



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

15th September 2023

From the Headteacher

Newcomers' Service

It was fabulous to gather together in church at the start of the year to welcome all of new starters, both in Hedgehog and across the school, to our Aston Rowant family. Thank you to our friends and parents who also joined us, it was lovely to have a full church. Owl Class led the service brilliantly and impressed us with their sign language. Fox Class were amazing with their French song and Squirrel's class charter was inspiring. Hedgehog children were so settled and confident it was great to see. Thank you everyone.

Visit to Woodway Farm

This week has been National Racehorse Week which is a nationwide annual celebration of the racehorse and a chance to see first-hand the love, care and attention that goes into looking after them. We are grateful to Mrs Lawney Hill for enabling Fox and Owl Classes to visit Woodway Farm in Aston Rowant to see the horses in action and hear about the work they do at the farm. The children spent an incredible morning there on Wednesday.

House Teams

Our House Team system facilitates the opportunity for vertical learning when children across all the year groups come together to for special events or activities, it can also foster friendly competitive spirit along the way through various inter house competitions or the gaining of house points.

We are excited to reveal that Jessica and Tegan (**Bethlehem**), Harry and Russell (**Jerusalem**), Connie and Emmeline (**Galilee**) and Olivia and Kane (**Eden**) have been elected to be our House Captains this year.

Housepoints are totalled each week by the House Captains and announced in the Celebration Assemblies. At the end of each half term the winning house collectively chooses their reward. Individual housepoints are also totalled. When individuals reach 25 housepoints they stand for a round of applause in the Celebration Assembly, for 50 housepoints they receive a sticker, for 75 housepoints they receive a certificate and for 100 housepoints a special gold badge that can be worn as part of their uniform for their whole time with us at school. Housepoints are reset for individuals at the end of each term.

Roles and Responsibilities

We are delighted to announce that Tisharna is going to be School Council leader this year working with Ruby and Monty (Owl), Chloe and Millie (Fox) Matilda and Alexander (Squirrel). Also, Robin will be Eco Warrior Leader working with Soraya and Joshua (Owl) with Max K and Max C (Fox) Max S and Imogen (Squirrel). Oliver F, Lilly, Sascha and James are our new Playground Leaders and Toby and Lily are our Chief Librarians.

The Year 6 children will also be our Worship Leaders for every act of Collective Worship and will rotate which days they lead.

Parent Reps

Thank you to those who have volunteered to be parental representatives for each class again this year. The main aim of the parental meetings is to use the voice of our parents to help us achieve the best possible outcomes for our children. It is an opportunity for the Headteacher to share information about the school development priorities and for the parent representatives to share feedback from their class. Information shared is always thematic rather than an opportunity for individual circumstances to be discussed.

Mental Health Awareness Sessions

Oxfordshire Youth delivers online Mental Health Awareness Sessions specifically for Parents and Carers of children and young people. The sessions are FREE for Oxfordshire residents. The Mental Health Awareness Training for parents and carers aims to aid understanding of relevant topics surrounding young people's mental health today. The training also explores how parents/carers can talk to their young people about the struggles around ill mental health and where they can seek support. The link is:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/an-online-mental-health-awareness-session-for-parents-and-carers-tickets-296940455897>. Use the first part of your postcode as the promo code in capital letters (e.g: OX4).

Kind regards

Mrs France

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Teaching and Learning in the Classrooms this week:



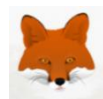
Hedgehog Class

Hedgehog have really outdone themselves this week. In our first full week the children have demonstrated real resilience. They have settled to new routines of morning work and P. E. with maturity. This week we have been applying our listening skills to learn some traditional stories. We have been using repetitive language and props to begin to retell the story of Billy Goats Gruff. Larry set the children a challenge to build a bridge for the goats using things they find in the classroom. It was a fantastic success, and the goats were able to cross the river! They then set about making houses for the three little pigs using junk modelling. This was a great way to explore the resources and get to know their classroom. In phonics we have been exploring rhyme and one of the children had a great idea to build 'a boat on a moat for the goat!' Thank you to all parents who made the reading presentation. We hope you found it useful. Please do look on our class page for helpful phonic resources as well as our class blog and quick notices.



Squirrel Class

Our first full week, done and dusted, and what superstars Squirrel class have been! We have been working hard with our writing and reading this week, using our lead text of 'Dogger' to produce sentences using prepositions or to describe feelings. The children are brilliant at working independently to 'have a go' and have already created some wonderful work. Likewise, in maths we have been focused on place value and using a variety of concrete resources to represent numbers. Our goal next week is to produce a collaborative class book about numbers to twenty, showing numbers in a variety of ways. In geography we learned about weather symbols and watched a weather report. We discussed when we usually see different types of weather and linked these to seasonal changes. Lastly, in art we have a focus on drawing this term, with the theme of 'Explore and Draw'. We learned about an artist called Nicole White who enjoys mudlarking on the banks of the River Thames, and then creates beautiful fish sculptures with what she finds. We used this as inspiration to explore our school grounds for a treasure hunt, then took these items we found back to the class to draw into our sketch books. Great work squirrels and have a lovely weekend.



Fox Class

I cannot tell you how proud I am of our class. This has been our first full week and in every lesson they have listened, tried their best and demonstrated what great learners they are. After a recap in our Maths last week, we have now ventured into new territory with Y3 focussing on numbers to 1,000 and Y4 up to 10,000. Our English covered word classes – revisiting our understanding of nouns, adjectives, verbs and adverbs. We also wrote letters to Mrs Hill at Woodway Farm to thank her for such an interesting morning. It is always worth finding opportunities to give meaning to learning how to write well. In our first Geography lesson, children learnt the meaning of settlement and we had a super discussion about what early settlers would need to survive and where the best location would be. After finding out that lots of place names tell us when they became settlements, we used atlases to see if we could locate them. Our Science this half term is Light and this week we learnt about what light sources were. Some were amazed that the moon wasn't a light source but was lit by the Sun. Our Art involves working with charcoal but our first lesson was appreciating some artists' work. We studied Laura McKendry and Edgar Degas' work and discussed what we liked and found interesting. In our French, children showed such enthusiasm for speaking and thoroughly immersed themselves in our Deux petits oiseaux poem as seen in the Newcomers service. As I said – a great week!



Owl Class

Our first full week back has been an absolutely action-packed week! The children have shown fantastic resilience and stamina across all our lessons, keeping up with the faster pace and standards expected in Owl. Well done to you all! Our English unit is based around recapping our central writing skills, and the children have been re-editing their work to include compound and complex sentences, fronted adverbials of time and place, and expanded noun phrases to name a few. Following our fantastic visit to Woodway Farm, we decided to focus the rest of the weeks writing about a chronological report about our visit, and will send copies of it to the lovely Lawney, who invited Owl and Fox Class to the farm. In Maths, we have looked at multiplying values by 10's, 100's, 1000's and 10,000's, and how we can use place value grids to help us clearly compute this, and how number-lines can be used to show and calculate missing values up to 10,000,000. In Science, the children were given a biased experiment to do, and then asked 'was this fair test?' this gave way to an excellent lesson all about how we can create fair experiments, and how we would record the variables needed if we were to do it again. In Art, the children got up close and personal with their eyes, and created colourful closeups of their pupil & iris, as part of our portraiture project this term. Well done for a fantastic week back and enjoy your weekend!

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

Values: Wonder

Have you ever found yourself saying, 'Wow! Look at that!' Whether it's the simplicity of a raindrop, the wonder of a spider weaving a web or the way a horse gallops across a field. Sometimes there are moments in our everyday lives that gives us a sense of 'wow', or awe and wonder. It's hard to describe this feeling, and people often say that it leaves them feeling lost for words. This week in Collective Worship we have been reflecting upon the benefits of experiencing and enjoying 'wow' moments. Feeling awe and wonder is not a new thing. The Bible is full of passages that express wonder at God's creation and the natural world, and at how God acts in the world. The Book of Psalms includes many lines that express awe at God's creation.

'The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands'. Psalm 19:1

Climate Warriors Challenge

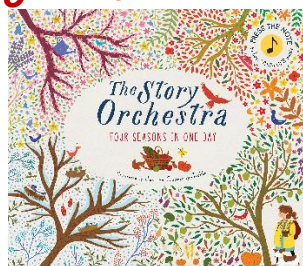
Over the summer we have been finding awe-inspiring patterns in nature. [Tom Hegen's photos in the series - 'Here comes the sun'](#) are of solar arrays – manmade patterns. We don't all have 'beautiful' solar panels, but we're starting Autumn term on a positive note thinking about monitoring our household electricity consumption and how we can all take simple actions to reduce it. This week we are setting all of our climate warriors the challenge of working out how much electricity we actually use. This week's task encourages children to find their meter, or smart meter and take note of their electricity meter readings - and see how much electricity their household actually is using.

Why not also check out:

[Gridwatch](#) - a LIVE snapshot of UK electricity being produced by renewables.

[Tom Hegen's photos of solar arrays](#) - what do they make you think about?

Book Review The Story Orchestra – Four seasons in One Day.



This beautiful book was brought into Hedgehog Class this week by Flo H. The story follows a young girl called Isabelle and her dog Pickle, as they travel through the seasons, accompanied by pieces from Vivaldi's 'Four Seasons'. As a sign of the changing seasons, Isabelle carries a little apple tree with her, and we see it bud, blossom and lose its leaves.

Flo says, "I like this book because I got it for my birthday, and it plays music on each page."

Happiness Calander: 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	35	66
Eden	29	73
Galilee	31	66
Jerusalem	34	70



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Emails and Letters Sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
15-09-23	Email	All Parents	Office	PTA Cake Raffle
12-09-23	Email	Fox and Owl	Office	Woodway Farm Visit
11-09-23	Email	Hedgehog	Office	P.E Kits

Please note that all dates are the website.

September	
Friday 22 nd	Jeans for Genes Day (wear your jeans and make a donation to this charity) First celebration assembly in school for parents
Friday 29 th	Harvest in school celebration assembly
October	
Wednesday 4 th	School Trip Year 4/5/6
Wednesday 11 th	Open Morning at LWS for Year 7 intake 2024 (NB Taster Day Friday 5 th July 24)
Wednesday 18 th	Open Morning for Reception 2024
Friday 20 th	INSET Day
November	
Friday 3 rd	Open Morning for Reception 2024
Mon 6 th and Wed 8 th	Parents' Evenings
Mon 13 th – Fri 17 th	Anti Bullying Week
Friday 17 th	Children in Need (wear spots and dots and make a donation to this charity)
December	
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	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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