

From the Headteacher:



On this sad day, we have remembered together as a school family an extraordinary person – Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Not only was she our Queen, our sovereign, she was also someone who believed that leadership meant dedicating her life to the service of others.

We began the school day with an act of Collective Worship. The whole school family was there, even Hedgehog Class for whom this is only their third day in school. The sensitivity, maturity and respect demonstrated by each and every child in the school was humbling and made all of the staff here proud.

We shared the quote from the Queen: "I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service ... God help me to make good my vow, and God bless all of you who are willing to share in it." We used this quote to describe the sort of Queen we thought she was and what she meant to us.

As in our lessons we used 'I Wonder...' questions to give us chance to explore our ideas and thoughts. Within this we reflected: *I wonder – is it always easy to serve and think of others? I wonder – if the Queen always found it easy to keep her promise to serve all those who reigned over? I wonder where might we draw strength from to reflect the qualities and the virtues of servant leadership which the Queen has modelled throughout her reign? I wonder – have you ever been given responsibility – a special task or role? I wonder – if you think of a time when you demonstrated these qualities we have seen in the Queen?*

We read the Bible passage: 'If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides.' (1 Peter 4:11) The Queen was a committed Christian throughout her life, and she made a choice to follow the teachings of Jesus in the way she acted as Queen. The Queen spoke often about how she asked for God's help in undertaking her highly important role. She knew that she needed great strength to be able to serve others in the way she had committed to. We then asked: *I wonder – what can we learn from the Queen's example in asking for God's help? I wonder – what do you need help with today? I wonder – where do you get help and strength from?*

Finally, we reflected the sadness of knowing we have lost someone really important in our lives and who comforts and supports us when we experience hard things.

Each class has been given a book of condolences for children to write thoughts, prayers, poems or reflections in or draw pictures. The staff team have also given children the opportunity and space to think and reflect. At 12 noon we all went out on the playground to join with the country to ring out our own bells to mark this sad occasion.

It is a sad time for the nation, but as Her Majesty the Queen said, "Each day is a new beginning, I know that the only way to live my life is to try to do what is right, to take the long view, to give of my best in all that the day brings, and to put my trust in God."

Kind regards
Mrs France





Aston Rowant C+E Primary School
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01844 351671 office@aston-rowant.oxon.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mrs Helen France

Staffing Structure

We are delighted to confirm the staffing teams for this year: Hedgehog Class Mrs Olsen & Mrs Hall with Miss Williams
Squirrel Class Ms Wilson & Mrs Harriman with Mrs Ceapa
Fox Class Mrs Healy with Mrs Ansell
Owl Class Mr Manning with Mrs Surman and Mrs Pillely

Attendance

Our school attendance target for the academic year remains at 97%. Please do ensure that if possible your child attends school each day. If your child is ill please contact the office before the school day begins. If you are leaving a message please be specific, avoid using the term 'unwell' and do indicate when you think that your child is likely to return to school. Thank you.

Uniform

It was great to see the children looking so smart in their school uniforms this week. Our uniform policy remains unchanged from last year and is available on the website for guidance. Do note that we have come to the end of our two-year change over period and only the current school logo with the tree logo on is acceptable.

We have noticed a few of items of clothing today that have not yet been named as well as having a number of identical water bottles, none of which are named. Please can we ask that all items brought in to school are clearly labelled to avoid them being lost or children being confused about what belongs to them.

P.E Changing

As per Government guidelines we schools are returning to the usual practice of changing for PE during the school day. It is recommended practice that pupils should change for PE, particularly when the exertion rate may necessitate a change of clothing for hygiene reasons and as we are also committed to being outside in all weathers it is important that the children have a clean and dry set of clothes to change back into. It is also a key skill for children to be able to dress themselves and take responsibility for managing their own possessions. Boys and girls in UKS2 (Owl Class) change separately.

Coats and Wellies

Please can we remind everyone that they need to have a coat with them every day and keep a pair of wellies in school. We do go out for play times and enjoy Forest Friday in all weathers and do not want children to miss out as they do not have the appropriate clothing.

Lunches

It is lovely to have the children back eating together in the school hall and to be able to provide hot school meals again. Whilst KS1 children do not need to order in advance it is useful for us to have a feel for who will be using the provision and for them to indicate their preferences for sandwiches and jacket potato fillings in advance, as this will help us tailor the provision appropriately. Mrs Oakford has forms available to do this. KS2 children parents need to order with the company directly and the form is on our website.

Meet the Teacher Meetings

We are delighted that we are able to have 'Meet the Teacher' meetings this year. It is a chance to meet your child's teacher in person, meet other families who will be in class with your child, preview the curriculum and ask any questions that you may have. It will also allow you to spend some time in your child's classroom! Please see the calendar at the end of the newsletter for dates and time.

Collective Worship

We are delighted to continue to welcome parents to join us for our Celebration Assemblies at 2:30pm each Friday, starting on Friday 30th September in school. Please enter and exit via the hall door. We will be holding a newcomers service in church on Friday 23rd September to mark the start of the school year.

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Teaching and Learning in the Classrooms this week:



Hedgehog Class

What an amazing first week! The Hedgehog staff are astounded at how well the children have quickly settled in and adjusted to school routines. We have been getting to know the children this week and following their interests by practicing using the different resources in each of the classroom areas. We have been minibeast hunting, playing lots of catching and hitting games in the physical area, painting pictures, making water runs and having lunch at the café! On Wednesday we read a book about the colour monster and then coloured in our own monsters to talk about how we were feeling on our first day at school. On Thursday we talked about good and bad choices and came up with a set of rules to help us to grow together and be a happy class. On Friday we practiced our good listening skills through games then applied this to activities identifying rhyme and alliteration. Please be aware that they will be increasingly tired for the first term and not to worry if your children are a little teary at the end of the week, This is very normal and they will soon be skipping into school! We look forward to seeing them again next week after a restful weekend!



Squirrel Class

Squirrel class have settled in very well together for this exciting new school term. They have shown how quickly they can change into their PE kits, and how polite they can be asking interesting questions and listening with good listening ears!

Squirrel have started their new science topic about 'everyday materials and their uses'; looked at the difference between objects and materials and have thought of exciting investigations to carry out to understand more. They have worked on old-fashioned sea holidays and discussed their own summer holidays, drawn self-portraits and spoken about the power of YET; writing what they can't do YET, but what they CAN do to succeed!



Fox Class

What a busy week we have had in Fox Class this week. Firstly, the whole class made me feel so welcome which was lovely! If you look I one of our windows, you will see a rather fabulous fox starting at you! Children worked together collaboratively to colour a part of the picture without knowing what they were going to achieve. They were so excited when they saw what they had produced together – teamwork makes the dream work! Children also voted to choose which story they would like to listen to every day and the winner for The Land of Roar by Jenny McLachlan. We have also started our science topic of sound and we listened ever so carefully to sounds both inside and outside understanding that sound is caused by vibrations. We have an exciting year ahead together and I am really looking forward to getting to know my class and enjoying leading their learning adventure.



Owl Class

It's been an action-packed beginning to the term for Owl Class! We have opened a mystery trunk and examined clues that hinted towards the subject of our English topic: a woolly hat, fingerless gloves, fur-lined snow-boots and a fur-trimmed parka-can you guess who it is yet? That's correct, it's Edmund Hillary, one of the first humans to climb the summit of Mount Everest. The children will be writing diaries from Hillary's and Tenzing Norgays' points of view at various stages of the climb. In Science, the children wrestled with the forces of pull and resistance, in a class-wide tug of war! They even found out how many children it takes to pull over Mr Manning. Next they explored how they can use various forces to manipulate our surroundings, using only straws and ping pong balls! They have made a fantastic start to the term already, and we have only just begun.

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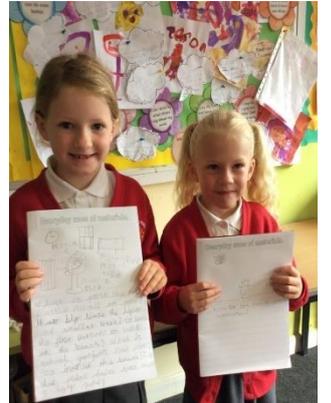
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Photo Diary of the Week



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Whole School Topic: Winter Term: Great Expectations

Values: Wonder

In this unique week we continue to reflect on the life of faithful service of her majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Our value this term is 'Wonder' and it seems fitting to wonder and marvel on the way she loved and served those in her care.

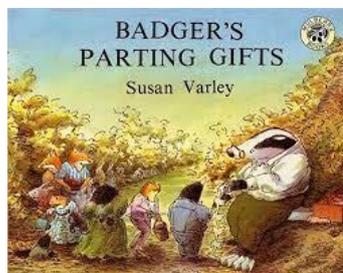
'Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards.' | Peter 4:9

Climate Warriors Challenge

Our climate crisis is fuelling heatwaves, droughts and floods. If there can be any positive emanating from this devastation it is that businesses, governments, communities and individuals will realise that they have to take action – NOW and not tomorrow.

To kick off this Autumn term Young Climate Warriors are challenged to find out how much electricity their household ACTUALLY consumes each day. Understanding usage is a first step towards reducing it. With a growing 'cost of living' crisis, Young Climate Warriors can help their families take action for climate change whilst helping to reduce their electricity bills – a double whammy! Click [here](#) for this week's challenge.

Book Review – Badger's Parting Gifts by Susan Varley recommended by Mrs France



Badger is so old that he knows he will soon die. He tries to prepare his friends for this event, but he does die, they are still grief-stricken. Gradually they come to terms with their grief by remembering all the practical things Badger taught them, and so Badger lives on in his friends' memories of him. This is a fabulous book for anyone wanting to talk about bereavement with children.

Happiness Calendar: Self Care September

Self-care isn't selfish it's essential. You can find this month's happiness calendar [here](#).

Housepoints

<i>House</i>	<i>This Week</i>	<i>Total</i>
Bethlehem	11	11
Eden	13	13
Galilee	13	13
Jerusalem	15	15



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Emails and Letters Sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
5/9/22	Email	Parents/Carers	School Office	School Information
8/9/22	Email	Parents/Carers	School Office	School Photo's – Monday 12 th Sept
9/9/22	Email	Parents/Carers	School Office	Notifications for today

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

September	
Monday 12 th	Danny Higgins School Photographs
Monday 12 th	2:45 Owl Meet the Teacher in Owl Class
Tuesday 13 th	2:45 Fox Meet the Teacher in Fox Class
Wednesday 14 th	2:45 Squirrel Meet the Teacher in Squirrel Class
Friday 16 th	Jeans for Genes (wear jeans on you bottom half with your school uniform, donate £1)
Friday 23 rd	Newcomer's Service in church
Friday 30 th	2:30 Celebration Assemblies start again
October	
Friday 7 th	Harvest Service in school for local food bank
w/c 17 th October	Structured Conversations for Children with plans
Friday 21 st	INSET day
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 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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