



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

25th November 2022

From the Head Teacher

Music Taster

It was great to welcome Mrs Lorna Waters from Oxfordshire County Music Service to our assembly on Monday. The children had the opportunity to discover instruments from the Woodwind family, and they were able to look at and listen to the Flute, Clarinet and Saxophone, as some of their favourite tunes were played. A letter went home concerning The Oxfordshire County Music Service, an 'outstanding music service' with an international reputation, detailing the services that OCMS offer such as instrumental tuition and other activities including vocal, performing arts and music theory groups, Saturday Music Centres, ensembles and youth orchestras (including two which tour internationally).



Christmas Events

The Festival of Trees is once again taking place in St Andrew's Church, Chinnor from 3rd – 11th December with the theme 'Rejoice and Recycle'. Aston Rowant School are again dressing a tree for the event with a title 'Give Me Joy in My Heart Keep Me Recycling' with each class making different recycled decorations to adorn it. Members of the public can view the forest of festive trees decorated by various community groups and soak up the festive atmosphere.

After two years without a performance due to Covid, the popular Festival of Music is returning. On Wednesday 7th December Owl Class will be joining other schools in The Thame Partnership to perform carols and other Christmas related entertainment. It is a fabulous evening and all money raised goes to a local charity. Tickets for those participating are available through the school office.

This year our Hedgehog Class will be performing 'Hey Ewe' on Monday 12th and Wednesday 14th in the school hall. There is no charge for the performances, but we do need to know numbers in advance. Hedgehog Class will have a sign-up sheet at school drop off and pick up to put your name down for which day. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served as you arrive.



On Friday 16th December the PTA will be running the popular Christmas film night. Children will be able to watch one of two age-appropriate films and enjoy a hot dog or burger followed by sweets and popcorn. The PTA will send out further details.

The Christingle Service will take place in the Aston Rowant Church on Monday 19th December at 6pm. All classes will be taking part, along with the school choir and several of the children who play musical instruments. We will also be joining in carols before we dim the lights and light the children's Christingles. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served by the PTA afterwards.



The Christmas Party will be on the last day of term. We will be running Christmas parties for each class and offering Christmas party food (this is paid for by the Friday biscuit money collected through the year) although children will still have their lunches as usual. There will also be a visit from Santa's elf with gifts for each of the children. Children can come in their smart party clothes for the day. The Christmas hamper raffle will be drawn at 1pm in the hall before the children break up at 1:30pm.

Kind regards

Mrs France

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Teaching and Learning in the Classrooms this week:



Hedgehog Class:

This week we have been learning about mould! As part of our seasons topic we've been thinking about changes over time. We noticed that our pumpkin started to change too. It produced condensation and started going furry! We wanted to know what the furry stuff was so we looked it up and discovered that mould is a fungus which grows on food in damp conditions. We then made our own pots and labels to find out what else might grow mould. This is helping us to improve and develop our observation skills as well as asking lots of interesting questions and making predictions. We can't wait to find out what happens to our own experiments! In English we have been thinking about the nativity story and telling it with expression. We are developing our speaking and drama skills through our rehearsals and trying to engage the listener. In Maths we've been exploring sharing equally and investigating different ways of splitting numbers into two or three groups. Next week we will be attempting our campfire again on Thursday. Please can children bring warm coats, gloves and hats on that day. We would be very grateful for a parent volunteer to help with supervision either in the morning or afternoon. Do let Mrs Hall or Mrs Olsen know. Thank you.



Squirrel Class:

It has been another busy week in Squirrel Class dodging the rain and enjoying the sunshine at times. We have continued counting on and back in Maths, focusing on using number lines to help us do this, as well as solving puzzles. In English we have continued to read stories by Katie Morag and this week we had the chance to write a letter of apology and a description about the storm. In Geography the children were able to read and learn about different islands by answering questions or making a fact file. Our new friends 'Granny Island' and 'Grandma Mainland' came to tea with Katie Morag and so the children enjoyed designing two cakes in Art for the special occasion. In RE we have also been looking at special occasions and specifically looking at new year celebrations and this week we have been looking at the Muslim festival of Baisakhi.



Fox Class:

This week in Fox Class we have been focussing on our multiplication skills within Maths and understanding that the inverse is division. Lots of SPaG talk also using such terms as simple, compound and complex to describe our types of sentences too! During our Music lesson we learnt 3 notes of B, A and G on the recorder and had a go at composing our own little tune. Within Science, after successfully creating circuits last week, this week we looked at electrical conductors and insulators. We investigated different materials to see when they were added to the circuit, would a light bulb still light. We used a range of materials from paper clips to potatoes! The whole class loved this investigation and worked very scientifically exploring their own choices too. Earthquakes were our topic for discussion in geography this week and we learnt what it must be like for people who live in the Ring of Fire when an earthquake occurs. Children quickly knew to get under their desk, stay calm and stay put...although not too long as we had more learning to do!



Owl Class:

Owl Class have been fraction-frantic this week: Year 5 have been adding and subtracting fractions with the same denominators, whilst Year 6 found the common denominators needed to add fractions that have different denominators, and then adding mixed numbers. In French, the children did a brilliant job of answering questions relating to directions of building. If you need to know where the biblioteque is; ask an Owl! Building up to another Big Write, Owl Class spent English lessons creating evocative, atmospheric sentences to describe the interior of Mr Tumnus' cosy house. I was really impressed with how the children have looked at their own areas writing that needed more depth and have been able to create these new pieces of writing that show just how much their skill and confidence has grown. In Science, we looked at the impact of key astrologers in History such as Tusi, Copernicus, Koppler and Galileo and how their work helped convince people that the sun was at the centre of the solar system. Well done Owl Class!

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Photo Diary of the Week



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Whole School Topic: Autumn Term: Great Expectations

Values: Gratitude

This week in Collective Worship we asked if the children had heard the phrase ‘count your blessings’. When we remember all of the things that we have to be thankful for our days seem brighter and even when we face tricky times we can have hope.
Even when the way goes through difficulty, I'm not afraid when you walk at my side. Your trusty shepherd's crook makes me feel secure. Ps 23

Climate Warriors Challenge

When you hear the word ‘Amazon’ do you think ... books, presents ... or do you think of the South American rainforest that is one of our carbon-storing, climate change-fighting powerhouses? Young Climate Warriors are challenged this week to counter the ‘Black Friday’ trend and to reduce the ‘clicks’ by thinking imaginatively – with an ‘Amazon’, animals theme. Homemade pressies, adopting animals, the value of ‘pre-loved’, and the certification labels that can help us decipher an item’s impact on our natural world. The battle for the Amazon is being fought on many fronts. Political leadership changes may help, as will the growing acreage covered by ARPA - Amazon Region Protected Areas – 128 million acres to date. Check out the Rainforest Connection project for an amazing insight into fighting deforestation with jungle sounds.

Parking

Please could we ask all parents when dropping off and collecting children to park considerately with regards to our neighbouring properties, and not to block, or park close to the entrance to school lane. We had a complaint on Friday afternoon from a neighbour whose delivery van was not able to turn around due to parked cars. We appreciate that parking can be an issue, but we must remember other cars must always be able to turn around and emergency vehicles need to have access at all times. Thank you for your support with this.

Book Review – The Explorer by Katherine Rundell - recommended by Joanie and Monty, Year 4

Four children are on their way back to England from Manaus when the plane they’re on crashes and the pilot dies upon landing. For days they survive alone, until one of them finds a map that leads them to a ruined city, and to a secret. It is the most exciting book we have read! We didn’t know what was going to happen next.



Help required!

Within our lovely parent community do we have any electricians? We have no lighting in one of our offices, it has 2 fluorescent tubes on the ceiling that aren’t working, we don’t know why, the bulbs have been replaced and would love it if someone would be able to take a look for us in case it is something simple! If you can help, please let Mrs France or Mrs Coates in the office know. Thank you.

Request from Hedgehog Class

If anyone has any spare warm clothing for the children that they would be able to donate, in particular jogging bottoms, please could you give to Mrs Hall or Mrs Olsen in Hedgehog Class. Thank you.

Happiness Calander: New Ways November

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	58	194
Eden	52	189
Galilee	56	192
Jerusalem	68	196



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Emails and Letters Sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
21st Nov	Email	Owl Class	The Office	Festival of Music
21 st Nov	Email	Years 1 - 6	The Office	Woodwind Assembly
21 st Nov	Email	All classes	The Office	Lord Williams's School notice
23 rd Nov	Email	All classes	The Office	JR Football holiday club

Diary Dates Autumn Term 2022 (New or revised dates in bold)

November	
Tuesday 29 th	Flu vaccinations for all children
December	
3 rd – 11 th Dec	Festival of Trees at Chinnor Parish Church
Wednesday 7 th	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 th	Wear your Christmas jumpers or hats with uniform and bring in a donation for the PTA hamper raffle
Monday 12 th	2:00 Hedgehog Nativity dress rehearsal
Monday 12 th	5:30 Hedgehog Nativity performance
Wednesday 14 th	5:30 Hedgehog Nativity performance
Friday 16 th	PTA Christmas film night (NB no football club)
Monday 19 th	6:00 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

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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