



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

8th December 2023

From the Headteacher

Christmas Tree Festival

The Christmas Tree Festival has once again been a big success. Aston Rowant School's tree was very well received with all of our 'happy thoughts' linking to Peter Pan and the wider theme of pantomimes. The festival is open tomorrow and Sunday if you have not yet had chance to visit. Our fabulous school choir performed Christmas carols, songs and poems last Sunday – they were amazing and made us all very proud. Thank you to Mrs Atkins for all her hard work in getting us ready for special event, to Mrs Hall for conducting and to the children and their families for giving up your time to put on such a beautiful and memorable performance.



Thame Festival of Music



It was a privilege to attend The Festival of Music on Wednesday with our Year 5 and 6 children. The evening was a wonderful mix of carols, the performance of Follow that Star, the younger siblings singing 'Away in a Manger', the teachers performing Snow is Falling and full audience participation in 'The 12 Days of Christmas'. I was proud of the enthusiasm of our children, their exemplary behaviour at the rehearsals and performance, their commitment to learning the words and of Olivia for her beautiful reading. The money raised from this event has gone to The Red Kite Centre, Thame.

Nativity

The stage is up, the beautiful backdrop prepared, the songs rehearsed, the words learnt and the costumes have been tried on. We are ready to go! The Hedgehog Class performances of 'Shine Star Shine' will be on Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th December at 5:30pm. The PTA are providing mulled wine and mince pies for a donation – so please come prepared!



Christmas Party



On Tuesday 19th December we will be having our Christmas party at The Lambert Arms. It will start with Christmas lunch and will be followed with party games and a visit from Father Christmas. All children need to be collected directly from The Lambert Arms at 3:15pm. The room has direct access to the car park at the back of the hotel and we will dismiss all children from there. **Please remember to return your lunch form by Monday 11th December.**

Christingle Service

We are also busy preparing for our Christmas service which is on Tuesday 19th December at 6:00pm in the church. As a church school it is important that we maintain our strong links with our local church, and therefore I ask that all children do attend unless they have a prior commitment. The service will be led by Owl Class and all children, including the choir and our musicians, will be joining in various parts of the service. It is a wonderful opportunity to join together to sing carols, hear the Christmas message and end by lighting our Christingles. After the service the PTA will be serving mulled wine.



Pantomime



We are looking forward to watching Cinderella on Wednesday. Oh yes we are! It will be for all of the children in our school hall from 9:30am. Thank you to the PTA for booking and paying for this treat. It is a fabulous way to end the term with the whole school family coming together to enjoy an experience that is educational as well as entertaining and unforgettable.

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



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Teaching and Learning in the Classrooms this week:



Hedgehog Class

This week has been a busy Christmassy week. We have moved into the Christmas section of our Celebrations topic and the children have been learning the details of the First Christmas Story and why it is important to Christians. We have talked about the different ways we celebrate and the significance of certain traditions. This week we have met Nico the elf who is learning lots in his time with us. He has been setting us some fun challenges as well as getting up to mischief! The children have worked super hard on the nativity play and it is nearly time to show our wonderful efforts to our families. We are very excited and we look forward to welcoming you next week.



Squirrel Class

Another busy week in our Squirrel Class with lots of wonderful learning taking place. Mog the Cat continues to be the highlight for us, and we have created a comic strip of her Christmas Calamity this week! The children also tried their hand at creating some 'paw-some' cat puns for a cat themed Christmas cracker, which was lots of fur-tastic fun! Our shadow puppets and props are now finished, so all that remains is to practise our stories and then perform to an audience. Watch this space for more on that next week! On Thursday the RE Inspired team (Rev Des, Rev Jacky, Rev Emma and Mrs Poole) led a fun session on the Nativity story and did amazing Christmas crafts with us. In our Science lessons this week we looked at the effect of exercise on the human body, with the children observing what happened to their bodies after 3 minutes of high intensity exercise. We then took the time to notice changes in our bodies when we sat down and relaxed. The children noted that to keep healthy our lifestyle should contain a balanced amount of both exercise and relaxation. Next week we are looking at life cycles and how we change, so any baby pictures of the children to share in the lesson would be appreciated.



Fox Class

Children have worked so hard this week – I am so proud of them. We have been writing instructions on how to wash a woolly mammoth and they have all shown me they understand what the important elements are for successful instructions. On Friday we made our own woolly mammoth with the intention of them writing their own instructions next week. In our History, we are well and truly in the Bronze Age and learnt how bronze was made. As an extra special treat, we had a virtual visit to the British Museum about the Stone Age. It was a fantastic event without the hassle of getting to London! Fossils were the name of the game in our Science this week. We learnt about which rock fossils would be found in and understood about fossilisation. We then followed instructions (linked to our English) and made our own fossils! They'll be coming home when they're a bit older! We managed to add sound and some text to our Stone Age animations this week using iMovie which, as you can imagine, filled our class with all manner of sounds! The class's grasp of musicality is really improving and this week they were able to play a tune on the glockenspiels and had a go at improvising too! Our kindness calendar is going well too with the whole class saying hello, holding doors and saying thank you. However, I think the Reindeer challenge is keeping everyone entertained at the end of each day with the different Christmas based task they have to complete!



Owl Class

Crikey, what a busy week! Owl Class have been balancing lots of rehearsals for the Festival of Music with their main topics work this week: in English, another fantastic action and suspense based Big Write, and the beginning of mapping out how 'Choose Your Own Adventure Books' work: playtesting and then planning out different versions of stories and seeing what consequences can happen as a result of their character choices: we also did plenty of work on 2nd person perspective and how the text directly challenges or give instructions to the reader. In DT, we got messy with mod-roc, creating our first base layer for our ancient Greek theatre masks. The children paid great attention to instructions and really focused on creating a good first layer for us to apply paint to next week (they also tidied up the classrooms really well afterwards). We also had a visit from a local handbell-ringing expert, who generously gave their time to show the children how to ring the bells to create beautiful festive music. The pupils picked this up so quickly! The sound of Christmas chimes filled the hall. I can't not mention the Festival of Christmas music, which was a brilliant evening. The children coped extremely well with such a long day, their behaviour was excellent, and they all gave their best efforts. I would like to thank each of them for their dedication and concentration as they learnt the lyrics, and also to sincerely thank all the parent volunteers for the impressive flotilla of cars they summoned to transport the children to the Thame Leisure Centre.

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

Photo Diary of the Week



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

Values: Gratitude

This week in Collective Worship we asked if the children had heard the phrase 'count your blessings'. When we remember all of the things that we have to be thankful for our days seem brighter and even when we face tricky times we can have hope. This has linked well to the tree that we have decorated for the Christmas Tree Festival. Our stars with our 'happy thoughts' on them reflect all the things that we can be grateful for. If you haven't yet visited the Christmas tree do – the children's thoughts and reflections on it are quite moving – and are a poignant reminder of what we ourselves can be grateful for.

We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers. 1 Thessalonians 1:2

Climate Warriors Challenge

This week's challenge encourages children to become detectives in their bathroom – to find products that contain palm oil – staggeringly approximately half of packaged supermarket products contain palm oil. Bathroom toiletries are much a gifted Christmas present – so why not take the opportunity to only choose products that use 'sustainable' palm oil? Become a palm oil detective and hunt for products that contain palm oil – words like 'PALM', 'STEAR' LAUR' or 'GLYC' on the ingredients can all mean palm oil. 'Keeping up the pressure' works ... UK imports of 'certified sustainable' palm oil have increased from 16% in 2010 to 72% in 2021 ... a success story to build on. Keep up the good work!

Book Review The Christmas-saurus by Tom Fletcher- reviewed by Lilly, Year 6.

'This is brilliant Christmas story. There is a boy called William Trundle, who wants a dinosaur for Christmas, but thinks that Santa and the elves will never ever get it for him. He is so wrong....

I gave this five stars on my Bookflix review because it really is a very funny and good book and I couldn't put it down until I had finished it.

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	95	432
Eden	79	426
Galilee	108	448
Jerusalem	87	439

A reminder that **Eden** won the housepoints challenge for Autumn 1 and have elected to have a mufti day – which will be Monday 11th December.

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Emails and Letters Sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
08-12-23	Email	All	Governors	VA Consultation
08-12-23	Email	Y1-Y6	Office	JR: Spring Term bookings open
08-12-23	Email	Team Eden	Office	Eden: Mufti day on 11-12-23
06-12-23	Email	All	Office	PTA: Christmas Panto, lunch & raffle

Please note that all dates are the website.

December	
Wed 13 th and Thurs 14 th	EYFS Nativity 5:30pm (children arrive at 5pm)
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
Tuesday 16 th	Consultation about becoming a VA school- parents, carers and local community 6:30pm in school hall
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
Wednesday 21 st	Virtual Reality Headsets Hedgehog: Eco Squirrel: Space Fox: Animals (rainforest) Owl: Egyptians

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)

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