



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

21st October 2022

From the Head Teacher

What a half term it has been!

This September we were delighted to have another full intake to our Reception Class. It has been a joy to see how quickly the class have settled into their new routines and are thriving. Mrs Olsen and Mrs Hall are excited about the year of learning that lies ahead.

We have had some changes in Squirrel Class. We are delighted that Mrs Harriman was able to return on one day a week. It is great to have Mrs Peters, retired teacher and Mrs Cooper, retired TA, come in weekly to read with the children. After half term the teacher in Squirrel Class will be Mrs Bravington. She is an experienced KSI teacher and will keep the same working pattern implemented this half term, teaching Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Fridays with Mrs Harriman teaching Thursdays and also planning the lessons.

It has been wonderful to have Mrs Healy join the team. The children in Fox Class have loved learning about Beowulf, exploring Anglo Saxon Britain and exploring sounds in Science and making their musical instruments. In Owl Class Mr Manning and the children have been learning about Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay and their remarkable journey to the summit of Mount Everest, using the fantastic book of the same name and taking part in a series of practical experiments to explore how forces can affect our world.

We are very sad to see the incredible Mrs Oakford leave. We are grateful to her for her help, support and hard work over these last two years. We wish her well in her new venture. I am delighted to say that Mrs Val Coates has been appointed as our new Office Administrator and starts on Friday 11th November. She comes with 13 years' experience as Office Administrator working in another small local school. Mrs Georgie Body (who many people know and is currently our swimming coach at St Andrews) is going to help me cover the office until Mrs Coates can start. Do bear with us as we juggle the responsibilities between us. I am also delighted to say Mrs Eva French has accepted the role as our new Finance Officer. She has many years' experience working in industry.

This term we had another inspection, with our H&S audit on Wednesday. It is a detailed analysis of all of our policies, procedures and working practices as well as a thorough site visit. The letter accompanying the report speaks very highly of the school saying, 'A clean sweep of the monitoring this year, well done team; your paper evidence continues to be of a very high standard'.

Finally, this morning we showed around 10 families during our open day, with six families having visited on Monday and six more booked in for after half term. All of the visits were incredibly positive with the families keen to join our incredible school from next September. Do spread the word if you know of other families who may want to attend the final open day on 9th November.

There is already so much to celebrate already this year. Thank you for all of your support and involvement. We look forward to working with the children and yourselves in the second half of the Autumn term. Have a great half term holiday.

Kind regards

Mrs France

GRATITUDE

RESILIENCE

OUTREACH

WONDER

TRUST

HARMONY



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Teaching and Learning in the Classrooms this week:



Hedgehog Class

It has been a wet and windy week in Hedgehog class. We have been finishing our topic of “Getting to Know You” by learning all about how to keep our teeth nice and clean. On Thursday we had lots of fun doing a workshop in tooth brushing and making our own show called “The Tooth Fairy Show”. In English we read the book “Super Duper You” by Sophy Henn. We came up with our own sentences about what makes us ‘Super Duper’ and wrote them in a class book. Our teachers in Hedgehog are so very proud of the way we have settled so quickly into school life this term and have been very impressed at the level of maturity and independence the children have shown. We hope you have a lovely half term and are excited to see you again soon.



Squirrel Class

This week, the Squirrels have finished their History topic on Victorian Seaside holidays by describing and drawing Queen Victoria’s very own Bathing machine. They explained to how this machine was designed by Prince Albert to save the Queens blushes and were able to write full sentences explaining how it worked! In English, they even wrote a postcard to Mrs France, in character as Queen Victoria herself, letting her know all about the lovely holidays they were having in Victorian coastal towns, possibly despite the wet weather. For Science, we joined Fox Class to explore the idea of a world without sound, and began to learn the BSL alphabet, which they picked up incredibly quickly! They have packed in a lot of leaning in only four days, and we hope they all enjoy a well-earned break over half term, ready for a new set of exciting topics!



Fox Class

For a four-day week, Fox class have worked their socks off! In English, we added a new chapter to the Anglo-Saxon tale of Beowulf and children impressed me with their choice of vocabulary and storytelling. We have all worked on our subtraction skills this week ensuring we all understand new mathematical vocabulary such as the inverse and multiples. It’s great to hear children use these words in their discussions. We shared our Science lesson this week with Squirrel as as we had spent so long understanding what makes sound, we spent our last lesson looking at what happens when we can’t hear. After watching a dance from Strictly Come Dancing last year, we went on to learn the BSL alphabet and finger spell our names. They picked it up really quickly! Finally, we finished our story-telling art piece – an octopus based on Arthur and the Golden Rope which the children really enjoyed and showed great maturity in the making of it. What a first half term! They deserve a week off! I look forward to welcoming you all back in a week’s time.



Owl Class

At the end of a busy, action-packed first term, the Owl’s have shown no signs of slowing yet! The children completed their second (and most ambitious) Big Write yet, writing from the point of view of Sherpa Tenzing Norgay, as he spends a windy night camped on the side of Mount Everest before the attempt on the summit. We used figurative language to describe the trials and tribulations, but also the pockets of joy and fun they found on the way, such as the late-night feast in the tent. In Maths, the children have been working on division, including Year 6’s introduction to the long division method. They performed really well; showing an excellent attitude of perseverance in the face of a challenge. We have also finished our Art topic on drawing the human form in 2D and 3D and they have produced a stunning display board of their work! I have included a few glimpses in the photo diary of the week. Well done Owl Class, enjoy your well-deserved rest.

GRATITUDE

RESILIENCE

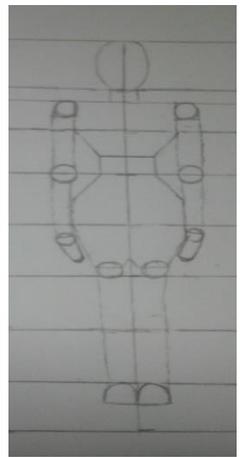
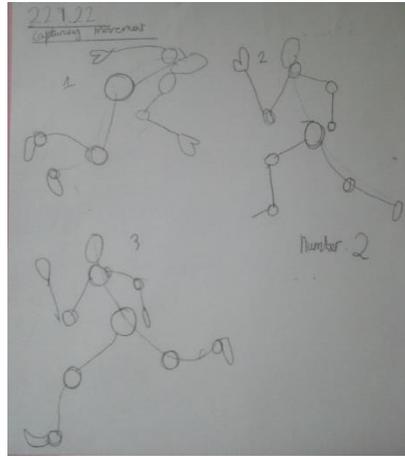
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Photo Diary of the Week



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Whole School Topic: Autumn Term: Great Expectations

Values: Wonder

This week we have looked at the importance of having fun! We looked at enjoying life and savouring the wonderful things that we have been given. We have set the children a challenge about how they can enjoy creation over the half term using all of their senses, how they can ‘wonder’ and what they want to give thanks for.

‘The heavens declare the glory of God.’ [Psalm 19:1](#)

Climate Warriors Challenge

‘Picture a group of ‘climate change warriors’, massing together in a battle to save the planet. Did you imagine a line of mushrooms? Well, maybe you should have?’

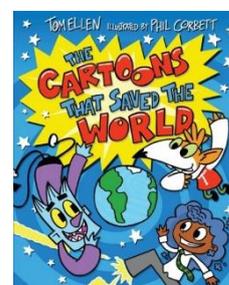
World Economic Forum article. 4 July 2022.

14 year old Zara Hussan has won the Young Science Writer of the Year 2022 award with her essay entitled ‘Earth’s fungal ‘life support system’ – hidden, underground networks of fungi that are silently helping plants and trees to lock away carbon and combat climate change. Maybe, as the WEF article suggests, fungi are the most underused resource in the fight against climate change?’

Young Climate Warriors are encouraged this week to have fun exploring in the woods – and challenged to identify trees, and give some a hug; to check out fascinating fungi (without touching them!); to find the biggest, brightest orange leaf and to collect leaves and seeds to create ‘leaf fireworks’, or ‘woodland emojis’. This week’s challenge slide can be found [here](#).

Book Review - The Cartoons that Saved the World by Tom Ellen

The Cartoons that Saved the World is a light, fast paced story that is perfect for comic book fans who are looking for a more substantial read. The inventive characters and made-up words add humour to the madcap story and encourage reading aloud.



Happiness Calendar: Optimistic October

Actions to help you focus on what really matters. You can find this month’s happiness calendar [here](#).

Housepoints

<i>House</i>	<i>This Week</i>	<i>Total</i>
Bethlehem	27	218
Eden	28	203
Galilee	28	217
Jerusalem	31	213

Congratulations to **Bethlehem** for winning this half term’s housepoint challenge.
 Please see your House Captain to agree your reward.



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Emails and Letters Sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
19/10/22	Email	Parents & Carers	School Office	Parent Consultation Appointments
19/10/22	Email	Parents & Carers	PTA	Be Bright Be Seen
19/10/22	Email	Parents & Carers	School Office	Wraparound Club Form
20/10/22	Email	Hedgehog	Coach James	Football Club – Autumn 2
21/10/22	Email	Squirrel	Head Teacher	Teaching Arrangements – Autumn 2
21/10/22	Email	Fox	Mrs Healy	Library books

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

October	
Friday 21 st	INSET day
Friday 21 st	Open Day 9:30-10:30
Mon 24 th – Fri 28 th	Half Term
November	
Wednesday 2 nd	Parents' Evening All Classes
Thursday 3 rd	Parents' Evening Squirrel, Fox and Owl Classes
Friday 4 th	Be Bright Be Seen Day
Wednesday 9 th	Open Day 15:30-16:30
Friday 18 th	Children in Need (spots and dots with your school uniform, donate £1)
December	
Monday 12 th	2:00 Hedgehog Nativity Dress
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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