here on time. Children also need to arrive each day prepared for the school day ahead with their PE kits and fully stocked pencil cases.

The school has high expectations of uniform – as per our uniform policy. We regularly check to ensure that children are wearing the correct uniform so that the same high standards that we set for children's work is mirrored in their appearance.

The school has high expectations of behaviour and the school is constantly praised by visitors, or when the children are on trips, for the good behaviour of the children. The prospective parents who recently visited remarked on it as did Ofsted, 'Around school they do the right thing. Pupils speak eloquently to visitors.' There is a clear behaviour policy which we follow. There are lots of rewards to encourage and promote good behaviour. There are clear sanctions too. Behaviour expectations are constantly shared with children and there are frequent reminders in class and in assemblies.

The school has high academic expectations for children. We assess all of our children termly and this is tracked on an internal tracking system. We look every term at which children might need support in a particular area of the curriculum either from the teacher in class or by a teaching assistant. We set age-appropriate homework (including reading, phonics, spellings and multiplication tables) so that parents can support children at home. Please can we encourage you to do this with your child regularly. We also have our weekly newsletters plus curriculum pages on our website and termly curriculum newsletters for parents so that parents can see what their children are learning in school and support as necessary.

Progress from KS1 to KS2 is also better than national progress and this continues beyond KS2. Feedback from our local secondary schools and past parents and pupils demonstrate that Aston Rowant pupils settle well into their new secondary schools because they are well prepared and that they go on to achieve well in KS3 and KS4– which is their next phase of learning. Ofsted notes it too, 'It is easy to spot an Aston Rowant pupil. The way they convey themselves is impressive.'

I have really enjoyed sharing our wonderful school with prospective parents and also articulating what makes us so special. I thought that it was worthwhile to take the time to reflect in the newsletter too.

***Kind regards***

***Mrs France***

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**RESILIENCE**

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## *Teaching and Learning in the Classrooms this week:*



### Hedgehog Class:

We have gone all out for Christmas in Hedgehog class. On Thursday we really enjoyed our class reward of a campfire with toasted marshmallows, this gave us a great opportunity to talk about safety around the fire as well as noticing changes in the marshmallows as we heated them. We had a visit from Nico the Christmas elf who has been sent to us to learn how to behave! He has come armed with kindness challenges from Father Christmas and some learning challenges for the classroom. We have been making paperchains a metre long for the Christmas tree festival. Through this the children have really understood the concept of shorter, longer than and exactly a metre. The children have been applying their learning of tricky words to and from to write Christmas cards to their friends. Just to remind you that costumes need to be in no later than Monday the 5<sup>th</sup> of December to allow plenty of time to sort any issues. Thank you!



### Squirrel Class:

We have had a really busy week in Squirrel Class. We are coming to the end of our topic about life on a remote Scottish island. The children have been really trying hard to understand how life is so different there through the Katie Morag stories. Next week, the children are going to be planning and writing their own story called 'Katie Morag's Christmas.' In Maths we have been coming to the end of our unit on Addition and Subtraction. The children have been applying their knowledge to solve problems, including some with missing numbers or signs! Over the past couple of weeks the children have been super scientists. They helped Mrs Harriman to find the most absorbent kitchen towel and they tried really hard to keep their test fair. Next week Mrs Harriman is looking forward to sharing your research homework about Scientists and Inventors!



### Fox Class:

Lots of learning has taken place in Fox Class this week. We finished last week by making fantastic heart shaped Christmas baubles made from previous displays as our class contribution to the Festival of Trees. In Maths, we have spent lots of time going over times tables. Multiplication is a bedrock skill and key to succeeding in maths so any support at home is also appreciated – think about how many times recipes may need to be adjusted or multi-buy purchases calculated – it's all around us! In our writing, after completing some homework research, children also completed their research for their explanation texts and started to plan and write their introduction. In Science, children were able to introduce a switch into their circuits before making their own with 100% success! In our Music lessons, children are getting to grips with two new notes and working on moving their fingers from one to the other. Practise will make perfect!



### Owl Class:

It's been another busy week for the Owls, as they finished their reused and recycled Christmas ornaments in DT for the Festival of Trees held at St Andrews Church at Chinnor and we continued to practise the songs we will be performing in the Festival of Music at Thame Leisure Centre next week. In the middle of all this, we even managed to fit in fractions in Maths: adding to and subtracting from mixed numbers, as well as exploring the relationship between night and day in Science as part of our *Earth and Space* topic. The children made sundials to track the path of the sun across the sky, as the Earth orbits around it. However, the overcast weather has been interfering with our plans! Oh well, that's science; there's always a variable to consider!

***Photo Diary of the Week***





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## Whole School Topic: Autumn Term: Great Expectations

### Values: Gratitude

In Collective Worship this week we have been thinking about all the people who help us and reflecting on how we can show our gratitude to them. In the Bible St Paul wrote letters to his friends thanking God for them and all they meant to him. Last week Fox class made cards to give to different members of staff to show their gratitude for all that they do. The children have been challenged to think of how they can show gratitude this advent time.

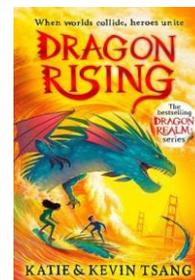
*'Every time I think of you I give thanks to my God.'* Philippians 1:3

### Climate Warriors Challenge

'Every time you spend money, you are casting a vote for the kind of world you want'. Anna Lappé. Approximately half of packaged supermarket products contain palm oil, including many bathroom products – shampoo, soap, shower gel, shaving foam, make-up, deodorant, toothpaste ... Whether as part of our routine shop, or as Christmas gifts, we all have many opportunities to 'cast our votes' when buying bathroom products.

This week's Young Climate Warriors challenge encourages children to become detectives in their bathroom – to see how many products contain palm oil. It is not always easy to spot – so some clues are provided! Find out which everyday products contain palm oil with this interactive WWF webpage. 'Sustainable' palm oil production substantially reduces its impact on climate change. It avoids deforestation, avoids drainage of peatlands, and avoids use of fires to clear the land.

Book Review – Dragon Rising by Katie and Kevin Tsang, recommended by Freya, Year 6  
I love Dragon Rising because the story captures your imagination. The characters are brilliantly written and make you empathise with them. There were moments when I laughed out loud. There are mysteries to solve along the way and moments of jeopardy where the characters did things that I didn't want them to!



### Christingle Service

Due to circumstances beyond our control we need to move our Christingle Service to a slightly earlier time of **5.30pm** instead of 6pm. Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience this may cause.

### Happiness Calander: 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	47	241
Eden	45	234
Galilee	42	234
Jerusalem	48	244

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### *Fmails and letters Sent this Week*

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
29 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Email	Owl Class	The Office	Festival of Music
29 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Email	All Classes	The Office	PTA Film Night
30 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Email	All Classes	The Office	Missed Flu Vaccinations
30 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Email	Year 1	The Office	Parent Consultations
2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	Email	All Classes	The Office	PTA Christmas gifts

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

December	
3 <sup>rd</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Festival of Trees at Chinnor Parish Church
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	7pm Festival of Music Owl Class at Thame Leisure Centre Tickets £5 (one per family) available from the office. (Rehearsal 12:30 transport required if possible)
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Wear your Christmas jumpers or hats with uniform and bring in a donation for the PTA hamper raffle
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup>	2:00 Hedgehog Nativity dress rehearsal
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup>	5:30 Hedgehog Nativity performance
<b>Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Year 1 parents' evening</b>
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	5:30 Hedgehog Nativity performance
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup>	PTA Christmas film night (NB no football club)
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup>	<b>5.30pm</b> Christingle for whole school in church followed by mulled wine and mince pies
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas party 1:00 Hamper raffle in hall 1:30 Break up for Christmas
January	
<b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Spring Term begins</b>
<b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Bags to School</b>
<b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>PTA meeting in the school hall</b>
February	
<b>Mon 6<sup>th</sup> - Fri 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Children's Mental health Week</b>
<b>Fri 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Valentine's Disco</b>

### *Academic Year Calendar 2022-23*

Autumn 22	
Tues 6 <sup>th</sup> Sept – Thurs 20 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Autumn Term (1)
Mon 24 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 28 <sup>th</sup> October	HALF TERM
Mon 31 <sup>st</sup> Oct – Tue 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Autumn Term (2)
Spring 23	
Wed 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan – Fri 10 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Spring Term (1)
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> February	HALF TERM
Tues 21 <sup>st</sup> Feb - Fri 31 <sup>st</sup> Mar	Spring Term (2)
Summer 23	
Mon 17 <sup>th</sup> April - Thu 25 <sup>th</sup> May	Summer Term (1)
Mon 29 <sup>th</sup> May – Fri 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	HALF TERM
Mon 5 <sup>th</sup> June - Fri 21 <sup>st</sup> July	Summer Term (2)

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