



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

17th November 2023

From the Headteacher

Children in Need



Thank you to everyone who came in their spots or dots, or Children in Need merchandise, and donated towards Children in Need this week. Thank you also to The School Council for their hard work running our competitions through the week. We have raised a total of **£150.00** for Children in Need.

We are delighted to announce the following winners:

- Design a bandana – Max S
- Guess the name of the bear – Russell with 'Nuttie'
- Guess how many smarties are in the jar – Henry with 20! only 2 away!

Anti-Bullying Week

This week we have marked anti-bullying week. With a theme 'Make a Noise about Bullying'. Too often, we are silent when we see bullying take place, silent about the hurt bullying causes, and silent when we hear bullying dismissed as 'just banter or teasing'. It doesn't have to be this way. Of course, we won't like everyone, and we don't always agree, but we can choose respect and unity.

This Anti-Bullying Week we've come together to have discussions about what bullying means to us, how teasing or banter can turn into something more hurtful, and what we can do to stop bullying. Together, we can make a difference and take a stand against bullying. From the playground to Parliament, and from our phones to our homes, let's make a noise about bullying.



Smartphones



There is well-documented peer-pressure which both children and their parents experience concerning children owning their own phones. No parent wants to see their child fall behind academically or socially. However, allowing primary aged children access to their own phone carries risk that we need to highlight.

1. Phones can expose our children to cyber bullying; violent and/or sexual content; grooming; and access to other harmful content.
2. Childhood is fleeting and precious, and children do not always have the maturity to discern what is appropriate or true.
3. Uniquely smart phones allow bullies unprecedented access to children, even crossing into the safety of the home.

Linked to our anti-bullying focus and internet safety policy we encourage all parents to avoid giving primary aged children phones.

Be Bright Be Seen Day

If you are a motorist then you will know how difficult it can be to see pedestrians wearing dark clothes at night or when visibility is poor. Last year, most road related accidents for children happened between 7-9am or 3-5pm on a weekday – when they travel to and from school. On Friday 24th November, we are having a 'Be Bright Be Seen Day' when children come to school dressed in bright clothes rather than uniform. We will be reminding them the importance of wearing bright clothes and fluorescent strips to enable drivers to see them more easily. Please also see the attached 'Footsteps' road safety flyer.



School Newspaper



This half term sees the launch of our school newspaper named by our editors *The Aston Rowant Brilliant Blog*. Our editors: Harry, Joanie, Oliver J and Bodie decided that it would be a blog to enable everyone to read it online from our school website and not waste any paper.

The first edition will hit the press towards Christmas and will include global news, an interview, what we've been up to as a school, a book review and also articles from children who have done some amazing things outside of school. If your child would like to write an article for the first Christmas edition, we are looking for

some outstanding Christmas cracker jokes! If you or your child knows some 'crackers' then please write them down and put them in our box in the hall. Also, any budding artists could draw a Christmassy picture and our editors will choose some to include.

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 celebration week in Hedgehog. On Thursday we celebrated earning 50 marbles in our jar by wearing our pyjamas to school! In Maths we celebrated our class teddies' birthdays. One was four and one was five years old. We made them birthday cards and cakes with candles remembering to count carefully. We found lots of different representations of 4 and 5 using our number facts to help. The children have been really enjoying our nativity practices and this week we dug out some costumes and props to bring it to life. They are becoming more confident in speaking clearly and following stage directions! We are making a class book in Literacy about the different types of celebrations. This week we composed factual sentences about Diwali considering how to use the present tense instead of the past. For Anti-bullying week we learnt a fun rap song about how to say 'stop!' to bullies.



Squirrel Class

The Squirrel class are doing brilliantly with their writing, and this week they've produced some beautiful descriptions of 'Stubby' the war hero dog. We also used Stubby as inspiration for poetry writing and created some acrostic poems in English lessons. In maths we are continuing with our learning on subtraction, looking at how number sentences for subtraction are not commutative. We have also played some maths games on the new iPads to consolidate this learning using the White Rose 1-Minute Maths App. In History we created coded messages like those used during the war (carried by messenger pigeons) and it was lots of fun! We used iPads in Science lessons, as the children researched animals and their diets, creating fact files and sorting animals into omnivores, carnivores and herbivores. We also discussed Anti-Bullying Week during our class collective worship and identified what the term 'bullying' actually means. We shared what to do or how to help if we suspect bullying and then the children created 'superhero wristbands' with a superpower decorated on them that would help them banish bullying.



Fox Class

Knowledge has been oozing out of every pore this week! I am blown away by how much the children know about the Stone Age period now and are able to discuss different periods using evidence of how they know things. In our English, we looked at the different jobs people had such as making tools, skinning animals and making fire and compared them to how we live today. Looking at the jobs we discussed which were the most important and why and which skills we thought we would have to do the job. We also wrote diaries in character enabling us to show off our knowledge of how to write a diary including writing with an informal voice, past tense, showing emotion and using chronological order. Our maths now is centred on times tables so please support your child in learning these and using TTRS please. During our History lesson we learnt about what the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic people ate. We also learnt about the cave paintings that were discovered and what the pictures of the animals may have meant. Our Science was focussed on how rocks are formed and we managed to put together a short song with actions to remind us of the three main types. Our knowledge of the Enormous Turnip helped in our French lesson as we acted it out and using the written story looked for key words that had been taught to enable them to draw the correct picture to accompany the story. The weather may be poor but our PE lessons still continue so one of our lessons remained in our classroom but children enjoyed a yoga session followed a great dance session! Last week in DT, we constructed 3D shapes using nets. Continuing on the packaging theme, this week we looked at the fonts and pictures on packaging and which audience might it appeal to. Finally, as part of our Class Worship we wrote on a square of paper what were grateful for. These ranged from our families, pets to cheese! We then, folded them into hearts and you'll see them on our window. Ask your child what they can tell you about these lessons – you will be blown away too!



Owl Class

We've had a really practical week here in Owl Class: following on from the possibly the most popular homework I've ever set (empty a tube of Pringles by any means necessary), the children bought in their empty tubes to create their very own camera obscura, or pinhole camera. We did experience some trial and error in the construction of this, and we achieved some mixed results, but in true scientific manner we used this to plan out what we might do to improve our cameras, and why the materials used may have affected the design. The children really approached this in a constructive manner and applied their own ideas, which were captured and placed in our class Science journal. In DT, we created the headframe and face plates for our ancient Greek Theatre masks, which required careful planning and accuracy of measure. Next week we should be able to begin using newspaper and PVA glue to construct the face details: we anticipate accuracy and measurement being slightly less that time! In English the children mapped out their own characters journey through the labyrinth, and how the conversation and dialogue they will need to create an exciting suspense narrative. In Maths, Year 6 have completed a full set of SATs practice papers and have all made good personal gains in their results. In History he explored differing versions of the Siege of Troy, and explored if it was a myth or based on a true story, before writing separate recounts of what it was like to wait inside the Trojan Horse, waiting to raid the city.

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

Following on from Remembrance last week, in Collective Worship this week we have been looking at remembering to say thank you. Sometimes we can forget to say thank you for our food, or homes, or the little things that people do all of the time which make our lives better. We looked at St Paul's letter to the Ephesians where he says:

'Always give thanks for everything to God the Father.' Ephesians 5:20

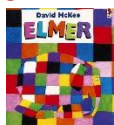
and we challenged ourselves to think about what we can show gratitude to God for. The children had quite a list!

Climate Warriors Challenge

It's World Children's Day on Monday 20th November – an opportunity to think about how we can take action to help children around the world. UNICEF says that 'it's critical for children and young people to have the information, opportunities and platforms they need to stand up for their rights and make themselves heard'. Young Climate Warriors attempts to play a small role in meeting this need.

Young Climate Warriors are challenged this week to 'seek' the heating thermostat in their home, and then (along with their parent/carer) turn it down by 1 degree. You might need to wear an extra jumper, pop on a woolly hat, snuggle into a blanket, or even wear socks in bed – but it'll be helping children across the world. [Children around the world talking about climate change - UNICEF video](#)

Book Reviews - Anti Bullying Week

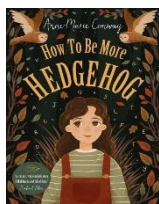


EYFS 'Elmer' by David McKee This brilliant book about a multicoloured patchwork elephant who paints himself grey to try and look like the other elephants is perfect for any child who's ever worried about fitting in. Use it to teach children the value of being unique and how important it is never to hide your true colours.

KS1 'Marshall Armstrong is New to Our School' by David Mackintosh. This book focuses on tolerance, acceptance and celebrating difference. Marshall Armstrong is nothing like his classmates. But difference isn't necessarily a bad thing, as his new friends soon find out when they go to his party...



KS2 'How to be More Hedgehog' by Anne-Marie Conway. Lily has a stammer. The signal between her brain and her mouth is all messed up – and it's getting worse. When a video of her practicing her class presentation is uploaded onto YouTube Lily's nightmare begins. Cyberbullying, kids at school whispering, even best friend Mia laughing behind her back. Lily's confidence takes a nose-dive and she can only see one way out: run away to Dad in Scotland and start all over again. But Lily quickly realises that running away isn't the answer - that her stammer will follow her wherever she goes... it is about friendship and family and finding the courage to speak out.



Happiness Calendar: New Ways November

This month, we're encouraging you to try something new! 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	68	162
Eden	91	213
Galilee	92	207
Jerusalem	72	214

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Emails and Letters Sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning

Please note that all dates are the website.

November	
Mon 20 th – 24 th	Road Safety Week inc Be Bright Be Seen Day on Friday (wear your brightest clothes)
Monday 20 th	World Children's Day
Friday 24 th	Bags2School
Wednesday 29 th	Governor Business Meeting
December	
Monday 4 th	Open Day for Reception 2-3pm
Wed 13 th and Thurs 14 th	EYFS Nativity
Tuesday 19 th	Christmas Lunch at The Lambert Arms (organised by PTA)
Tuesday 19 th	Christingle in church
Wednesday 20 th	Pantomime in school funded by PTA
Wednesday 20 th	Christmas Party School ends 1:30

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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