



**Aston Rowant C+E Primary School**  
**School Lane, Aston Rowant, Oxon OX49 5SU**  
**01844 351671**

**[office@aston-rowant.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office@aston-rowant.oxon.sch.uk)**

**Headteacher: Mrs Helen France**

**22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023**

### *From the Headteacher*

#### *Jeans for Genes*

Today we marked Jeans for Genes Day supporting the Children's Medical Research Institute and helps find cures for children's genetic diseases. We are delighted to say that we have raised £64.40 for this worthwhile cause, thank you.

#### *Harvest*

Our Harvest this year will be on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September. We will have a special celebration assembly that day. We invite the children to bring in donations for our local food bank, Sharing Life. Items that can be donated include:

- Cereal / Biscuits
- Pasta /Rice
- Tinned tomatoes/ pasta sauce/ soup
- Lentils, beans and pulses
- Tinned meat/ vegetables / fruit
- Tea/coffee

#### *School Photographer*

It was great to welcome Sally back to take the children's photos again this year. You will have received the proofs in your children's book bags this week and we hope that you are pleased with the results. The photos make great Christmas gifts and the school earns a percentage of the money generated with any orders placed. It is a lovely way to support the school. The deadline to order is 2<sup>nd</sup> October.

#### *Open Days*

We will be hosting three 'open days' for Early Years for those families looking for a place for September 2024. These will be on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 09:30-10:30, Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 9:00-10:30 and Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December 14:00-15:00. We have tried to give a variety of days and times to be as flexible as possible. If you know anyone who might be interested, then please do let them know. They can book in via the school office.

#### *Contact Information*

Mrs King has sent out the Data Collection Sheets today in school bags. It is imperative that we have up to date contact details for both parents/carers and another nominated representative for all children. This is to ensure that we can establish contact with someone in the instance of unreported absences or in case of an emergency. If you have not received a sheet by Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September, please kindly let the office know.

#### *Neurodiversity Information Evening*

The Red Kite Family Centre is running a Neurodiversity Information Evening for anyone living with Neurodiversity or wanting to find out more about it. It is on 12<sup>th</sup> October 18:30-22:00 at Thame Town Hall. To register your interest or to confirm your attendance please email [info@redkitefamilycentre.org](mailto:info@redkitefamilycentre.org).

#### *Car Parking*

We have had some concerns raised by the residents of Aston Rowant about parking, especially around the village green. Please can you take a moment to think about how and where to park giving consideration to our neighbours and their properties and also the verges along the green. Thank you.

#### *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 we have begun our full timetable. The children have coped very well with full days and we are very proud of them. In our Literacy we have been practicing alliteration and rhyme, listening carefully to start and end sounds. We read 'Each peach, pear plum' to help us predict rhymes in stories. In Phonics we have begun learning our first sounds and applying them to reading and writing. We are listening to them in first position to play the game 'I spy'. We have been sorting things into sets in maths and trying to spot the odd one out. On Wednesday we read 'The button box' and had a great time sorting and playing with Larry's big box of buttons! We got to know the staff at Aston-Rowant by having a competition for who could pull the silliest face. Mr Manning won! (see photos!) Finally, we looked at our baby photos and played a fun game of guess who. We then talked about our families and why they are special to us. We drew a picture of the people that we live with. What a lovely week!



### *Squirrel Class*

Squirrel class have embraced their inner artists this week and worked in harmony to complete some beautiful, collaborative pieces of work. We created giant collages for our science lesson, depicting an oak tree through the seasons. The children worked so hard and came up with some wonderfully unique designs. These will be shared in Collective Worship this week. In geography this week, we discussed how the weather affects us, with the Y1 children designing outfits for different seasons and the Y2 children describing how the weather affects people's ability to complete their jobs. In English we finished reading the story of Dogger and the children created detailed story maps, adding key vocabulary and words from the text. We hope to use this story as a basis to plan and write our own story of a lost toy next week. Maths learning culminated in our class number book being completed and the children are super excited to share their learning with the Hedgehog class! The children worked in pairs to create posters of numbers represented in different ways. Y1 also practised counting one more/one less and Y2 have been introduced to number lines. Another super week!



### *Fox Class*

I have had fabulous moments of wonder this week! The class have really shown me that they are ready for new challenges and some of their writing has knocked my socks off! I feel we all can identify and write expanded noun phrases with ease now as well as understanding why they are used in writing. We used local OS maps in Geography to identify hamlets, villages and towns. We then discussed where the nearest cities were and why we couldn't see any on our maps. In Science we started off looking at three images and then discussed which was the odd one out. This led to using language such as "I agree with x because" and "I disagree with x because". These are useful skills especially in Science as we need to look closely at what we are shown. I had told the class there was no wrong answer as long as they could explain why! My dog, Ted, was an important part of this lesson too as we were looking at reflected light and as Ted is a black dog he's not easy to see at night. The class had to design a jacket or accessories to help him be seen. We had some amazing designs! In French, after our fabulous 'Deux petits oiseaux' performance last week, we worked on a French rap to demonstrate our understanding of greetings. Another wonder moment! They really enjoyed this! In Art last week, we focussed on the range of skills and equipment needed when using charcoal. Moving on from this, we spent our lesson this week using these skills to demonstrate a scene from our English text. In addition to our curriculum, we are fortunate to have Mr and Mrs Turton come and teach the class Chess on a Friday afternoon too which they all loved. They were WONDERFUL!



### *Owl Class*

This week, Owl Class have been finding their way around Ordnance Survey maps, and identifying the different symbols used to represent landmarks of importance, and how these might help us plan a journey or day trip. The children also created their own symbol to represent a landmark of their choice: a water bottle refill station and a quiet reading area were some of the fantastic suggestions made. In English, the class was visited by Jack, the main character from 'Secrets in The Tower', who looked remarkably like Mr Manning with a funny voice. The children were able to ask a range of questions to this character about what it was like to live near the Tower of London during the tumultuous Tudor period, which will aid them in creating a sense of atmosphere in their descriptive writing. Science saw the children creating simple circuits and testing with materials might make the best conductor, by seeing how brightly a bulb could be made to shine! In Art, the children have created abstract self-portraits by cutting up a copy of their realistic self-portrait and re-arranging it into a Pablo Picasso inspired piece of art! After an unsure start, the children began to embrace the idea of re-arranging, and resorting their images into more and more unusual shapes, and soon filled the gaps with colours and patterns. It was a joy to see them being so creative and taking on challenges!

**GRATITUDE    RESILIENCE    OUTREACH    WONDER    TRUST    HARMONY**

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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 celebrating creation and the part that we play in it. We have considered the setting of the school and the landscape that surrounds us. We have thought about the time of year, the weather, what the surrounding area looks like at the moment, seasonal change and what we enjoy about the outdoors and nature at this time of year. We have reflected that Christians and many other religions believe that God created the world. Christians believe that although the whole of creation and nature are wonderful, God considers people to be the best part of his creation. He considers us all to be very special. Christians believe that God loves us to enjoy all that he has given us. He wants us to make the most of the fresh air and the outdoors, to use our bodies and to look after each other and take time just to 'wonder'.

*'I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.'* Psalm 139:13

**Climate Warriors Challenge**

Do you know what the SDGs/Global Goals are? What goals would they set? This week's challenge takes a look at them, as homes in on 'water' for an active challenge in the home. Do you need a bath? Hang on ... do you REALLY need a bath? Do you need one every day? Could you skip a bath today, share your bath water, or have a shower instead? We're just coming to the end of Global Goals Week – time for thinking about children all around the world and how we can help end poverty, fight inequality and help combat climate change. Can you imagine waking up before dawn to trek to the nearest water source, and then carrying a filled water container – without spilling it – and doing that every day? Women and children around the world, spend 200 million hours each day collecting water. Your challenge this week is to avoid a bath, or two – save it as a special treat? A typical bath uses 80 litres of water! If you can find a 1 litre bottle around your home - fill it up, close your eyes and imagine 140 of them lined up – that's how much water the average person in the UK uses EVERY day!!! Reducing our water consumption can play its part in helping to combat climate change. Pumping, treating, delivering and disposing of cold water causes carbon emissions, on top of those resulting from heating the water. We'd recommend this excellent 6minute movie: [Introducing the Global Goals - everybody's got a super power](#)

**Book Review by Sam King in Squirrel Class**



Kitchen Disco by Clare Foges and Al Murphy

I love this book about fruit having a party in the kitchen. It has rhyming words and great pictures. My favourite part is when the pineapple and the grape hi-5 each other! It's so funny and I give it 5/5 stars.

**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	74	140
Eden	68	141
Galilee	71	137
Jerusalem	71	141

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### *Fmails and Letters Sent this Week*

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
22-09-23	Form	All	Office	Data Collection Sheets
20-09-23	Email	All	Office	Flu Consent
20-09-23	Email	Fox Y4 + Owl	Mr Manning	Tower of London trip
18-09-23	Email	Year 6	Office	Year 7 applications
18-09-23	Email	Year 6	Office	Lord Williams's Open Evening
18-09-23	Email	Hedgehog	Mrs Hall	Tapestry information

Please note that all dates are the website.

<b>September</b>	
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Harvest in school celebration assembly
<b>October</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> October	Black History Month – Before Windrush
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	School Trip Year 4/5/6 to The Tower of London
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Open Morning at LWS for Year 7 intake 2024 (NB Taster Day Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> July 24)
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Open Morning for Reception 2024
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup>	INSET Day
<b>November</b>	
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Open Morning for Reception 2024
Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> and Wed 8 <sup>th</sup>	Parents' Evenings
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 17 <sup>th</sup>	Anti Bullying Week
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Children in Need (wear spots and dots and make a donation to this charity)
<b>December</b>	
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Open Afternoon for Reception 2024
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup> and Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup>	EYFS Nativity
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Lunch at The Lambert Arms (organised by PTA)
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Christingle in church
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Pantomime in school at 9:30 (organised by PTA)
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Party School ends 1:30

### *Academic Year Calendar 2023-24*

<b>Autumn 23</b>	
Tues 5 <sup>th</sup> Sept – Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Autumn Term (1)
Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup> – Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> October	HALF TERM
Mon 30 <sup>th</sup> Oct – Wed 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Autumn Term (2)
<b>Spring 24</b>	
Tue 9 <sup>th</sup> Jan – Fri 9 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Spring Term (1)
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 16 <sup>th</sup> February	HALF TERM
Mon 19 <sup>th</sup> Feb – Thurs 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Spring Term (2)
<b>Summer 24</b>	
Mon 15 <sup>th</sup> April - Thu 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Summer Term (1)
Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> May – Fri 31 <sup>st</sup> May	HALF TERM
Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup> June – Wed 24 <sup>th</sup> July	Summer Term (2)

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