



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
4th November 2022

From the Head Teacher

Be Bright Be Seen Day

Thank you to everyone for coming in their bright clothes today. Visibility is a key issue all year round, all day round, whether children are walking or on their bike. However, over the autumn/winter months, it is especially important as the school day can start and end in twilight. During term time, the majority of child road accidents happen in the afternoon and evenings, especially in the autumn and winter when it gets dark earlier in the day.

There is a great Guide for Parents for teaching road safety which can be found at: <https://www.rospa.com/media/documents/road-safety/teaching-road-safety-a-guide-for-parents.pdf>

Drivers should be especially careful around schools and mindful of their speed when visibility is poor. Please can I take this opportunity to remind everyone that the speed through the village is a maximum of 20 mph.

Inspiring and Innovating

Our amazing Joanie, Year 4, was born without a left hand and it has never held her back. She is, if anything, more active and determined to do things because of the challenge of only having one hand. There are some things that are challenging though: riding a bike, playing the guitar, doing a cartwheel.

Luckily, British company Koalaa (<https://www.yourkoalaa.com>) have made an innovative, lightweight, practical prosthetic which is supplied to any child that wants one at no cost to them (or their parents). Joanie has been using these prosthetics and attachable tools for around 18 months. She uses the ALX sleeve and numerous attachments, including 'The Sarah' for attaching to her bike handlebars, 'The Grace' for playing her guitar, and recently 'The Nicole' for surfing, cartwheels and yoga. This summer Joanie was asked to test The Nicole tool at The Wave and then appeared on ITV's This Morning, live. After which BBC Radio Bristol wanted to do a piece on her, followed by Heart FM Breakfast, ITV Meridian News and Channel Five News. As well as having photos and videos of her surfing appearing in media stories across the world.

Joanie is very keen on tennis, playing twice a week at a local club. One of the tools she has been recommending Koalaa develop is something to help her toss up her tennis ball when she is serving. Last month, Koalaa announced they had developed a prototype for this and they are naming the tennis serve tool 'The Joanie'. An incredible achievement for an inspirational young lady!

Koalaa is funded by donations. Donations can be made here: <https://douglasbaderfoundation.enthuse.com/cf/limitless-project> (you may recognise the person on the donation page!)

Poppy Appeal

We have a range of poppy merchandise as well as the traditional poppies for sale in school. If the children, or adults, would like something then please bring in a donation for The Royal British Legion and School Council will be selling them at the at break times as well as at the school gate. Do help us support this very worthwhile cause.

Kind regards

Mrs France





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Teaching and Learning in the Classrooms this week:



Hedgehog Class:

The children have had a lovely first week back beginning our new topic on 'weather and seasons'. We have been exploring the signs of Autumn all around us making leaf rubbings, going on a nature walk, painting Autumnal scenes using the primary colours and so much more. The children will be making a class information book about their topic so in English we have been learning about the features of non-fiction texts. In 'Creative development' the children have been exploring fireworks by using tools to make a class painting and creating a sound picture using the instruments. In 'understanding of the world' we have been looking at how the weather changes over time and the effect it has on things around us as well as exploring light and dark in 'the night zone' cave! They were all very excited to receive their parts for our class nativity this week and have got stuck in learning the songs. We will be sending words and costume lists out for this shortly. If your child does not have a script this means they have a non-speaking role. Please do speak to any of the Hedgehog team if you have any questions. We have many spare costumes, so do check before going to any great efforts to source one for your child.



Squirrel Class:

The highlight of this week has been the children's writing in English linked to our text The Storm Whale. The children have been using beautiful descriptive language and expanded noun phrases and the work that they have produced is a joy to read. In Maths Year 1s have been practising number bonds to 10 and Year 2 number bonds to 100. It would be great to practise these at home too. In Geography we started looking at what it would be like to live by the coast or on a remote Scottish island and we are linking our studies to the fabulous Katie Morag books. We are looking ahead in RE to Christmas and the New Year and started our topic by looking how Christians celebrate the New Year. Well done Squirrel Class – a great start to the new half term.



Fox Class:

It was lovely to welcome the children back to another exciting half term of learning. This week in our music lesson, we met the recorder! We will be learning how to play some basic notes clearly and in time with the aim of learning a Christmas song by the end of term. It was a great start and not much tooting at all! In Maths, we have continued adding and subtracting but ensuring we understand about exchanging. We will be focusing our writing on non-fiction this half term and we spent time examining what features are found in explanation texts and the reason these features are there. For our geography, we learnt about what is beneath our feet and managed to get all the way to the Earth's core and made our own model of it!



Owl Class:

It's been fantastic to have the Owls back after the half term break - they have returned refreshed and full of exciting ideas! We have started an exciting new topic all about the Ancient Shang Dynasty of China and will be delving deep into how historical artefacts can provide us with glimpses of the past and those who lived it. There are also emperors, pitched battles and warrior princesses to discover this topic, so we will have plenty of excitement this term. In science, we are looking at the Earth and Space, and have been able to investigate how we can prove the fact that the world is indeed a sphere! You will be relieved that the theories of Aristotle and the other great minds of history were correct, and the earth is still round! This topic is all about asking big questions, and sourcing reliable information to support an idea, to come to a scientific conclusion, and the children have embraced it. Our English topic is descriptive writing, and we are looking at the fabulous Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe as our source book. We will also be watching clips of the films to help set the mood, so if these are available at home, perhaps a viewing might be a good idea!

GRATITUDE

RESILIENCE

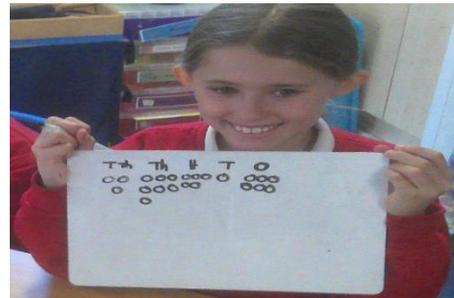
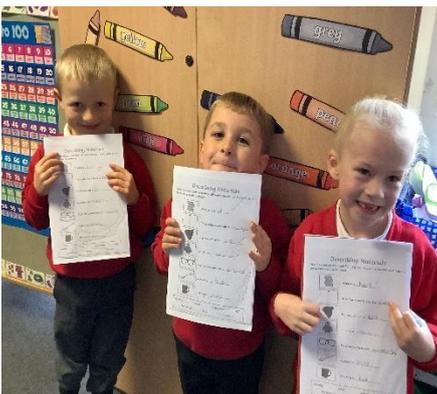
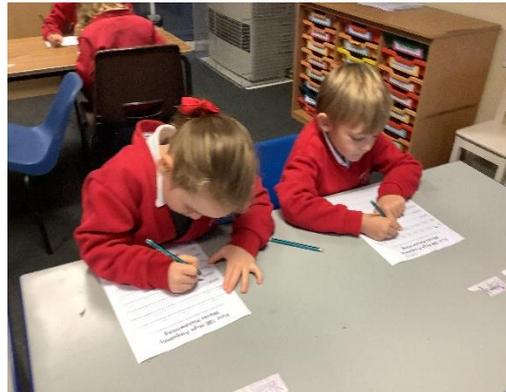
OUTREACH

WONDER

TRUST

HARMONY

Photo Diary of the Week





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Whole School Topic: Autumn Term: Great Expectations

Values: Gratitude

We have a new value for this half term which is Gratitude. In Collective Worship this week we looked at the word gratitude and what it is to be grateful. We linked it to the value of last half term, Wonder and the time we spent 'wondering' at the beauty of creation. As we thought of our beautiful world we thought that just by being itself, every part of creation praises God. We looked at Psalm 148, a thank you psalm, and retold it using drama and different voices to say thank you.

Let them praise the name of God, it's the only Name worth praising. His radiance exceeds anything in earth and sky; he's built a monument—his very own people! Psalm 148:13

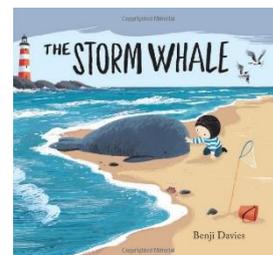
Climate Warriors Challenge

Next week almost every country in the world will be represented at the COP27 Climate Change Conference in Egypt. However, it's more than just a meeting of world leaders, the annual conference also motivates and galvanises a meeting of many other minds. Tackling climate change requires action from EVERYONE, collaboration is everything. 'Race to Zero' is just one strand of this incredible jigsaw all working together to limit the threats from global warming.

As individuals, we also have a part to play. Given that agriculture and food systems contribute 1/3 of global greenhouse gas emissions, Young Climate Warriors and their families are challenged to eat as many plant-based meals as possible over the course of the 12 days of COP27 from 7th - 18th November (lots of recipe ideas are included!).

Book Review - The Storm Whale

Book review by Squirrel ClassBook review by Squirrel Class. A little boy lives by the sea with his father who works long hours as a fisherman.. One night, a great storm washes a small whale onto the beach. The boy discovers the whale is a good listener. The father discovers the boy is lonely. They return the whale to the sea but have a new understanding of each other. A beautiful and inspirational book.



Happiness Calendar: 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	26	26
Eden	26	26
Galilee	25	25
Jerusalem	23	23



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Emails and Letters Sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning

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

November	
Friday 4 th	Be Bright Be Seen Day
Wednesday 9 th	Open Day 15:30-16:30
Friday 11 th	KS2 Service of remembrance at war memorial
Friday 18 th	Children in Need (spots and dots with your school uniform, donate £1)
December	
Monday 12 th	2:00 Hedgehog Nativity dress rehearsal
Wednesday 14 th	5:30 Hedgehog Nativity performance
Monday 19 th	6:00 Christingle for whole school in church
Tuesday 20 th	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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