



**Aston Rowant C+E Primary School**  
**School Lane, Aston Rowant, Oxon OX49 5SU**  
**01844 351671**

**[office@aston-rowant.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office@aston-rowant.oxon.sch.uk)**

**Headteacher: Mrs Helen France**

**15<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

## *From the Headteacher*

### *Nativity*

We are incredibly grateful to Hedgehog Class for their three wonderful performances of 'Shine Star Shine' this week, one to the whole school and two to family and friends. It is hard to believe that the majority of children in the class are only 4 years old. They remembered their lines and the words for the songs and performed with such confidence that it was a privilege and joy to watch. I am so proud of each and every one of them. I am also grateful to Mrs Olsen, Mrs Hall and Mrs Ansell for all of their hard work in encouraging and inspiring the children to perform. Also, thank you to the parents and carers for supporting the children and helping with the costumes etc.



### *Christmas Party*



We are looking forward to our Christmas party at The Lambert Arms on Tuesday. It will start with Christmas lunch and will be followed with party games and a visit from Father Christmas. The children can come to school in their party clothes, however, please note that KS2 will be walking to the venue so will need a warm coat and sensible footwear. 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.

### *Christingle Service*

Our Christmas service is on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 6:00pm in the church. As a church school we are looking forward to all of our children attending, in school uniform, 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.



### *Last Day of Term*



Our term will end with the whole school watching Cinderella on Wednesday. It will be for all of the children and will be in our school hall from 9:30am. This is a school uniform day.

We will be drawing the PTA hamper raffle in the hall from 1pm – they look spectacular again this year so do make sure you have tickets. You can then collect your children from the school gate at 1:30pm

### *Book Review Christmas Homework*

For our Christmas homework, and as part of our focus on reading, we are asking every child in Years 1-6 to write a book review. All they have to do is write a review on a book they have read. Maybe they liked the characters or enjoyed going on exciting adventures in faraway places. Or perhaps they want to create an illustration of a character or a scene from the story. More details will be sent out by the class teachers. We will then submit the reviews to Blue Peter for each child to gain a Blue Peter Reading Badge. The badge itself is designed by one of the UK's best-known illustrators, Sir Quentin Blake. Badge owners, with a valid badge card, can gain free entry into over 200 Blue Peter Badge attractions around the country such as theme parks, zoos and castles. [Blue Peter Book badge | Find out how to earn the Book BP badge - CBBC - BBC](#)



### *Future Performances*



We are delighted to confirm that from this year we will have a cycle of performances for our children. Each year the nativity will continue to be performed by our Reception children. At the end of the Spring Term KS1 will put on a performance in the hall and at the end of the Summer Term KS2 will put on an open-air performance. Watch this space for more details. All I can say is that if Hedgehog's performances this week are anything to go by we are in for a treat!

*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**

It has been a wonderful week in Hedgehog class. The children have made us incredibly proud with their dedication to learning their lines and their confident performance of "Shine Star Shine". They really did shine in all their performances this week! In other news we have been preparing for Christmas by making some gingerbread biscuits and applying the skills we have practiced this term in mixing, rolling and cutting our own shapes. We have learnt some traditional Christmas carols and enjoyed singing them with our families around the Christmas tree on Friday. In phonics the children have been learning about the digraphs ff, ll and ss. They have learnt how to use them at the end of words. As we near the end of term and tiredness kicks in the children have still maintained a fantastic attitude to learning and have been developing independent skills in their play. We are extremely proud of how they have grown and developed over their first full term at Aston-Rowant School!



### **Squirrel Class**

The penultimate week before the Christmas holidays has seen us busier than ever! We have been learning about personal pronouns in SPAG lessons this week and the children wrote their own sentences using a variety of pronouns. We have also read some other Mog the Cat stories and talked about what else we have learned about Mog's character. In maths lessons both Year 1 and Year 2 have been learning about shape, exploring 2D and 3D shapes. We have made lots of models and drawings, with fun hands-on activities. We also finally performed our shadow puppet shows to each other in our DT lesson this week. There was lots of laughter and fun involved! We are now very much looking forward to the last week of term with all the fun activities planned.



### **Fox Class**

Even though we are nearing the end of term, the children are still learning! They all demonstrated great instruction writing about how to make a woolly mammoth. They had really enjoyed making them the previous week so had first-hand experience on what to do and tips on how to make them. We have now reached the Iron Age and children were able to map out the differences they had seen from the Stone Age. It was fabulous hearing the vocabulary use within their discussions. In our Science, we took part in a Big Science event watching some experiments about food. Again, the class had really good ideas and thoughts on what was shown. They also made a poster describing all the things they had learnt about rocks and I was blown away by what they had retained – of course we had to sing our rock song and the soil rap was useful too! Our French lesson was a popular French game called Bonhomme de neige which is similar to the game Beetle Drive. The whole class loved it so if you have a dice handy over Christmas play it with your whole family! In our DT lesson, after making our box from scratch by designing a net, children have now filled them and will bring them home today. They really worked hard on this as well as the package design.



### **Owl Class**

Despite being near the end of term, the children have been super busy and have still been expanding their knowledge and understanding of so many different topics: in English, the children crafted a series of Choose Your Own Adventure books based around our work on the Greek legend of Theseus and the Minotaur. This is a careful time-consuming skill: they children had to map out all the different possibilities for each potential choice and ensure that the writing was still entertaining and engaging. We play tested these on the last day of term, and Mr Manning came to an untimely end at the hands of the minotaur many a time. In Maths, Year Six have completed their last unit of metric measures, and have been putting these skills to the test around the classroom, converting between metric measures and even into old imperial measures, whilst Year 5 undertook some festive fraction challenges to put their knowledge to the test!. After the fascinating Big Science live assembly, the children began to plan their own big investigations: some of the children will be running these at home in the new year, and some have asked to bring equipment into the classroom to run at a lunchtime to record their ideas. I really encourage the children to be inventive and adventurous with their investigation ideas, and to remember how we work scientifically through an investigation. Based on the ideas I've seen so far, I think we may have some really interesting results. In, DT, despite some of our mod-roc masks not quite working, the children pushed on and managed to complete their Greek theatre masks, showing that character and resilience that we know so well.

**GRATITUDE    RESILIENCE    OUTREACH    WONDER    TRUST    HARMONY**

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*Photo Diary of the Week*



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

### *Values: Gratitude*

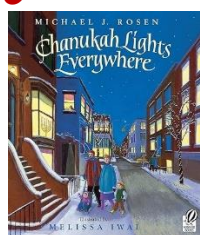
In Collective Worship this week we thought about different ways to show gratitude. We thought about who we are grateful to. Who has helped us recently. How often we take the time to really say thank you and show our gratitude. We thought about creative ways that we could make others feel valued especially if they go out of their way to support or help us. We have encouraged children to do this at home and at school. A smile or kind word does not cost us anything but can make such a big difference. This links brilliantly to our happiness calendar for December.

*'Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.' 1 Thessalonians 5:11*

### *Climate Warriors Challenge*

This holiday we are encouraging children to pause and take time to support and enjoy our wild birds – watching the robins 'showing off' and listening to their birdsong. All Young Climate Warriors' holiday challenges involve getting outside and exploring our natural world. Connecting with nature as a child is considered an essential building block in valuing nature into adulthood, and then choosing to strive to protect it.

### *Book Review 'Chanukah Lights Everywhere'* Written by Michael Rosen



Today marks the last day of Hannukkah. This is a beautiful book about a young boy and his sister as they count the lights shining all around them. It starts with the crescent moon glowing in the sky. Then two headlights shine through the window. The children count the candles on the family Menorah and the lights they see in the world around them. On each magical night of Chanukah, the children discover what it means to celebrate Hanukkah in a world filled with so many other lights. The book beautifully weaves in information on the history and significance of the celebration.

### *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](#).

### *Attendance - Autumn Term*

School target 97%	97% - 100%	90% -97%	Below 90%
Hedgehog Class	46%	27%	27%
Squirrel Class	65%	21%	14%
Fox Class	52%	26%	22%
Owl Class	26%	52%	22%

### *Housepoints*

<i>House</i>	<i>This Week</i>	<i>Total</i>
Bethlehem	75	507
Eden	77	503
Galilee	83	505
Jerusalem	71	510

The winner of this half term's houspoints are Jerusalem.

Congratulations to Connie, Owl Class, for being our first to reach 100 housepoints in a term. Connie now has a gold housepoint badge to reflect her incredible achievement.

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### *Emails and Letters Sent this Week*

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
15-12-23	Email	All	Office	Lunch orders
15-12-23	Email	Hedgehog	Office	Christmas carols
13-12-23	Email	All	Office	Wrap around care

Please note that all dates are on the website.

December	
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	12-3:15pm Christmas Lunch (fully funded by PTA), Christmas Party and visit from Father Christmas – at The Lambert Arms. Party clothes day. <b>PLEASE COLLECT CHILDREN DIRECTLY FROM THE LAMBERT ARMS at 3:15pm</b>
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Christingle in church 6pm- all children. Families welcome. Children to wear uniform.
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Normal uniform day Pantomime in school partly funded by PTA
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	School ends 1:30pm
January	
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup>	INSET day
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Children return to school
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Consultation about becoming a VA school- parents, carers and local community 6:30pm in school hall
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Garsington Opera Workshop and auditions Owl Class
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup>	PTA meeting EVENING
Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup>	R and Year 6 Weight/ Height Measurements
February	
5 <sup>th</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup> February	Children's Mental Health Week
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Internet Safety Day
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Virtual Reality Headsets (PTA) Hedgehog: Eco Squirrel: Space Fox: Animals (rainforest) Owl: Egyptians
March	
Tues 19 <sup>th</sup> Wed 20 <sup>th</sup>	Parents' Evenings
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	2:30pm Book look with cake sale
Thurs 28 <sup>th</sup>	9:15am Spring Service in church

### *Academic Year Calendar 2023-24*

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

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