



**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

3<sup>rd</sup> November 2023

### *From the Headteacher*

#### *Poppy Appeal*

We have a range of poppy merchandise as well as the traditional poppies for sale in school. If the children, or adults, would like something then please bring in a donation for The Royal British Legion and Year 6 will be selling them at break times as well as at the school gate. Do help us support this very worthwhile cause.



#### *Our Pre-Loved Christmas Jumper Sale*



The Eco-Warriors Team are hoping to host a 'Pre-Loved Christmas Jumper Sale' on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023**, straight after school in the hall. The Eco-warriors ask that children and adults from our community donate any pre-loved Christmas jumpers to school. This is great for the environment as not only does it reduce waste and encourage reuse/recycling, it also means that the money raised by the sale can be used to fund our future eco-warrior projects. **It will only happen with your support!**

#### *Parents' Evenings*

A quick reminder that Parent Consultation meetings are being held next week on Monday and Wednesday evenings. These 10-minute meetings are an opportunity for you to meet with teachers online to hear firstly of how your child has settled into their new year group. You will also be informed of the progress that your child has made to date with their learning and be made aware of areas for development, including, where applicable, with your child's behaviour and attendance too. There will be a book look in the Spring Term.



#### *School Day*



As a reminder the school day starts at 8:45. The gates open from 8:30 and locked just after 8:40. The children will line up promptly at 8:45 and all children should be in school by this time. Children should only come to the office door in case of **an emergency** rather than as a fall back.

The children must have all of the equipment that they need for the day with them when they line up. We are increasingly having coats, water bottles and PE kits etc dropped off at the office during the morning, which takes up the office team's valuable time. Please also use the post box by the front door to post any reply slips rather than knock and hand them in personally. Thank you.



#### *Wrap around care*



Please book all wrap around care at the start of each half term. WAC can be booked 24 hours in advance of attendance if required, but advanced notice enables us to plan. Any cancellations should also be made at least 24 hours in advance.

#### *Allergy reminder*

Just to remind everyone that we have a number of children in school with various food allergies which means that we are a 'nut free' school. Please do check your child's packed lunch carefully. Please can you also ensure that you keep us up to date of any allergies or medical needs/conditions that your child may have. Thank you.



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

Headteacher: Mrs Helen France

## *Teaching and Learning in the Classrooms this week:*



### *Hedgehog Class*

In Hedgehog class this week we have launched our new topic 'Celebrations' in Hedgehog class this week. We have started with looking at how we remember the soldiers that have fought for our country and we celebrate their lives and sacrifice through Poppy Day. We collaborated with Year 1 and held a wreath making competition. The children used their creative skills to fashion poppies from various craft materials and they looked really fabulous (see photos). In our Literacy we have been learning the traditional story of "Rama and Sita" by Malachy Doyle. The children have made Rama and Sita masks and responded to the story in a variety of ways through Indian Dance and Diva lamp making. It has been really fun! In Maths the children have been learning 1 more and 1 less songs to practice our skills of counting forwards and back. We had lots of fun 'smashing' bottles in the '3 Green Bottles' song! The children are still very much enjoying playing outside even in the wet weather. Please ensure they always have coats and some spare socks if possible. Thank you.



### *Squirrel Class*

It's the first week back after half term and we have jumped right in with our new topic of 'Animals in War', which has sparked some brilliantly emotive and moving work from the children. We read a text called 'Where the Poppies Now Grow' and created thought bubbles for the main characters in the story. Later in the week the Y2 children collaborated with the Y3 children to research how WWI impacted the women and children at the time. We used the new iPads to do this, and the children were experts at using the technology to gather information and produce a mini project. In our history lesson we explored how animals were also included in the war effort and learnt about the importance of messenger pigeons. The class are very excited to explore how other animals helped too. Our science lessons are also linked to animals this term, and we reviewed how animals are classified by scientists and discussed what an animal needs in order to survive. Lastly, our DT topic this term will be shadow puppets, so we explored how many cultures have used shadow puppetry to tell stories over thousands of years. The children are very excited to create and tell some traditional tales using our own uniquely designed puppets over the coming weeks.



### *Fox Class*

Well Fox Class have come back keen and ready to learn! They have been really excited by our new topics this half term. Our History topic is the Stone Age to the Iron Age and children this week used the historical skills of evidence and interpretation. Given information about some artefacts found by Victorian archaeologists, the class used what they knew about the Mesolithic people and tried to interpret what the artefact might have been and what it would have been used for. They really thought about their responses and used what they had learnt from Black History month to support their thinking too. In our Science we are looking at rocks and soil and the class found looking at different samples with their magnifying glasses fascinating. They worked together to sort their samples and then moved round the class seeing how other groups had sorted theirs too. Our English is also linked to the Stone Age and we've started the topic predicting what the story might be about and sharing any questions we had about the book. We also looked at pictures of animals found during this period and looked for similarities to animals now and which animals were extinct. This is always a good starting point as it gives children the ability to use their imagination and also to share what they know already with the class. We then looked at the use of language and punctuation at the start of the book and made our own version replicating the features used by the author. In our DT we are starting to look at packaging, so we deconstructed a box to see the net and also discussed why manufacturers use the materials they do. Finally, as part of our class worship, we discussed being grateful for the different seasons and used some lovely autumnal leaves to make some fun foxes, which you can see on the photo page. You might also see them in our window if you look carefully!



### *Owl Class*

What a fantastic start to the new term from Owl Class: they have come back ready and raring to learn! We began our new English topic based around the ancient Greek myth of Theseus and the Minotaur, creating story maps of the events and acting it out. We even converted our classroom into a labyrinth and used a ball of thread to find our way through the maze. Luckily, no minotaur's appeared. History also centred on the Ancient Greeks, as we placed major historical events in time order, and explored a CGI rendering of Athens as it once was, before writing postcards 'back to the future' describing all the amazing sights we have seen. In DT, the children were tasked by an ancient Greek theatre company to create the masks for their next play and have begun to create their initial designs. Maths has seen the children recapping their prior knowledge of fractions and beginning to understand how to find common denominators and how to convert improper fractions to mixed numbers, whilst in PE they have been performing gymnastic feats and getting competitive in hockey. What a busy and brilliant first week back, 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](mailto:office@aston-rowant.oxon.sch.uk)**

*Headteacher: Mrs Helen France*

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

**Values: Gratitude**

Our theme for our Collective Worship this week has been 'Praising God in Creation'. We looked at the theme of gratitude and how, just by being itself, every part of creation praises God. We looked at 'Thank-you God' a retelling of Psalm 148 – which is a song of praise to God in the Bible. We looked at what we are most grateful for in creation: autumn leaves, conkers, acorns, spider webs, rainbows, clouds, trees, birds; sun; rain, puddles, lightning and even snow!

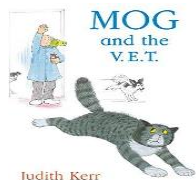
*'Let us praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his splendour is above the earth and the heavens.'* Psalm 148

**Climate Warriors Challenge**

Little glowing eyes follow you in the dark as you leave the room at night and when you go to school ... they just carry on glowing. Can you guess what these energy-sucking lights are? Those little red or green eyes are the standby lights on many household appliances. How many can you find in your home? Can you count them? Were you surprised by the answer? Keep hunting, we expect you'll come across more over the week. Your challenge this week is to see how many appliances and devices you can switch off at the wall when you go to bed or before you go to school. Remember to ask your parent/carer before you touch any plugs – and of course, some appliances, like freezers and fridges, need to be left on all the time, so don't switch those off!

How do you think we are helping our planet by switching off those 'energy-sucking vampires'? By helping to reduce the amount of electricity you use you are in turn reducing your carbon emissions. Banish those lights and 'little by little', as a Young Climate Warrior, you are playing your part in helping to combat climate change – you're not just 'standing by' letting others take action.

**Book Review – Mog and the Vet by Judith Kerr reviewed by Mrs Biggin**



I have been reading these series of books at bedtimes with my daughters recently and have fallen in love all over again with the wonderful illustrations and chaotic tales of Mog the cat! She is a loveable main character whose clumsy ways get her into all kinds of tricky situations...but it's always a fun adventure. I'm looking forward to reading the special Christmas books over the coming months too.

**Happiness Calendar: New Ways November**

**This month, we're encouraging you to try something new!** Learning something new or getting involved in an activity that really absorbs and interests us is great for our wellbeing. Keeping our brains active is not only good for us physically but it can help you feel you are flourishing as you see yourself make progress with a new skill, or just make you smile as you make a mess and decide to start again. :) Being playful and trying new things is important, as is remembering that it's okay not to get it right first time - change "I can't do it", into "I can't do it...yet!" This month's calendar is full of ideas to help you decide what to try next. This month's happiness calendar is [here](#).

**Housepoints**

<i>House</i>	<i>This Week</i>	<i>Total</i>
Bethlehem	45	45
Eden	61	61
Galilee	68	68
Jerusalem	70	70

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

**Headteacher: Mrs Helen France**

***Emails and Letters Sent this Week***

<b>Date</b>	<b>Email/Letter</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Concerning</b>
03-11-23	Email	Fox/Owl	Office	Parents Evening Teams Links
01-11-23	Email	Hedgehog/Squirrel	Office	Parents Evening Teams Links

**Please note that all dates are the website.**

<b>November</b>	
Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> and Wed 8 <sup>th</sup>	Parents' Evenings
w/c 6 <sup>th</sup> November	UK Parliament Week
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas jumper sale
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup>	H&S Inspection
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup>	KS2 Service at War Memorial 11am
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 17 <sup>th</sup>	Anti Bullying Week – Make a Noise
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Children in Need (wear spots and dots and make a donation to this charity)
Mon 20 <sup>th</sup> – 24 <sup>th</sup>	Road Safety Week inc Be Bright Be Seen Day on Friday (wear your brightest clothes)
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Bags2School
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Governor Business Meeting
<b>December</b>	
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Open Day for Reception 2-3pm
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup> and Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup>	EYFS Nativity
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Lunch at The Lambert Arms (organised by PTA)
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Christingle in church
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Pantomime in school funded by PTA
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Party School ends 1:30

***Academic Year Calendar 2023-24***

<b>Autumn 23</b>	
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)
<b>Spring 24</b>	
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)
<b>Summer 24</b>	
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)

**GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY**

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