



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

18th November 2022

From the Head Teacher

This week has been Anti-Bullying Week, an annual UK event which aims to raise awareness of bullying and to highlight ways of preventing and responding to it. This week we have been focusing on kindness.



In Hedgehog Class they made a paperchain of themselves, all as different individuals but joined together through friendship and kindness. They also learnt a cool anti-bullying song with actions which they shared in our celebration assembly.

In Squirrel class they looked at how kindness is powerful and that a little bit of kindness can make a big difference. The children designed a superhero outfit and composed a superhero motto and before listing five things they could do to be a kindness superhero. They looked at how some scientists think getting into a superhero pose can help people feel more confident and practised their own pose!



In Fox Class they explored how it feels to receive kindness and also to be on the receiving end of unkind words. They each spoke kind words to one apple and unkind words to another apple. Both apples looked exactly from the outside but when we cut both apples open the one that had received the unkind words was bruised inside. We read the poem 'Smiling is Infectious' by Spike Milligan. The children were asked to start their own pandemic but this time with smiles!

In Owl Class the children reflected upon how it feels to be kind and how being kind to others can help us to feel positive. They looked at famous quotes about kindness including from Roald Dahl: 'I think probably kindness is my number one attribute in a human being. I'll put it before any of the things like courage or bravery or generosity or anything else.' and Aesop 'No act of kindness is ever wasted.' They then made their own kindness posters to go around the school.



As a whole school we have made 'gratitude jars' which you can see on display in each classroom as well as on our values board in the hall. These are a brilliant way of celebrating all the things we have to be thankful for. This is linked to our PSHE focus as noting and celebrating of the wonderful things in our lives can enhance and improve our wellbeing. They are great to do at home too. Children can draw what makes them feel grateful on a particular day, record the things that make them feel grateful all the time and write out single words that trigger an attitude of gratitude.

We have also been marking children in Need Day. Thank you to everyone who came in their spots and dots and joined in 'The Great SPOTacular' this year. The money that we have raised today will help children and young people all over the UK who need it most.



Finally, Oxfordshire Youth are offering FREE Mental Health Awareness Training on 6 December 2022 for parents and carers to aid understanding of relevant topics surrounding young people's mental health today. The training also explores how parents/carers can talk to their young people about the struggles around ill mental health and where they can seek support. For a free ticket please use the first part of your postcode as the promo code in capital letters

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/an-online-mental-health-awareness-session-for-parents-and-carers-tickets-296986493597>

Kind regards

Mrs France

GRATITUDE

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Teaching and Learning in the Classrooms this week:



Hedgehog Class:

Nativity rehearsals are well under way in Hedgehog class. The children are really enjoying making up dances and playing along with musical instruments in their play. This week we have been exploring the effects of the passing of time on different natural and man-made objects. We collected our own specimens to test and labelled them. Watch this space for updates. In English we have been practising writing clear labels and adding them to our Seasons book. In maths we have been looking at number concepts to 5. Thinking about how we can ensure we have counted carefully using the cardinal principle (The stopping number). We've also been continuing and creating our own ABAB patterns.



Squirrel Class:

In Squirrel Class we have become superheroes this week. We designed our own superhero logos and costumes and even struck our own superhero pose! We looked at how we can act kindly and responsibly and be good friends to one another. We were superheroes in our learning too! In English we read the story of 'Katie Morag and the Two Grandmothers'. We wrote a short description of each grandmother, describing her appearance and personality and then hot seated children in role as both grandmothers asking questions to elicit more information. In Maths we have been practising subtraction writing number sentences and problem solving. In PE we have been practising our gymnastics – very useful for our lives as superheroes!



Fox Class:

In our writing this week, children have been exploring a range of features that entice a reader to want to read their work. We've used subordinate clauses to give extra information, alliteration to describe what might be heard also repetition to ensure the reader understands just how amazing something is! The whole class had a lightbulb moment during science...literally! We learnt how to make a circuit and what to test if it was unsuccessful. They had a great time exploring with motors, buzzers, bulbs and batteries! In French, we had great fun learning the words to Heads, shoulders, knees and toes in French obviously with the actions! Our knowledge of volcanoes is deepening as we learnt about tectonic plates and how once our planet was one large land mass called Pangaea. Ask them to explain what happened!



Owl Class:

Owl class have had a range of activities this week, from their Big Writes in English, crafting setting descriptions of the Wardrobe doorway to Narnia using descriptive language, to exploring the Solar System and creating planet fact files of their chosen planet. The children's enthusiasm for our space topic and their depth of knowledge about space has been a huge, and very pleasant, surprise! They have really excelled themselves this week, and so many children have exhibited the best qualities of behaviour: sharing ideas, teamwork, and peer praise. It has been a real joy to observe. Well done for an excellent week Owl Class, enjoy your well-earned weekend!

Photo Diary of the Week





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Whole School Topic: Autumn Term: Great Expectations

Values: Gratitude

This week in Collective Worship we looked at the challenge of giving thanks when times are difficult. We looked at the story of Paul and Silas in jail, even though times were tough they still sang! They trusted God even when facing difficulties and were thankful for everything that he had done for them. We looked at challenges we may face but also reflected on all of the things that we can be thankful for.

'Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.' 1 Thessalonians 5:16

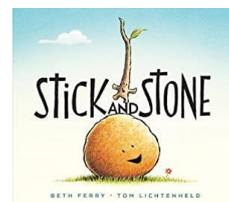
Climate Warriors Challenge

Solving the problems of Climate Change isn't just being left to governments, policy makers, and negotiators at COP27, many scientists, inventors, engineers, designers and businesses are also on the case! The Earthshot Prize 2022 finalists were recently announced, and include many inspiring inventions – these are a couple of them: Notpla – seaweed and plant-based plastic alternatives; Kheyti – a 'greenhouse in a box', Mukuru – clean, biomass stoves; Ampd – a battery storage system for use on construction sites. The Awards ceremony will be aired on Sunday 4th December – BBC1 @5pm, and subsequently on the Earthshot YouTube channel.

Young Climate Warriors are challenged to stand in awe at the machines and inventions that have revolutionised life in the home – but also to realise that some of these are the worst 'energy guzzlers'. Can you help your parent/carer this week avoid using two of these 'guzzlers' – the 'dryers' – the tumble-dryer and the humble hair dryer?

Book Review – Stick and Stone by Beth Ferry

True friends always stick up for one another, even when it is a little scary. This is a great book about resilience and friendship for all ages.



Celebration Assembly

Please note that next Friday 25th will be our last Celebration Assembly for this half term, this is because we will be putting up the stage ready for our nativity play. If anyone has time to stay behind after assembly next Friday to help us, please let us know. Many hands make light work! Thank you.

Christmas Fayre

There is a Christmas Fayre at Stokenchurch Longburrow Hall on Saturday 26th November from 1pm to 5pm, handmade and unique Christmas gifts, Santa's Grotto and delicious refreshments.

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

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	31	136
Eden	30	137
Galilee	30	136
Jerusalem	30	128

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Emails and Letters Sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
17 th November	Email	All Classes	The Office	Flu vaccinations

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

November	
Monday 21st	Woodwind Assembly for whole school
Tuesday 29th	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 9th	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 16th	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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