



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

8th September 2023

From the Headteacher:

Welcome back! I hope that you all managed to have a fabulous summer and a relaxing break. It has been wonderful to have the children back and there has been a real buzz of excitement and anticipation about the year ahead. It is also lovely to be able to welcome our new starters, they are already settling into the Aston Rowant family really well.

New Facilities

There has been a lot of work that has taken place over the summer holidays to improve the school's facilities. The boys' and girls' toilets have been refurbished in the main teaching block creating a much more pleasant environment. We are grateful to the Governors who painted the library corridor, hall ceiling and main block toilets - making these areas look clean and bright. This week we have had our new trim trail installed – the children were very excited to have their first try out today!

We have also had a new teaching room installed in Squirrel Class to be used by the whole school for SEN work, 1:1 support and any issues that need support outside of the classroom. We asked the children to name the room and they have suggested The Rainbow Room. This is a fabulous name as it represents God's love and everlasting promise to his people. Rainbows themselves are incredible as they contain a continuum of around 1 million colours that are indistinguishable with the human eye. Instead, we can only really see seven colour hues: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet. The children who are in our school, and will be using the room, are also incredible. They have many skills and gifts, some obvious and some more hidden, but that will be nurtured and grown in the classroom, outdoors and in The Rainbow Room.

Staffing Structure

Hedgehog Class Mrs Olsen & Mrs Hall with Mrs Ansell
Squirrel Class Mrs Biggin with Miss Williams and Mrs Boddy
Fox Class Mrs Healy with Mrs Uhart, Mrs Marriott and Miss Williams
Owl Class Mr Manning with Mrs Surman and Mrs Pilley

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Uhart and Mrs Marriott, both experienced TAs, to the team.

We are also thrilled that Mrs King is our new Office Administrator. Mrs King will be working Mon 8:30-3:30, Tues 8:30- 12:30 Wed 8:30-3:30, and Friday 8:30-3:30. Mrs French (Bursar) is in the office 9:00-2:30 Thursdays and Fridays.

Meet the Teacher Meetings

We will once again be holding our 'Meet the Teacher' meetings this year. It is a chance to meet your child's teacher in person, meet other families who will be in class with your child, preview the curriculum and ask any questions that you may have. It will also allow you to spend some time in your child's classroom. Please see the calendar at the end of the newsletter for dates and time.

Attendance and Punctuality

Our school attendance target for the academic year remains at 97%. Please do ensure that if possible your child attends school each day. If your child is ill please contacted the office before the school day begins. If you are leaving a message, please be specific, avoid using the term 'unwell' and do indicate when you think that you child is likely to return to school.

Please also note that the children need to be in school ready to line up at 8:45, therefore, school gates will close just after 8:40 each morning. We ask that all children are in school by this time as entering via the school office takes valuable personnel time to sign them in and walk the children across to their classrooms. Our school registers close at 9:00am and so any child arriving after this time will be marked as late.

Uniform

It was great to see the children looking so smart in their school uniforms this week. Our uniform policy remains unchanged from last year and is available on the website for guidance. We have noticed a few of items of clothing that have not yet been named as well as having a number of identical water bottles, none of which are named. Please can we ask that all items brought in to school are clearly labelled to avoid them being lost or children being confused about what belongs to them.

GRATITUDE

RESILIENCE

OUTREACH

WONDER

TRUST

HARMONY



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Equipment

Please can we remind everyone that they need to have a coat with them every day and keep a pair of wellies in school. In the sunshine they need hats. We do go out for play times and enjoy Forest Friday in all weathers and do not want children to miss out as they do not have the appropriate clothing. Please note that all children should also have their PE kit in school Monday to Friday each week. All children in KS1 and KS2 also need to bring a fully stocked pencil case with them to school each day.

Lunches

From next week there will be some changes to the lunches that we offer at school. We are continuing to work in partnership with The Kids Lunch Company (formerly The Kids Packed Lunch Company). From next week we will be offering both a hot meal option, jacket potatoes and sandwiches/wraps/rolls/baguettes **every** day. There will be one hot meal option, two jacket potato options and three sandwich options each day. Do look at the Kids Lunch Company website to see what they have to offer. [Kids Lunch Company](#).

Wrap Around Care

Our new Wrap Around Care (WAC) booking and payment system, started from 5th September 2023. All WAC should be booked a minimum of 24 hours in advance of attendance. Any cancellations should also be made at least 24 hours in advance. To book a place for your child, please complete a booking form from the website and return it to the school office. Invoices will be raised on receipt of a completed booking form and will be sent out at the start of the term, rather than at the end. If any alterations are made during the term, then any credits or debits due will be carried over to the following term's bill.

Clubs

Tuneful Tutors on Tuesdays - Percy will be back tutoring each Tuesday. She is a talented musician and currently teaches piano, guitar, drums, singing and Celtic harp. Please contact Percy directly if your child wants to start Music lessons. She is on: persephoneeab@googlemail.com.

Choir will start again on Thursday 21st September with the wonderful Mrs Atkins. Please sign up via the office.

Dance Club may start after October half term – watch this space for details.

Chess Club will start next week. We are grateful to both Mr and Mrs Turton for giving up their valuable time to offer this. This year it is being offered to both Owl and Fox Classes.

Football Club will start on Friday 15th September. Please do email Coach James Richardson directly if your child wants to join. Please also liaise directly with JR Football if you have any questions or queries or to notify them if your child cannot attend.

Collective Worship

We are delighted to continue to welcome parents to join us for our Celebration Assemblies at 2:30pm each Friday, starting on Friday 22nd September in school. Please enter and exit via the hall door. We will be holding a newcomers' service in church on Friday 15th September to mark the start of the school year.

Tree Climbing

For the safety of the children, and protection of our beautiful surroundings, please can we ask that the children do not climb the trees on the school path at the end of the day.

Old School House

Please note the Old School House (between the school hall and gate) is private property. Please can parents not wait on the drive or allow children to play in front of the house. Thank you.

Kind regards

Mrs France

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Teaching and Learning in the Classrooms this week:



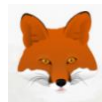
Hedgehog Class

What an amazing start to school we have made. Hedgehog class have been super busy learning all of our rules and routines this week. We have learnt how to be independent at a whole range of tasks going from using the bathroom to making their own paint to use in their play. We have spent some time coming up with some golden rules to ensure that we are a happy class. They include using our kind bodies, listening to each other and always trying our best. The children have shown how they can come into the classroom and join in happily with our circle times, stories and most importantly tidying up routines. We have been playing listening games and getting to know each other by playing games and taking turns. We also got some golden time on the adventure playground. They have coped extremely well with their first week considering the heat! Well done Hedgehog!



Squirrel Class

It's been a wonderful return to the academic year and the Squirrels have been brilliant at coping with this late summer heat. There is much excitement over our new learning environment and parents will be able to see the big changes at our 'Meet the Teacher' afternoon next week. We have been learning about squirrels and completed some descriptive sentences. We also learnt about nouns and adjectives. In Maths we have been counting and sorting objects and reviewing place value. In RE we considered what makes us so special. Lastly, in Art we made some beautiful autumn wreaths. I'm looking forward to our first full week and a return to some seasonal weather. Have a lovely weekend!



Fox Class

It's been great getting to know my new Fox Class and admired the way the existing Foxes welcomed their new classmates. We had a fun start to our year where the class had to work with a partner to save Fred! They were able to use their creativity, thinking skills and communication skills to work out how to solve the problem which they all did admirably! In order for them to know our classroom, they then had to go on a classroom hunt – this will save so much time over the year as they now know where to find maths resources, where to look for support on our working walls and what exciting books we have to read. Our first PE lesson was great and children demonstrated a good understanding of the pocket to rocket rule when playing tag rugby. In our Maths, both year groups are starting with place value and everyone has showed me super enthusiasm for learning. During a reading lesson, children worked on their fluency, expression and correct pronunciation in pairs once it had been modelled. When children read to you at home, you could also model a small section and see if they can copy the way you read it (an opportunity for great voices can never be missed!). Our first French lesson of the year involved birds, making wings and using our fingers! This will all become clear at the Newcomers' Service next week!



Owl Class

It's been a wonderful start to the term, getting to know the newest members of Owl Class and sharing our ideas about our new topics in the Autumn Term. Our first day back was full of activities and getting-to-know-you games, and the children had a brilliant first PE lesson which they tackled (a Rugby pun) with great enthusiasm. In Maths, both years began their new topics with an open mind and asked excellent questions, and in English we looked at images and smells of Tudor London to create a word bank of evocative nouns, adjectives and verbs, which enabled the children to begin to construct exciting and informative descriptive sentence. Our first Science lesson also saw the children tackle an open-ended task: to sort various materials into categories based on their individual properties: some resources were buoyant, some permeable, some flexible, some rigid, and there were dozens of different combinations that the children presented to the class. It really showed how inquisitive and methodical their minds can be! Our first French lesson was introducing ourselves to the class, which was apt. Forest Friday found the children using string lassos to create as largest bubble as they could form our class made bubble mixture! what an exciting first week back! Well done Owl Class.

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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

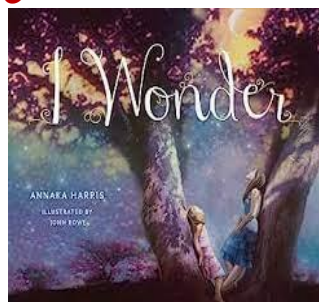
This week in Collective Worship we have been reflecting on the new school year and encouraging one another to feel positive about change and new beginnings. We considered how we are feeling about the start of this new school year: what we are looking forward to and anything that we are nervous about. We also played 'spot the difference'. Mostly, things are the same at school as they were when we were last here, but some things have changed, so things may feel different. We reflected that we often like things that stay the same, because they feel familiar and comfortable. Sometimes, we feel unhappy about change because it can make us feel unsettled. However, change is important. If everything always stayed the same, life would be very boring! Change is how we grow and develop; it can be very exciting. Christians believe that because Jesus died and rose again, we can all have a fresh start with God, like we have a fresh start at the start of this new school year. The Bible tells us that change can be good - it's how we grow and develop - but also that God never changes; he is always the same.

'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today, and forever.' (Hebrews 13:8)

Climate Warriors Challenge

Although the summer holidays have not been amazing for everyone in the UK it has actually been 'the hottest summer on record' across the rest of the world. At school we will be continuing to help the children to learn and take action to help counter climate change. We can all take action 'little by little, a little becomes a lot'. Sometimes it just takes the right attitude and mindset. This week we are challenging you to see what challenges you can make. Check out the following website [positive 'stubborn optimistic' mindset](#).

Book Review – 'I Wonder' by Annaka Harris



'I Wonder' offers crucial lessons in emotional intelligence, starting with being secure in the face of uncertainty. The author, Annaka Harris, has woven a beautiful tapestry of art, storytelling, and profound wisdom. Eva takes a walk with her mother and encounters a range of mysteries: from gravity to life cycles, to the vastness of the universe. She learns that it's okay to say "I don't know" and she discovers that there are some things even adults don't know—mysteries for everyone to wonder about together! 'I Wonder' is a book that celebrates the feelings of awe and curiosity in children, as the foundation for all learning. Any child – and parent – will benefit from sharing this wondrous book together.

Happiness Calendar: Self Care September

Self-care isn't selfish. It's essential. You can find this month's happiness calendar [here](#).

Housepoints

<i>House</i>	<i>This Week</i>	<i>Total</i>
Bethlehem	31	31
Eden	44	44
Galilee	35	35
Jerusalem	36	36



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Fmails and Letters Sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
08.09.23	Email	Hedgehogs	Office	Curriculum information
08.09.23	Email	Everyone	Office	School photos
08.09.23	Email	Everyone	Office	Lunch orders
08.09.23	Email	Everyone	Office	JR Football
06.09.23	Email	Everyone	Office	PTA letter
05.09.23	Email	Everyone	Mrs France	Lunch provision
05.09.23	Email	Everyone	Mrs France	RAAC

Please note that all dates have also been added to the website.

September	
Wednesday 6th	Reception children start. Week 1: 8:45-12, Week 2: 8:45-1, Week 3: 8:45-3:15
w/c 11th September	Meet the teacher meetings. Mon 11th Owl 2:45pm Tues 12th Fox 2:45pm Wed 13th 1:00pm Hedgehog 2:45pm Squirrel
Tuesday 12th	School Photos
Wednesday 13th	Fox and Owl visit Woodway Farm for National Racehorse Week
Friday 15th	Newcomers Service in Church – everyone welcome
Friday 22nd	Jeans for Genes Day (wear your jeans and make a donation to this charity) First celebration assembly in school for parents
Friday 29th	Harvest in school celebration assembly
October	
Wednesday 4th	School Trip Year 4/5/6
Wednesday 11th	Open Morning at LWS for Year 7 intake 2024 (NB Taster Day Friday 5th July 24)
Wednesday 18th	Open Morning for Reception 2024
Friday 20th	INSET Day
November	
Friday 3rd	Open Morning for Reception 2024
Mon 6th and Wed 8th	Parents' Evenings
Mon 13th – Fri 17th	Anti Bullying Week
Friday 17th	Children in Need (wear spots and dots and make a donation to this charity)
December	
Mon 11th and Wed 13th	EYFS Nativity
Tuesday 19th	Christmas Lunch at The Lambert Arms (organised by PTA)
Tuesday 19th	Christingle in church
Wednesday 20th	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)