



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

1st December 2023

From the Headteacher

Loss and Grief

I am aware that in the last few weeks a number of our school family have faced bereavement of family members, close friends and pets. Thank you for sharing with us so that we can work with you and your children at these difficult times. Sadly, children and young people can experience a range of significant changes and losses in their lives before they reach adulthood.



As a school we do take time to explore change, loss and grief safely and effectively and in age-appropriate contexts through the school. We do this in a number of ways including PSHE lessons, Collective Worship and also through RE Inspired. There are also some great books to read with children and we recommend a few in this week's book review section at the end of the newsletter. It is also important to seek support when needed. We recommend the following websites:

www.winstonswish.org

www.youngminds.org.uk

www.childbereavementuk.org

Art Project



We are excited to announce that as part of our Art programme this year we will be joining OxTrail - Oxfordshire's first ever sculpture trail, raising funds for Sobell House Hospice. Over 30 life-sized ox sculptures will be herded into positions throughout Oxford in the summer of 2024, creating an engaging, exciting event for locals, businesses and visitors. Each of the oxen will be uniquely decorated by local and international artists to form a vibrant and family-friendly trail. Across eight weeks, OxTrail will encourage locals and visitors of all ages to explore Oxford's iconic attractions, find some hidden gems, and engage with the community.

Schools across the county are being asked to create their own fantastic mini ox. The challenge is firstly to fundraise to help cover the cost of the fibreglass ox that we will get to keep afterwards. We will then collaborate as a school to design our Aston Rowant mini ox. These mini oxen will be joined in local herds in publicly accessible buildings for the eight weeks for visitors to admire.

Not only will we be enhancing our art skills in a unique way and joining in a local county wide project, we will also be fundraising for a local very worthwhile cause. In addition, Sobell House will provide constructive and age-appropriate resources to help children learn about their work and what palliative and end of life care are. So watch out for our fundraising initiatives and if you are part of a business that matches funds for charity then please let us know.

Christmas Tree Festival

The Christmas tree festival at St Andrew's church, Chinnor will be open from Saturday 2nd – Sunday 10th December 2-5pm with Christmas refreshments served throughout this time. Aston Rowant School have again decorated a tree and this year we are excited to say that our school choir will be performing on Sunday 3rd December at 3:15pm. Do support us and the festival if you can.



Kind regards

Mrs France

GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY

'Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him.' Colossians 2:7



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

Teaching and Learning in the Classrooms this week:



Hedgehog Class

Christmas celebrations have begun in Hedgehog class! We have had a lovely week making patterned wrapping paper and problem solving how to wrap difficult shapes. Something we all find tricky! In Literacy the children have been exploring the nativity story through drama and thinking about the different characters points of view. Our maths work has been to consider the composition of numbers 1-5 using the vocabulary of parts and whole. The children explored this through making towers, using Numicon shapes and double-sided counters. Our class naughty elf has returned for another advent of mischief and challenges. Visit our blog to see what he's been up to.



Squirrel Class

A very cold end to a busy week, but we warmed ourselves up by reading some heartwarming stories of Mog the cat. The class have been predicting, writing in role and dreaming up various scenarios for the nation's favourite forgetful cat! In maths we have continued with our learning on subtraction and encouraged the children to use maths manipulatives to demonstrate understanding in different representations. History this week saw us look at how horses served during WWI and we then wrote poetry inspired by war horses. We also looked online at images of the memorial in Hyde Park, London, dedicated to animals in war – perhaps a visit to London over the Christmas holidays might involve a stop at this beautiful sculpture? Lastly, our shadow puppet theatres are almost ready, and the children will spend our next lesson practising and adding any finishing touches, ready to perform our stories to Mrs France. In our class worship this week we learned about St Andrew and why he is the patron saint of Scotland.



Fox Class

Beakers have featured highly in class this week! In History, we have moved beyond the Neolithic period and entered the Bronze Age. This was heralded by the arrival of the Beaker people. After a lass discussion about them, children made their own beaker out of clay paying close attention to the designs attempting to mirror the originals found from artefacts. Thank you for the soil samples brought in for our Science. We carried out an investigation to see which soil was the most permeable. The class were amazed at just how different soil could be. Beakers were used to catch the water!! In our English, we finished writing our own Stone Age narrative and I am so proud of their enthusiasm and capacity to write for longer periods of time. This week we also started our new text which involved the class carrying out some research into woolly mammoths. We then learn about imperative verbs and useful these would be in instructions. We tried them out as we cleaned some toys in class that Mrs Healy had accidentally (!) covered in paint! Our computing lesson saw the whole class achieve their own Stone Age animation which they were so thrilled to show me. Our DT lesson this week, saw us planning our package ready for the making stage and making the contents....more to follow soon! In our class worship this week, we made a different kind of advent calendar – based on gratitude and kindness. They will be set a different task to carry out each day – I wonder if they will tell you what they did at home?



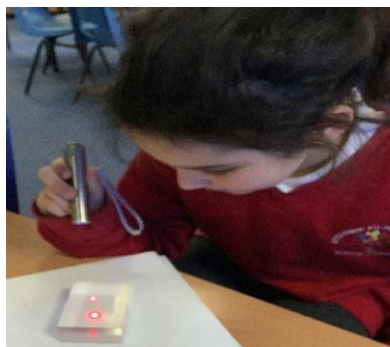
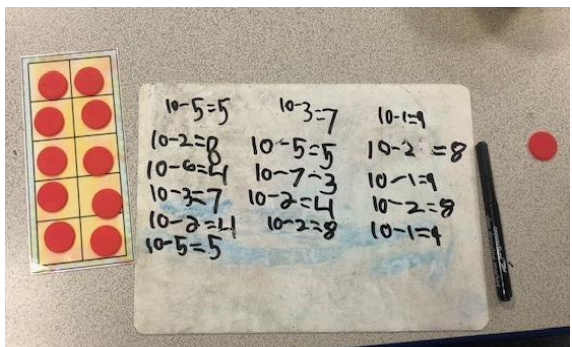
Owl Class

What a busy week for Owl Class! Both year groups finished their fraction unit and completed the end of unit tests, and have begun to explore the metric measure system and have already begun to make links between their prior knowledge of fraction of amounts and units of measure: "Well, ten grams is just one tenth of 100 grams, isn't it Mr Manning?" said one year five pupil. Indeed it is! Happy teacher that day. In English, the children have begun to create suspense writing sentences describing how Theseus creeps around the Labyrinth as he hunts down the Minotaur, and where tasked with using evocative adverbials to describe how the actions are done. We also storyboarded an action sequence for the final 'boss fight' between the hero and the monster, which led to some extremely exciting (and a bit gruesome!) storyboards being drawn up. In Science, we looked at how light can be reflected and refracted, as we passed a laser pen light through prisms, and bounced off of mirrors to measure the angle of reflection. I especially enjoy science with the children: their thoughts and ideas are so fabulous and inventive, and this week they were on top form! DT saw up building up the layers of detail for our Greek theatre masks, this time using the tried and tested medium of rolled up newspaper and sticky tape! Its always fun to end the week with a Blue Peter vibe. Well done for another great week Owl.

GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY

'Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him.' Colossians 2:7

Photo Diary of the Week



GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY
'Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him.' Colossians 2:7



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

Whole School Topic - Autumn Term: Who Do You Think You Are?

Values: Gratitude

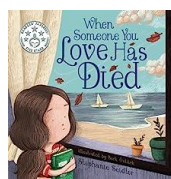
This week in Collective Worship we looked at the challenge of giving thanks when times are difficult. We looked at the story of Paul and Silas in jail, even though times were tough they still sang! They trusted God even when facing difficulties and were thankful for everything that he had done for them.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

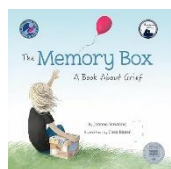
Climate Warriors Challenge

Over 70,000 delegates are attending COP28 in Dubai. The Global Stocktake – an inventory of climate action taken by countries since Paris will show that we're 'way off track'. What do we need? A tripling in renewable energy, a doubling of energy efficiency and a phasing out of fossil fuels. '...there can be no one-size-fits-all approach. So - What can we do back at home? As individuals, we also have a crucial 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 COP28 which finishes on 12th December.

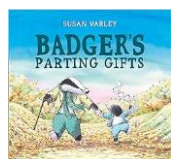
Book Review



When Someone You Love Has Died: Talking to Young Children About Death by Stephanie Seidler. An award-winning, heartfelt, and compassionate children's picture book that gently addresses the topic of death and the experiences that come with it. Through sensitive storytelling and beautiful illustrations, this book offers reassurance and comfort while guiding young readers through the process of understanding and coping with their emotions during a difficult time.



The Memory Box: A Book about Grief by Joanna Rowland Written from the point of view of a child this book allows each reader to imagine the loss of someone they've loved -- a friend, family member, or even a pet. The main character creates a memory box to keep mementos and written memories of her loved one to help with the grieving process. A guide in the back includes information to help children manage grief and offers suggestions on how to create a memory box.



Badger's Parting Gifts by Susan Varley. Badger is so old that he knows he must soon die, so he does his best to prepare his friends. When he finally passes away, they are grief-stricken, but one by one they remember the special things he taught them during his life. By sharing their memories, they realise that although Badger is no longer with them physically, he lives on through his friends.

Happiness Calendar: Do Good December

This month, we're encouraging you to carry out small acts of kindness. Kindness is contagious, and helping others has been proven to make us feel better too! Focusing on being generous with our time and attention rather than money - is free and better for everyone, as well as our planet! This month's happiness calendar is [here](#).

Housepoints

<i>House</i>	<i>This Week</i>	<i>Total</i>
Bethlehem	75	337
Eden	48	347
Galilee	48	340
Jerusalem	34	352

GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY

'Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him.' Colossians 2:7



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

Emails and Letters Sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
01-12-23	Email	All	Office	Nits in School
29-11-23	Email	Owl	Office	Reminder - Festival of Christmas Music
27-11-23	Email	All	Office	Christmas Tree Festival

Please note that all dates are the website.

December	
Sunday 3 rd	3:15pm Aston Rowant School singing at Chinnor Christmas Tree Festival
Monday 4 th	Open Day for Reception 2-3pm
Wednesday 6 th	Thame Music Festival Owl Class Rehearsal pm Performance evening 7pm
Wed 13 th and Thurs 14 th	EYFS Nativity 5:30pm
Tuesday 19 th	12-3:15pm Christmas Lunch, Christmas Party and visit from Father Christmas - at The Lambert Arms Party clothes day. PLEASE COLLECT CHILDREN DIRECTLY FROM THE LAMBERT ARMS at 3:15pm
Tuesday 19 th	Christingle in church 6pm- all children. Families welcome. Children to wear uniform.
Wednesday 20 th	Normal uniform day Pantomime in school funded by PTA
Wednesday 20 th	School ends 1:30pm
January	
Monday 8 th	INSET day
Tuesday 9 th	Children return to school
Monday 22 nd	Garsington Opera Workshop and auditions Owl Class
Wednesday 24 th	PTA meeting EVENING
Wednesday 31 st	R and Year 6 Weight/ Height Measurements
February	
5 th – 9 th February	Children's Mental Health Week
Tuesday 6 th	Internet Safety Day

Academic Year Calendar 2023-24

Autumn 23	
Tues 5 th Sept – Thurs 19 th Oct	Autumn Term (1)
Mon 23 rd – Fri 27 th October	HALF TERM
Mon 30 th Oct – Wed 20 th Dec	Autumn Term (2)
Spring 24	
Tue 9 th Jan – Fri 9 th Feb	Spring Term (1)
Monday 12 th – Fri 16 th February	HALF TERM
Mon 19 th Feb – Thurs 28 th March	Spring Term (2)
Summer 24	
Mon 15 th April - Thu 24 th May	Summer Term (1)
Mon 27 th May – Fri 31 st May	HALF TERM
Mon 3 rd June – Wed 24 th July	Summer Term (2)

GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY

'Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him.' Colossians 2:7