

From the Headteacher

Childrens Mental Health Week

"I'm so small," said
the mole.



It has been Children's Mental Health Week with the theme of **My Voice Matters**. Our assemblies and lessons have provided the children with the opportunity to read and explore Charlie Mackesy's wonderful book 'The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse' and reflect on themes of mental wellbeing through the characters and events in the text. In KS1 we focused on the importance of celebrating differences. Pupils thought about what makes themselves and their peers special, and how this can promote positive wellbeing. In KS2 we invited pupils to reflect on how the characters in the book think and talk about emotions, exploring the different ways that emotions can manifest and why talking matters. Finally, a huge thank you to Mrs Jones who delivered Qi Gong workshops to every class- which the children loved!

Internet Safety Day

The theme for our Internet safety day this year has been: **Together for a better Internet**. We looked at the safe, responsible and positive use of digital technology for children and encourage them to shape the online safety support that they receive whilst exploring the following areas:

- Young people's perspective on new and emerging technology
- Using the internet to make change for the better
- The changes young people want to see online
- The things that influence and change the way children think, feel and act online and offline



Sponsored Walk



Thank you to everyone who took part in our school sponsored walk on Tuesday. The children were enthusiastic, energetic but responsible at all times. All the values we would expect from an Aston Rowant child. Thank you to everyone who sponsored them – we have raised an amazing £1,148.10 so far. All monies raised by the walk will go directly to Sobell House Hospice.

Bird Watch

Thank you to Mr and Mrs Turton who led our school bird watch this morning as part of The National Big Bird Watch. We spotted rooks, longtail tits, wood pigeons, blue tits, robins and jackdaws.



Cycling



Mr and Mrs Turton have also agreed to run our cycle training again this year for our Year 5 children. This will prepare and equip pupils not only for competent and safe cycling but encourages and develops skills for independent journeys and a wider knowledge of road safety issues and independent thinking. If anyone does not use their bike regularly half term will be the perfect opportunity to dust it off and check its road worthiness.

World Book Day

This year we are using World Book Day as a way to get everyone enjoying poetry, talking about it and sharing their favourite poems. For the day we are inviting the children to dress as a poem they love. It could be: Jabberwocky, The Owl and the Pussycat, At The Zoo, The Crocodile or even We Believe in Football! The possibilities are endless! We have several poetry books at school to help children choose. There will be more details after half term, but this is just to start the creative juices flowing.



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 super week. We have been talking a lot about our feelings this week. How we can identify what we are feeling and how we can use strategies to help us when we are experiencing 'bad' feelings. We loved spending some time learning the Chinese art of Qi Gong on Wednesday. We learnt some different animal movements we can do for different emotions. In our circle times we looked at how to tell how others are feeling by looking at their faces. We practiced using this skill on the playground to help others when they are upset. We enjoyed the story of 'The Boy, The Mole, the Fox and the Horse' and looked in particular at how we can show kindness to our friends. The children made posters for the school to encourage us to be kind in different ways. Finally, we read the story of Smartie the Penguin to learn about how to be safe on our tablets and on the internet. Ask your children to show you the penguin song!



Squirrel Class

This week we have been lucky enough to pack in lots of fun, practical learning and took part in some great school wide events. We started off the week making our spacecraft for Beegu and the children were amazing at taking ownership of their designs and getting stuck in creating! We had such a variety of different ideas and designs, and the class were brilliant at working independently but also demonstrated wonderful teamwork by helping each other out if needed. In English we researched facts about the Moon in pairs and created posters. In maths we looked at ten more than a number in Year 1 and making equal groups in Year 2. We also took part in the sponsored walk and had fun splashing in the Holbrook stream at Fiveways. In RE the class enjoyed designing their own places of worship – we have churches in a round, hexagonal shapes with rooms leading off each edge, churches built around gardens – they are amazing In PSHE we read 'The Boy, The Mole, the Fox and the Horse' and thought what makes us unique and about the values we want to show as we grow up. Finally, the class have all been given their scripts for our performance next term so that they can start learning their lines. Exciting times ahead! Have an enjoyable break and see you soon.



Fox Class

Where did this half term go? The class have worked so hard and this week they have been demonstrating their new knowledge in relation to what makes their writing more readable. We wrote a new chapter for The Firework Maker's Daughter that Phillip Pullman didn't include focussing on using fronted adverbials, conjunctions and exciting verbs. In our Maths, both year groups have learnt about length and understanding equivalence. In our History, we ended our Shang Dynasty unit looking at their early writing and the use of oracle bones to predict the future. We wrote our own using characters similar to the Shang to make our own predictions! In Science, children completed their poster explaining what their Investigations were and what they found. I think they have all really learnt a lot of how to conduct their own investigation and how to make it fair. Our French this week enabled the class to demonstrate their excellent recall of colours by listening to people speak and listening out for key information as well as writing their own sentences about their favourite colour. Finally in Art, we completed our mixed media work sewing onto our picture we painted last week. In addition, to all our class learning we have been fortunate to have Mrs Jones learn about Qi Gong and how it can help us during times of worry or stress. The class listened attentively and really engaged with it. Thank you Mrs Jones! We also enjoyed our walk on Tuesday especially as we had been learning about lengths and converting metres to kilometres. They were all intrigued to know just how far we had walked – checking in regularly with my watch! This has been an extremely productive half term. Enjoy the week to rest, recharge and come back ready for more exciting learning!



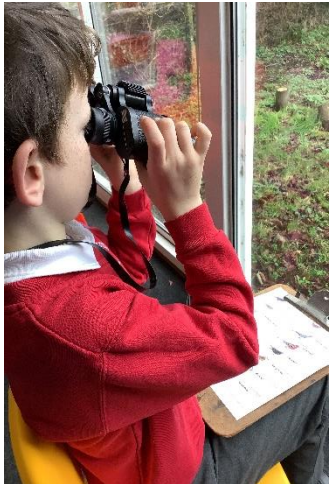
Owl Class

What a half term; it has whizzed by! The children have put in a tremendous amount of work these last five weeks, and this week has been no exception. In Maths, Year 5 continued to work on the various ways to find fractions of amounts, and how to use only a fractional amount to find the total hidden value. They must be drawing bar-models in their sleep by now! Year 6 have been 'expressing' themselves in maths with algebraic equations, and I have to applaud how confident the children have become with the notion of forming expressions with substituted values. In English, in the wake of our Shackleton unit ending, we took some inspiration from Steve Cole's visit and created our own portmanteau words and hybrid creatures, describe their characteristics, and then wrote a persuasive letter to the PM (or in some cases His Royal Highness) to defend these misunderstood creatures from a potential total ban. The children had to appeal to the better nature of the PM and provide convincing alternatives to keep the rest of the country safe. For instance, to avoid the Heli-frog from flying into the path of air ways, some of the children proposed a stretchy rubber lead, or a Wi-Fi powered collar to let the animal know it had strayed too far from home. Science saw an independently led challenge for the children to assemble a working doorbell, using only the components that gave them. The children swiftly realised the tin foil and card could be rigged to create a simple but effective button with conductor points that created a full circuit. The classroom was soon 'buzzing' with excitement! In calmer news, the Owl class really enjoyed the Qi Gong workshop that Mrs Jones was generous to provide, and I'm sure will be put to use on well-being Wednesday mornings in the future. We also looked at the excellent and heartfelt 'The Boy, The Mole, the Fox and the Horse' by Charley Mackesy as part of our Children's Mental Health week, and really explored exactly what we can do to help manage our own expectations of ourselves. Well done and enjoy your break 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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Sponsored Walk for Sobell House Hospice



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Whole School Topic - Spring Term: Home is Where the Heart is.

Values: Trust

In the Bible there is a book of wise sayings called Proverbs. We looked at one of them. 'No one who gossips can be trusted with a secret, but you can put confidence in someone who is trustworthy.' Proverbs 11:13 Being trustworthy can be difficult. It is often tempting to pass on gossip, especially when we think others will want to hear it. But we all need to be people that others can trust. We looked at how we can make that true of ourselves and thought about asking: Is it true? Is it kind? Is it helpful? Is it anything to do with me?

Climate Warriors Challenge

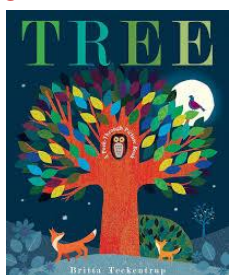
Young Climate Warriors' half-term and holiday challenges always involve getting outside, opportunities to explore our extraordinary natural world, and reinforcing our link with nature. This half-term Young Climate Warriors are encouraged to go on a 'treasure hunt' for bulbs emerging from the ground - buried since last Spring.

You might like to #showthelove – share a green heart on Valentine's Day – showing your support for urgent action to protect the climate and nature. #showthelove is organised by The Climate Coalition - UK's largest group action against climate.

Here's a '[Treasure map' template](#) - which EYFS and KSI might particularly enjoy.

A link to the [#showthelove #shorts campaign movie](#).

Book Review Tree by Britta Teckentrup recommended by Hedgehog Class



This term we have been using this wonderfully illustrated text as the basis for our seasons topic. We love this book. The children loved the artwork which gave us lots of inspiration for our own tree pictures. The text is written in rhyming couplets and uses an abundance of adjectives to describe each season. This helped up with our poetry. This is what the children said about it:

- "I like the snowy one." Ophelia
- "It's got a hole in it so the owl can sit in the trees." Flo C
- "It's a funny book." - Billie
- "It's beautiful." - Chloe

Happiness Calander: Friendly February

This month let's focus on reaching out to connect with others and doing our best to be a good friend. Our acts of kindness and connection ripple out and impact so many more people than we realise. In stressful times people around us may be feeling the strain, so let's try to keep calm, take time to listen and show compassion. You can find this month's happiness calendar [here](#).

Attendance - This Week

School target 97%	97% - 100%	90% -97%	Below 90%
Hedgehog Class	87%	0%	13%
Squirrel Class	76%	0%	24%
Fox Class	78%	0%	22%
Owl Class	85%	0%	15%

Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	101	395
Eden	60	339
Galilee	60	35
Jerusalem	70	339

Congratulations to **Bethlehem** who are winners of this half term's houspoints.

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Emails and Letters Sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
07-02-24	Email	All	Office	OxTrail reminders
06-02-24	Email	Fox	Mrs Healy	Banded reading books

February	
Monday 19 th	PC Ben talk KSI
Wednesday 21 st	VR headset experiences for each class (topic based)
Friday 23 rd	Dance Club resumes
Friday 23 rd	PTA Glo party disco
March	
Tuesday 5 th	Cross Country Run event
Wednesday 6 th	World Book Day (not Thursday to avoid PE) Bags2school
11 th – 15 th March	National Science Week
Friday 15 th	Red Nose Day 2:30pm Last Celebration Assembly (stage up after – volunteers welcomed)
Tues 19 th Wed 20 th	Parents' Evenings
Friday 22 nd	Year 5 cycling starts. (future dates April 19 th , 26 th . May 3 rd , 10 th , 17 th . June 14 th , 21 st , 28 th (test day) 2:30pm Book look with cake sale for Save the Children
Mon 25 th Tues 26 th	KSI Performance 'A Big Green Adventure'
Wed 27 th	Full Governing Body Meeting
Thurs 28 th	9:15am Spring Service in church Term finishes at 1:30pm
April	
Monday 15 th	Summer Term starts
Friday 19 th	9am PTA meeting – school hall Year 5 cycling (future dates April, 26 th . May 3 rd , 10 th , 17 th . June 14 th , 21 st , 28 th (test day)

Academic Year Calendar 2023-24/2024-25

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)
Autumn 24	
Weds 4 th Sept – Thurs 24 th Oct	Autumn Term (1)
Mon 28 th – Fri 1 st Nov	HALF TERM
Mon 4 th Nov – Fri 20 th Dec	Autumn Term (2)
Spring 25	
Tue 7 th Jan – Fri 14 th Feb	Spring Term (1)
Monday 17 th – Fri 21 st Feb	HALF TERM
Mon 24 th Feb – Fri 4 th Apr	Spring Term (2)
Summer 25	
Tue 22 nd April – Thu 22 nd May	Summer Term (1)
Mon 26 th May – Fri 30 th May	HALF TERM
Mon 2 nd June – Tue 22 nd July	Summer Term (2)

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