

From the Headteacher

Be Bright Be Seen Day



Thank you to everyone for coming in their bright clothes today. Visibility is a key issue all year-round, all-day round, whether children are walking or on their bike. However, over the autumn/winter months, it is especially important as the school day can start and end in twilight. During term time, the majority of child road accidents happen in the afternoon and evenings, especially in the autumn and winter when it gets dark earlier in the day.

This week we have looked at:

- During the day, bright and fluorescent clothing is best.
- At twilight and night-time, reflective clothing or tape that is picked up in car's headlights is best.
- It is against the law to cycle at night without a white front light, a red back light and a red reflector at the back.
- Always choose routes and cross at places that are well-lit.
- Where possible, cross the road at a pedestrian crossing.

There is a great guide for parents for teaching children about road safety which can be found:

at: <https://www.rosopa.com/media/documents/road-safety/teaching-road-safety-a-guide-for-parents.pdf>

20mph limit

Just a reminder that the speed limit through Aston Rowant is 20mph. The speed limit is to protect our most vulnerable road users, including children, pedestrians and cyclists, and significantly decrease the risk of being seriously injured in a collision. Lowering traffic speeds also reduces the dominance of motor vehicles and makes our streets safer, more inviting, less polluted and more attractive for walking and cycling. The children have been making posters to support the idea that 'twenty is plenty' so do look out for them around the village and help us make our local area a safer place by driving at a maximum of 20mph.



World Children's Day



Monday 20th November was World Children's Day – 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'. On World Children's Day we joined in a Great Big National Assembly Live and also made space for children and young people to raise their voices on the issues that matter to them. By prioritizing children's rights and participation, we can help to build a better future for all.

Conflict

At school, home or on social media, some children may have heard people talking about Israel and Gaza and have wondered what is happening. I know some people have asked how to talk to their children with regards to the current ongoing crisis. Here are a couple of resources which I hope you will find helpful.

[Child-friendly guide to the Israel and Gaza crisis | UNICEF Youth](#)

[How to Talk With Your Child About the Israel-Gaza War - HealthyChildren.org](#)



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:



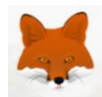
Hedgehog Class

We've had a fantastic hard-working week in Hedgehog. The Children have been having lots of fun learning about road safety and how to stay safe when it is dark. We explored reflective objects in our science area and chose the best materials for being seen at night to make a safety jacket for Larry. In Music we explored loud and quiet sounds and how we can play instruments in different ways. We learnt about the story of Hannukah in our topic work and made Menorahs in our craft area. In Maths we learnt the rule for making steps by adding 'I more'. We found an easy cheat way by saying the 'next' number. We then used this understanding to make some of our own Hungry Caterpillar books. They looked really fabulous.



Squirrel Class

What a busy week we have had! We read a story called 'The Christmas Truce' and our writing this week has been based on that text. And once again I've been blown away by the beautiful writing all the children have produced. Well done to Sam and Rudi for reading out their descriptive writing today during Collective Worship. In maths we continue to work on our subtraction, looking at different written and mental strategies and how to know which will be most effective. Our topic learning saw the squirrels look at historical sources (photos/ration books/letters) and think about how these items give us an understanding of what life was like during WWI for different people. We were lucky enough to have genuine artefacts shown to us by Mrs Boddy from family members of hers that served in the conflict. Lastly, work began in earnest for our shadow puppet theatre shows, and the children have created various puppets and props to retell their stories to the class.



Fox Class

Fox Class have had a very busy week with a couple of lessons involving food! In our English, we have now finished ready Stone Age boy with the children writing some fabulous sentences containing subordinate clauses. We have spent time this week planning our own story based on it before writing it. The whole class were so excited to get writing! Our Maths again for both groups is multiplication. Could I repeat that helping your child learn them initially and then gain fluency and accuracy is such a useful skill. We enjoyed using the iPads again this week in our lessons to embed these skills (thank you PTA!). In our History, we have now moved to the New Stone Age (Neolithic) and the class learnt about how agriculture was revolutionary and key to their development. We also looked at stone circles and why they were important. We made our own using a variety of materials from Jenga bricks to biscuits! In our Computing lessons, children started to make their own animations based on Stone Age. We have gained lots of knowledge since starting this project such as how important it is to keep the iPad in the same place and not to move the background. In our Science lesson, we learnt about the many layers within our planet and soil. This was helped by making our own record of it using a variety of strawberry sauce, biscuits, apples and chocolate pudding. This was all topped off with a soil rap! We also spent a bit of time discussing the learning pit where sometimes we fall in a pit when we struggle to complete some work and thought about what we can do to help us get out. This can help us build resilience, determination and empathy for others.



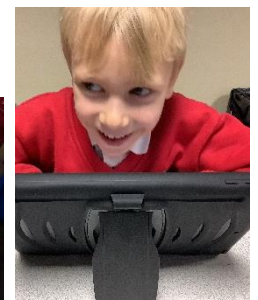
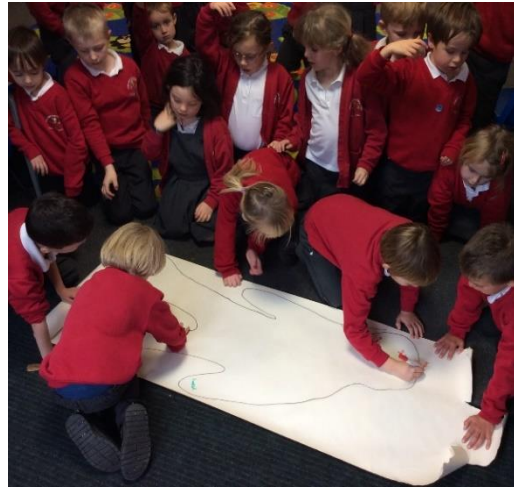
Owl Class

An illuminating week in Owl Class, as we explored how light works, mainly by using the absence of light: we used our black room tent to see exactly what we could see if there is no light at all: many children theorised that, given enough time, our eyes would adapt to even a total lack of light, but quickly realised that it was very, very dark indeed in the tent! We also used simple torches to shine light through tiny pinholes: this showed the children that the light passed through in a straight line, and created a perfect, tiny replica of the hole against the tabletop or the wall. In ICT, we began to make use of our new Micro-Bits! These tiny circuit boards come preloaded with a range of activities waiting to be unlocked in our coding lessons. I must admit, I was amazed at how quickly the children unlocked the noise-making settings... IN English, the children put all their hard work so far into effect and wrote their own gripping account of their character being thrust into the minotaur's maze, whilst in DT we began assembling our ancient Greek theatre masks. We have also created road safety signs to be placed around the village to bolster awareness that '20 is plenty'. Well done Owls!

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 Who Do You Think You Are?

Values: Gratitude

In Collective Worship this week we have been thinking about all the people who help us and reflecting on how we can show our gratitude to them for everything they do. In the Bible St Paul wrote letters to his friends thanking God for them and all they meant to him.

'Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God' Philippians 1:3

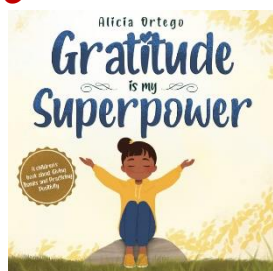
Climate Warriors Challenge

'Turn Black Friday Green ... Friday 24th November - international 'buy nothing day'.

When you hear the word 'Amazon' do you think ... books, presents ... or do you think of the South American rainforest that is one of our carbon-storing, climate change-fighting powerhouses? Young Climate Warriors are challenged this week to counter the 'black Friday' trend, by thinking imaginatively – as well as 'buying nothing'. How about an 'Amazon' animals theme for homemade pressies?

The battle for the Amazon is being fought on many fronts. Political leadership changes may help, as will the growing acreage covered by ARPA - Amazon Region Protected Areas – 128 million acres to date. Check out the [Rainforest Connection](#) project for an amazing insight into fighting deforestation with jungle sounds.

Book Review – Gratitude is my Superpower by Alicia Ortego



Little Betsy will learn that happiness is made up of simple things in life, both small and big. With the help of the magic stone, she begins to feel gratitude for her parents, friends and all the special people she knows. But what happens when little Betsy forgets to use the magic of her stone? She realises that the power of gratitude is hidden in her heart. "Gratitude is my superpower" teaches us to appreciate the warmth of home, time spent playing with friends, and family relationships in particular:

- the blessings we receive every day,
- how to appreciate what others do for us,
- the joy when we realize that we have everything they need.

Happiness Calander: 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	100	262
Eden	86	299
Galilee	85	292
Jerusalem	84	298

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
21-11-23	Email	All	Office	JR Holiday Sports Camps
24-11-23	Email	All	Office	PTA Cake Raffle
24-11-23	Email	All	Office	PTA letter
24-11-23	Email	Hedgehog	Office	

Please note that all dates are on the school website.

November	
Wednesday 29 th	Governor Business Meeting
December	
Friday 1 st	Wear something Christmassy (jumper, tinsel, antlers) <u>with</u> your uniform and donate to the PTA hamper raffle
Friday 1st	Last celebration assembly. Stage up after (parent volunteers welcomed)
Sunday 3 rd	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 19:00
Wed 13 th and Thurs 14 th	EYFS Nativity
Tuesday 19 th	Christmas Party and visit from Father Christmas – party clothes day Christmas Lunch at The Lambert Arms (organised by PTA)
Tuesday 19 th	Christingle in church 6pm- all children. Families welcome.
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

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