



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

13th October 2023

From the Headteacher

Communication

Please can I encourage everyone to avoid catching staff at the school gate to pass on a message or have a quick chat about your child's progress. The teacher manning the gate needs to focus on the safety of the children arriving and other staff are preparing for the teaching day ahead. The best way to pass on a message is via the office or class email and this will allow us to deal with the issue appropriately. Thank you.

From time to time you may have a specific concern that you wish to raise. The majority of concerns are handled in an informal manner and are resolved quickly, sensitively and to the satisfaction of those raising the issue. For more serious complaints we do have a Raising Concerns Procedure. In all circumstances, whether formal or informal and whether verbally or in writing, we ask that all issues are raised appropriately and respectfully. Again, the office or class email is the best way to reach us or please do knock on the office door if you need to see someone urgently.

Photos

At Aston Rowant School we aim to keep all children within our care safe. We understand that at Collective Worship, school plays and sports events people want to take photographs and video recordings for personal use to capture the wonderful memories that our children are making. Parents and Carers are permitted to take photographs and recordings of their own child during these events but this is a privilege and not a right. Parents are made aware that the school places the responsibility of trust on them to not abuse this privilege. You may place a picture on public networking sites if the image contains only your child, however, any images which show a child other than your own must not be shared on public networking sites. This is to protect the privacy of vulnerable children and also to adhere to the wishes of parents who have not given consent for images of their child to be used. This also extends to members of staff who have not given their permission to be filmed or photographed.

Attendance

We are aware that this time of year can mean that there are a number of bugs going around. If your child is saying they do not feel well or slightly under the weather and you are unsure about whether it warrants a day off please do still send them to school. **If they are truly ill we will ring you.** For sickness and diarrhoea please allow 48 hours after last episode before returning to school. If your child has to have a medical or dental appointment please do your best to have it outside of school time or as late in the day as possible. Thank you.

Toilet breaks

We encourage the children to go to the toilet during their breaks as this is part of the function of break time. Of course, we do allow children to go during lessons if they need to but try to discourage it in the main teaching input of the lesson, particularly in KS2. Also, once one goes, it normally leads to lots of children asking, so the teacher does need to use their judgment about the urgency! If there is an issue and the child needs to regularly use the toilet we will always support them but ask that you make the teacher aware of the situation.

Christmas Cards

It has been wonderful to see the children's designs for their Christmas cards this year. Do remember to place orders and return artwork to school by Monday 16th October. Not only is a chance to send some beautiful personal Christmas cards this year but this is organised by the PTA as a fundraising event for the school so do support it if you can.

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:



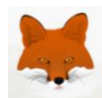
Hedgehog Class

This week in Hedgehog class we have begun learning the story of Little Red Riding Hood. We have been practicing acting out the story by using clear voices and good story language. The children have also been discussing why good listening is important and how to do it. They are developing their social skills by playing the game 'wait' or 'not wait'. They have to look carefully to see if someone is talking and then decide how to respond. We are getting much better with practice! In Maths we have been looking at how patterns are repeated and teaching Larry how to make them out of just about anything we can find. It has been a very productive week! For Black History Month we have been learning all about Rosa Parks and Mary Seacole who were both strong historical figures.



Squirrel Class

This week the children in Squirrel class have enjoyed a slight pause in their geography learning to make way for our focus on Black History Month. We have learned about Sarah Forbes Bonetta and her fascinating life story, which saw her become friends with Queen Victoria. The class painted and coloured beautiful portraits of Sarah and next week we will complete some creative writing too. In our maths lessons this week we have begun our unit on addition and subtraction, with Y2 focusing on fact families and related facts and Y1 learning about part whole models as a tool for addition. In Science we looked at daylight hours and why there is a difference in these throughout the year. We created a pictogram of the average daylight hours in each season in the U.K.



Fox Class

The children grasped lots of new learning this week and were able to demonstrate their understanding in many ways. In our English, children learnt about The Ivory Bangle Lady in relation to our Black History Month topic and managed to write a super report about her. They all demonstrated a huge love of History so our future topics will excite them! We also had a go at role play and then write as her enabling us to compare lives from North Africa to York (Eboracum!). In our Geography thoroughly enjoyed being town planners and designing a new settlement with a certain set of criteria but they could also add in some of their own. Comments included "I need a solar farm as we need to use more renewable energy", "I'm going to have a train station so people can come and visit and go to work". Lots of good ideas. Thank you again for supplying the children with torches. This enabled them to see how the light source affects the length of the shadow. Some ambitious children needed a metre stick to measure their shadow! In our French, children were counting from 0-12 and we used the "Ten in the bed" rhyme to count down. We used 6 in the bed to start ('six au lit'). They especially enjoyed the 'poussez-vous' section! We also finished the week with our Black History Art designing our own bangle and Ivory Bangle Lady. Pictures to follow next week!



Owl Class

This week, Owl Class have been tackling the serious and weighty subject of slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade as part of Black History Month. The children showed incredible compassion and discussed race, politics and nationality with a maturity that is to their credit. Next lesson, we will be looking at the abolition of slavery as led by William Wilberforce and notable black authors-and former slaves- such as Mary Prince and Oludah Equiano. In Maths, Year Five have been finding factors and commutative numbers and finding how some values share common factors, whilst Year Six have been using the common factors to find simpler, more efficient ways to divide larger number. Year Six also started long division on Thursday and handled this topic incredibly well. In Art, we used oil pastels to create portraits of US civil rights leader and figurehead Martin Luther King, who will be a feature of next week's lesson too.

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



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

Values: Wonder

This week we followed from last week looking at the colours of the rainbow by wondering at the colours of autumn. We have reflected upon the amazing mixture of colours of autumn and given thanks for the beautiful world all around us, for its many wonders and all its colours. We reflected on how we can care about all the wonderful things around us and take the time to enjoy them. The children wrote a prayer together.

For the beautiful red leaves, the red apples and the berries, we thank you.

For the brown conkers and fields of ploughed soil, we thank you.

For the orange pumpkins and the sun, we thank you.

For the blue sky and blueberries, we thank you.

For the purple: plums and blackberries, we thank you.

For the lasting green leaves and shoots we thank you. Amen

Climate Warriors Challenge

Next week is - [RECYCLE WEEK \(16-22 Oct\)](#) We are encouraging our children to rescue items that are heading towards the rubbish bin and need to be recycled, and encouraging them to ask 'but why?'

Links of potential interest:

[How GLASS is recycled](#) - Recycle Now

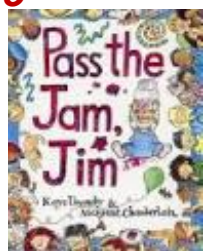
[How CANS are recycled](#) - Recycle Now

[How to recycle some of the really 'weird' items](#) - A Guardian article for children to share with adult supervision.

Older pupils might also enjoy:

[Zero waste warriors - household rubbish fits in a jar.](#)

Book Review



'Pass the Jam Jim' by Kaye Umansky and Margaret Chamberlain
recommended by Hedgehog Class

We have been reading the book 'Pass the Jam Jim' by Kaye Umansky and Margaret Chamberlain. Our teachers love how the story demonstrates both rhyme and alliteration. Neave said "I like that Jim put the jam all over him." Amelia said, "When the boy made the sandwiches, it didn't rhyme". "I love the book," said Arthur. Ella liked it "when the boy fell over, it was funny."

Happiness Calendar: Optimistic October

October is a great time to focus on the positive and set yourself goals. This month's happiness calendar is [here](#).

Housepoints

<i>House</i>	<i>This Week</i>	<i>Total</i>
Bethlehem	66	348
Eden	65	348
Galilee	40	334
Jerusalem	68	330

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Emails and Letters Sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
13-10-23	Email	All	Office	Chinnor Christmas Tree Festival
13-10-23	Email	All	Office	PTA Disco & Thame Lighten Up Party
11-10-23	Email	Owl	Office	Opera – Children’s Chorus
11-10-23	Email	All	Office	The JR Sports Group Camps

Please note that all dates are the website.

October	
1 st – 31 st October	Black History Month – ‘Before Windrush’
Wednesday 18 th	Open Morning for Reception 2024
Friday 20 th	INSET Day
November	
Wednesday 1 st	Governor Strategy Meeting
Friday 3 rd	Open Morning for Reception 2024
Mon 6 th and Wed 8 th	Parents’ Evenings
Friday 10 th	H&S Inspection
Friday 10 th	KS2 Service at War Memorial 11am
Mon 13 th – Fri 17 th	Anti Bullying Week – Make a Noise
Friday 17 th	Children in Need (wear spots and dots and make a donation to this charity)
Mon 20 th – 24 th	Road Safety Week inc Be Bright Be Seen Day on Friday (wear your brightest clothes)
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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