



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

20th October 2023

From the Headteacher

Link School



We are also delighted to be working in partnership with the British Council on the Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship programme. Connecting Classrooms is a global education programme for schools. It aims to help young people worldwide develop the knowledge, skills and values they need for life and work in a global economy.

We are working on the Zero Hunger project and are linked with Magoma Primary School in South Africa. The school has just over 300 children and 10 teachers. The children at Aston Rowant have been producing letters/drawings/photos to send to them with our link from the British Council over half term.

Fun Learning at Home

If you have not yet come across it the Teach Your Monster App it is a fabulous FREE site that allows you to set fun reading, phonics and mathematics tasks for your children from home. Created by teachers the app has beautifully crafted games with friendly monsters, playful designs and out-of-this-world storytelling that children love to play whilst developing their knowledge and understanding. [Teach Your Monster: Free Phonics, Reading and Mathematics Games](#)



Our Pre-Loved Christmas Jumper Sale



The festive season is just around the corner, and we're thrilled to bring you a special announcement that will warm your hearts (and your wardrobes!) from the Aston Rowant Eco-Warriors Team. Introducing our 'Pre-Loved Christmas Jumper Sale' – a festive extravaganza that lets you spread holiday cheer without breaking the bank. 'Tis the season for savings, and we've got the perfect way for you to snuggle up in style.

The Eco-warriors ask that **children** and **adults** from our community donate any pre-loved Christmas jumpers to school for a Christmas jumper sale. 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. Please send in any pre-loved Christmas jumpers to school on the week beginning **30th October 2023** and the sale itself will be on **Tuesday 7th November 2023**, straight after school in the hall.

Attendance

In the summer term the Governors and I both wrote regarding levels of attendance and also a concern around the reporting of absence. Despite our best efforts the attendance for the first half term was 94% against a target of 97%. Well done to Hedgehog and Squirrel Classes who each made 96% (despite a sickness bug). Fox and Owl Class were both 91%. This year at Parents' Evening we will share your child's attendance so far for the year and will send a report out at the end of each full term to help you track your child's attendance. It is vital that all children attend school as much as possible, as research shows that even a few days of absence can have a negative impact on children's performance.

Attendance Matters



Kind regards

Mrs France

GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY

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Teaching and Learning in the Classrooms this week:



Hedgehog Class

Well, it's hard to believe that we have already completed our first half-term as Hedgehog class. The children have done us proud with how well they've taken to school life. They are in full swing now and they have made astonishing progress! This week we have been finishing off our 'Once upon a time' topic. Granny sent us an email saying that Little Red Riding Hood had lost her map and she was worried that she might not be able to find the house. We learnt about what information there might be on a map and used this to draw her a new one and write labels for the things to spot along the way. The children also had a go at drawing other kids of maps. Some of the children decided to make a sat nav! We consolidated our understanding of pattern and began new work on subitising 1, 2 and 3. The children were able to spot and match these numbers quickly in different arrangements. After a busy term we all deserve a well-earned break and hope you have a lovely half term.



Squirrel Class

A half term completed already! What a fantastic time we have had, building relationships and learning lots! This week we worked hard on our fact families and number sentences in maths. Please try to practise these on the link sent in your homework sheet this week. We have completed our own stories in English and the children have put all their newly learned skills and knowledge into them. There have created some beautiful descriptive writing pieces and shown a real sense of pride in their work. Well done! Our science lessons focused on how we have night and day, and we talked about other cultures' interesting stories to explain why we have night and day. We also checked in on our rain gauges on the school field and some had as much as 40ml of water inside! Towards the end of the week, we created some artwork and maths to send to our twinned school in South Africa, Maqoma Primary School. The children are very excited about the prospect of a reply and some newly found pen pals. Enjoy the well-earned break and see you after the half term.



Fox Class

The enthusiasm for growing their learning continues! This week both year groups were working successfully with column addition and subtraction. The Year 3's especially were blown away at how straightforward it was and were keen to explore more whereas the Year 4's got to grips with 4-digit subtractions with more than one exchange. In our English, we used the poem 'Cat in the window, what do you see' to base our own poems about Aston Rowant using local animals such as red kites and squirrels. These poems will be sent to our twinned school in South Africa so they get a taste of what life is like here. In our Science, children understood how mirrors worked and thoroughly enjoyed investigating writing backward so it could be read in mirrors, making mazes and understanding which letters and numbers are symmetrical. Our geography culminated in us planning a town then having to justify why we placed things in their position. Were there roads near the residential buildings, parking near the commercial buildings – so much to consider! In our Art, we finished off this half term demonstrating all our learnt charcoal skills on a portrait of ourselves. One half was a black and white photo and the other half needed to be recreated by them using charcoal. They learnt it's a very unforgiving medium and care was needed. The whole class have really enjoyed learning about everyone's project work (as have I!) and each child presented their work from the front of the class speaking clearly and with great knowledge of their subject. Thank you for supporting them in producing this work; they all love sharing what they have done. It's been a fabulous start to our year together and everyone deserves a well-earned break ready to recharge in readiness for another half term of growth!



Owl Class

What a busy but exciting week. Year Five led an investigation into square and cube numbers using practical tools and models, whilst Year Six undertook a series of challenges based around long division, including dividing up treasure equally between their group. In Science, we explored the idea of reversible and irreversible chemical changes; using warm milk and white vinegar to create a (slightly unstable and quite smelly) plastic ball! The children really enjoyed this practical and, as always, thought up excellent I wonder questions and showed inquisitive minds. In English, we have been writing formal letters to introduce ourselves to our partner school in South Africa, and really focusing on the structure of our paragraphs; ask your Owl about a 'paragraph sandwich'! We also found time to focus on our mindfulness and practise some of our simple class yoga, forming tree and arrow poses and focusing on our breathing. This took focus and resilience on the children's behalf, and they performed admirably. A true joy for me this week has been seeing all the fabulous Tower of London project arrive in the mornings: children holding huge models, Lego builds, profiles of famous prisoners or presenting slick PowerPoints, the children have really outdone themselves this half-term. Well done all of you, I hope you enjoy your well-earned break, and I will see you next term.

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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: Wonder

This week we have looked at the importance of having fun! We looked at enjoying life and savouring the wonderful things that we have been given. We have set the children a challenge about how they can enjoy creation over the half term using all of their senses, how they can 'wonder' and what they want to give thanks for.

'The heavens declare the glory of God.' Psalm 19:1

Climate Warriors Challenge

Autumn is here – time to go exploring! Hidden underground networks of fungi are silently helping plants and trees to lock away carbon and combat climate change. Recent research suggests fungal networks beneath our feet may store over 13 gigatons of carbon, roughly equivalent to 1/3 of our global annual carbon emissions! Maybe fungi are a powerful and underappreciated ally in the fight against climate change? We can help to protect fungal networks and healthier soils, by supporting organic and sustainable farming practices.

Young Climate Warriors are encouraged this week to have fun exploring in the woods – and challenged to find and identify some fascinating fungi (without touching them!), to find a tree to hug, and to find the biggest, brightest orange leaf ... and if they're feeling arty to collect leaves and seeds to create 'leaf fireworks', or 'woodland emojis'.

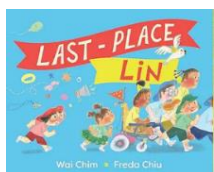
To help you here are some Woodland Trust Nature Detective links of potential interest:

[Fungi identification guide](#)

[Leaf fireworks](#)

[Woodland emojis](#)

Book Review – Last-place Lin



Suitable for age 4+

One of the most important lessons young children need to learn is that you can't always win. This story celebrates resilience and keeping going. Success doesn't always mean winning! You will come back to this book time and time again, finding yourself getting lost in the fantastic illustrations!

Happiness Calander: Optimistic October

Especially when things are feeling a bit tough, it can help to set some goals. Making goals achievable and ensuring that you have a few short term as well as longer term, more ambitious goals helps us feel we're making progress. This month's calendar is full of ideas to help you think about how you can put this into practice. This month's happiness calendar is [here](#).

Housepoints

<i>House</i>	<i>This Week</i>	<i>Total</i>
Bethlehem	49	399
Eden	68	417
Galilee	65	402
Jerusalem	71	406

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Emails and Letters Sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
18-10-23	Email	All	Office	Lunch Orders – Next Half Term
17-10-23	Email	All	Office	Parent Consultations

Please note that all dates are the website.

November	
Monday 30 th October	Autumn 2 Term begins
Wednesday 1 st	Governor Strategy Meeting
Friday 3 rd	Open Morning for Reception 2024
Mon 6 th and Wed 8 th	Parents' Evenings
w/c 6 th November	UK Parliament Week
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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