



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

29th September 2023

From the Headteacher



The green leaf on our school logo is for our value of **Outreach** – where we actively try to provide support to any group or individuals in need. Encouraging our children to participate in charitable activities is important as it develops a sense of citizenship – in terms of individual engagement, participation in collective school activities, and engendering a broader sense of social responsibility.

It is a privilege to be part of a school which puts supporting other communities, both locally and internationally, at the heart of what we do. Our School Council votes on the charities that it would like the school to support each year. This year we are supporting Save the Children as a school. Save the Children is an international charity with the goal of helping improve the lives of children worldwide. Last year Save the Children reached 43million children in 118 countries including the UK.



Save the Children
CHANGE THE FUTURE

We also support national events such as Jeans for Genes Day, Children in Need and Comic Relief as well as local charities such as our local food bank. We look forward to the initiatives suggested by the children, and supported by the whole Aston Rowant family, to see what we can do to outreach different communities this year.



Thank you to everyone who brought food items in today for Harvest. We will be taking the items to the Sharing Life foodbank this weekend. The Thame foodbank provides emergency supplies of essential food items to those in our community who are struggling financially. It will make such a difference to those who receive your donations.

Black History Month

October marks the start of Black History Month – a time to celebrate and remember African and Caribbean heritage peoples' achievements and contributions to the British economy, culture, and history. It's a chance to tell the stories of those lesser well-known Black Britons who we might forget if we don't showcase them. The theme of Black History Month UK 2023 is 'Before Windrush'. Each of our classes will be exploring different lives and stories of Black Britons who were living in the UK before the arrival of Empire Windrush in 1948. The themes will include:



- YR – nursing and Mary Jane Seacole
- Y1/2 - famous and notable Victorians such Sara Forbes Bonetta (Goddaughter of Queen Victoria)
- Y3/4 - Roman times - the Aurelian Moors and the 'Ivory Bangle Lady'
- Y5/6 - the Abolition of the Slave Trade and abolitionists, such as Olaudah Equiano, who fought to achieve this.

There is an argument that Black History should not have a month dedicated to it but that it should, rightly, be remembered all year round. This is certainly our aim at Aston Rowant School. However, Black History Month, like many other national and international events, provides us with an additional opportunity to remember individuals and events that might not be included in a racially inclusive national curriculum and might remain forgotten to the annals of time if not celebrated at moments such as these. And there is much to celebrate. We look forward to sharing our work with you over the course of the next month.

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

Hedgehog Class have had a fantastic week, learning some wonderful songs and actions for our harvest assembly. We looked at an Autumn tree shape poem and made some beautiful tree pictures using different painting techniques. In Phonics we have been working on our new sounds this week and practicing writing them in shaving foam, play dough and other ways. In our English we have been talking about how traditional stories use repetitive language to make them easy to learn and retell. We've been practicing our retelling skills by making gingerbread men finger puppets and acting out the story with music and dancing! This week we changed for P.E. in under 8 minutes which is a new record! Well done Hedgehog!



Squirrel Class

Squirrel Class have blown me away this week with their harmonious teamwork and wonderful creativity. In English, the class are now busy writing their own lost toy story, and the children worked together in pairs to brainstorm and plan their narrative. I'm excited to see how these stories develop over the course of next week. In maths, Y1 have been looking at comparing objects and numbers, and using mathematical symbols to complete this. The Y2 children have also been comparing numbers but with the use of a number line. Our afternoons this week have been very crafty and fun filled, with the children creating an Autumn leaf man (or woman) for art and a rain gauge in science. We have placed these rain gauges outside and hope to collect some weather data over the coming weeks. We also measured cloud coverage in our geography lesson to collect more weather data. We learned that meteorologists do this in oktas, or eighths of the sky. If you look up at the sky, and mentally divide it into eight boxes, then imagine all the cloud you can see squashed into these boxes. How many boxes does the cloud fill? This is how many oktas of cloud there are. Zero (0) oktas represents the complete absence of cloud, building up to eight (8) oktas representing a complete cloud cover with no breaks. The Squirrels will be presenting the weather forecasts in no time with all this weather knowledge! See you next week!



Fox Class

This week in Fox Class we welcomed three new members to Year 3 and it was lovely to see the outreach by the whole class to make them all feel welcome. In our Maths, we have been working through our understanding of comparing and ordering numbers and the Year 4's had the challenge of working with roman numerals up to 100. In our English we composed a range of sentence types such as command and questions which was linked to our SPaG on Monday. Children wrote some instructions as to how to make a metal flower after reading more of our story The Tin Forest. We also worked on our oracy and performed some of the text. In our Geography, the OS maps were out again and children were tasked in finding a range of symbols and features of different areas of England and ending in a challenge based on our area to find the nearest Post Office, church, and nature reserve. Understanding what the sun is, why it can be dangerous and how we can protect ourselves were the themes in our Science and the class produced reports that answered those questions. Bluey featured in our French lesson to help us name family members such as mum, dad, brother and sister. The observant and fans of Bluey will note that she does not have a brother so the class had to design one and give him a name! I have been so impressed in the class's enthusiasm to speak French. C'est magnifique! In our Art, we built on our charcoal skills from the previous weeks and focussed on shade and shadow using some real-life fruit for inspiration!



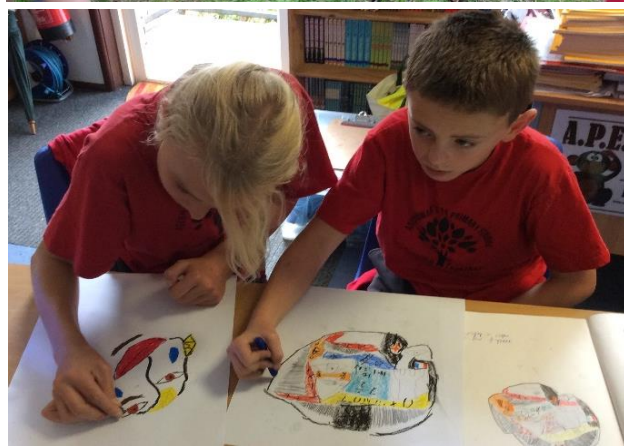
Owl Class

Owl Class began the week with compass skills in Geography; using the points of a compass to navigate around a map, searching for pirate treasure. We also used our practical compass skills to orientate a compass to magnetic north, and to find out which direction key landmarks of our school are in. In Science, I challenged the children to create their own experiment to show how we could find out the quickest way to dissolve a variety of materials. Despite plenty of requests, acid was not allowed! It was exceptionally rewarding to see so many children apply their prior learning and scientific thinking to create a wide range of ideas. It didn't matter if the experiment would have worked or not, it was the focus on working scientifically and considering fairness in testing, and the children were able to talk about variables in a confident manner. In English, the children undertook their first Big Write of the term, about the exterior of The Tower of London. The task was to create an atmospheric setting description about the Tudor period Tower, and the children made some fantastic vocabulary choices to create some extremely effective (and some a bit gory!) descriptions. Our Art topic saw us breaking out the oil pastels to transfer our collage abstract portraits to A3 size and begin to get creative with colour and shape. Well done for an extremely busy and challenging week Owl Class.

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 have celebrated our Harvest festival. We have thanked God for our food, for the rain, the soil, the sun and the farmers who grow our crops. We spent time on reflecting on the importance of saying thank you. We looked at the needs of others around the world and what we can do as part of our value Outreach. School Council have suggested a new school charity 'Save the Children' based on the work they do to support those in need in other countries. Finally, we have looked at the work of our local food bank, 'Sharing Life' in the local area.

'This most generous God who gives seed to the farmer that becomes bread for your meals is more than extravagant with you. He gives you something you can then give away, which grows into full-formed lives, robust in God, wealthy in every way, so that you can be generous in every way, producing with us great praise to God.' 2 Corinthians 9:10-11

Climate Warriors Challenge

This week we're challenging our Young Climate Warriors to WALK and TALK - MORE. To walk more – to cut our carbon emissions, and to talk more – to chat, share, discuss what you know, feel and think about climate change. One of the greatest challenges humanity has ever faced – yet many people never talk about it. Here's a simple ['net zero' explainer](#) which is a great discussion point.

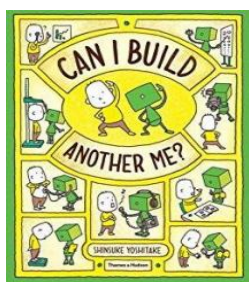
We also have various introductory movies/clips that can be helpful conversation starters:

[What exactly is Climate Change?](#)

[Penguins and polar bears \(for younger kids\).](#)

Our KS2 children might like to share this ['what a better future looks like'](#) – a 1 minute inspirational movie.

Book Review Can I Build Another Me? By Shinsuke Yoshitake



'Can I Build Another Me?' follows a Kevin's hilarious, wildly inventive train of thought as he decides to make a clone of himself, so he doesn't have to do his chores at home - and starts to ponder what makes him HIM. Is it the scar on his knee or his sticky palms? Is it his love of acorns or the way he winks? This book offers children an opportunity to reflect on themselves and what makes them who they are – a great link to our whole school topic!

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	81	221
Eden	90	231
Galilee	97	234
Jerusalem	76	217

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Fmails and letters Sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
29-09-23	Email	All	PTA	Christmas cards
27-09-23	Email	Owl	Mrs France	Residential trip
27-09-23	Email	All	Office	PTA letter & minutes

Please note that all dates are the website.

October	
1 st – 31 st October	Black History Month – Before Windrush
Wednesday 4 th	School Trip Year 4/5/6 to The Tower of London
Wednesday 11 th	Open Morning at LWS for Year 7 intake 2024 (NB Taster Day Friday 5 th July 24)
Thursday 12th	Flu vaccinations all years
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)
20th – 24th November	Road Safety Week inc Friday Be Bright Be Seen Day (dress in brightest clothes)
Friday 24th	Bags2School
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 20th	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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