



**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

12<sup>th</sup> January 2024

*From the Headteacher*

*Happy New Year*



Happy New Year! Welcome back to this new term. I hope that you had a great break with a very Happy Christmas and have had a peaceful start to the new year.

*Christingle Photographs*

We were delighted that Jamie Byskou, Percy's father, joined us at the Christingle service and took the wonderful photos on our final newsletter and on the website: [Christingle 2023 | Aston Rowant Church of England Primary School \(secure-primariesite.net\)](#) If you see one that you would like please do contact the office.



*Inset day*



INSET (In-service Education and Training) days are a series of days, normally 5 per academic year, during which children do not attend school so that staff receive CPD or are given time to complete administrative tasks. This week we joined with the other schools across Thame Partnership to participate in a variety of workshops. We had a fantastic day in which we looked at:

**Maths Manipulatives** All members of staff attended this session on why we use manipulatives in maths lessons and considered how manipulatives and representations can help children understand the underlying structure of maths and how we can best use them in school.

**Literacy: Reading for Pleasure** All teachers attended this to look at whole class reading lessons: and to review the DfE's Reading Policy document, 'The Reading Framework' and its implications for classroom practice. We also had fun ourselves with books and reading related challenges. We look forward to sharing these with our classes.

**Literacy: Dialogic Teaching** *Read it, talk it, tell it, write it.* This workshop explored the potential impact of dialogic teaching on children's oracy development and how we can apply this in the talk for writing journey.

**SEND: Dyslexia** The session focused on understanding dyslexia; looking at the impact of dyslexia on children and young people in school and explored inclusive teaching and learning strategies that best support children and young people with dyslexia.

**SEND: Autism in Girls** It is recognised that girls with autism often go 'under the radar'. We looked at how they might present differently in school, how they might manage social interactions and how best we can support them.

**Behaviour: Attachment, Belonging and Connection:** The workshop looked at attachment and connection in the classroom. We looked at the theory behind attachment and practical strategies to support children having secure attachments, a sense of belonging and feel connected in the classroom. An inspiring session and we will be sharing some of the ideas with the children.

*Compost Bin*

Max C, Year 3, is one of our amazing Eco Warriors. When he heard that we wanted a compost bin for school he independently organised a sponsored 10Km cycle/run to raise funds. So far he has raised a total of £140. You can still add to Max's Just Giving page [Max's Just Giving page](#) We are grateful to him and proud of his initiative, enthusiasm and hard work. Our new compost bin will be named 'Max's Muncher'.



*Proposed Change from VC to VA for Aston Rowant Church of England School*



The Governing body and leadership of the school believe that the best interests of the pupils, parents and school would be served by Aston Rowant CofE School changing from being a voluntary controlled school to becoming a voluntary aided school. We believe that this will better represent the vision and ethos of our school. There is a meeting to discuss this further in the school hall at 6:30pm on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January.

*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*

What a great first week of the new term! We have begun our new topic on 'weather and seasons', starting with looking at a fabulous book called "Tree" by Britta Teckentrup. The book describes the changes in each season in rhyming couplets and has some beautiful artwork. The children have learnt about the signs to spot in each season and worked collaboratively to decorate a tree in the style of their given season. In Literacy this term we are focusing on poetry so the children have begun to learn the difference between 'what' words (nouns) and 'describing' words (adjectives). This concept is trickier than you think with 4-5year olds and they have done a great job in using some adjectives to describe their group tree pictures. In Topic we have begun looking at a range of artists who have painted trees. We are making use of new vocabulary to describe how we feel about the artwork. The children have explored different printing techniques this week to make winter trees. They have also learnt how to alter the shade of paint through adding black and white. Each week we will use a different media to create seasonal artwork. Watch this space!



### *Squirrel Class*

A new term is upon us, and we have had a super start to 2024! Our new school topic of 'Home is where the heart is' has sparked some beautiful discussions amongst the children. Our class book for English (Beegu) is about an alien who crash lands on Planet Earth, far from her home and family. We hope to use this text to explore this topic in more detail over the coming weeks. In maths this week Y1 have been finishing off their learning about shape, with a focus on making patterns. Y2 have explored vertical and horizontal lines of symmetry in 2D shapes. We have used mirrors to help us and practised drawing straight lines with a ruler – trickier than it sounds! In science this week we learned about materials and their uses. Our art topic is all about sculptures and we watched videos of different artists creating their art using a variety of materials. We then talked about our favourite piece and sketched it into our books.



### *Fox Class*

Happy New Year! I am so impressed at how focussed and eager the children are to learn this week. We have launched straight into multiplication but at a deeper level; Year 3 looking at related calculations and Year 4 working with factor pairs. In our English, the class really enjoyed writing some New Year's resolutions that they would definitely keep. These ranged from "I will not burn my fingers on the sun", "I will not use my brother as a chair", "I will always love my family" to "I will not wear braces in my hair"! I think you'll agree that these resolutions should be easy to keep! We have also introduced Word of the Day in order to stretch our vocabulary. We've looked at the number of syllables, word class, definition, synonyms and antonyms. It should **transform** their vocabulary range! (That's one of our words!) In Science, we are working as scientists this half term. After being put into groups, they had to agree on a scientific question that they would like to investigate. I was so impressed with their discussions and reasoning. In our French, children enjoyed learning the names of body parts enabling us to sing Heads, shoulders, knees and toes in French. On the theme of singing, an enjoyable lesson was had by all (especially me!) when we learnt to sing Mamma Mia!



### *Owl Class*

It's been a fabulous start to the new term, with a shorter week being no barrier to our learning. The children dove straight into new maths topics exploring the multiplicative relationships between number: Year Five focusing on the multiplication of up to four-digit numbers by progressively larger and larger values, and Year Six exploring the idea of ratio, and the substitution of written values with symbols, such as the ratio sign. Both year groups are working with tremendous enthusiasm here and into the English topic of persuasive writing. The children have been analysing various written and visual adverts to understand the ways that we as consumers are persuaded to part with time or money. Some of the children have tried to utilise these techniques to persuade me for more breaktime! In Science, we have created a range of simple circuits and begun to experiment with how we can alter the brightness of bulbs and how the amperage of batteries can greatly affect the lifespan of a bulb (ask your Owl about Mr Manning's safety demonstration with a lightbulb), whilst in French we have begun to talk about our families and our homes, which must have been filled with joy and rest, as the children are really attentive and well-focused. It has been lovely to see them interacting with each other and catching up after the break. Well done on a great first week back Owl Class!

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*Photo Diary of the Week*



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

***Values: Trust***

We used our time in Collective Worship this week to introduce our new value for this half term, Trust. We can trust that God cares for us enough to want the best for us. To show that God will never forget His children, the Bible uses picture language and tells us that it is as if our name is written in the palm of his hands. When we trust in him we can take our needs, cares, hopes and dreams to Him and he holds them, and us, tight.

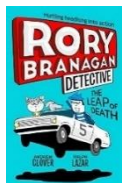
‘See, I have written your name on the palm of my hands.’ Isaiah 49:16

***Climate Warriors Challenge***

How will the 2024 story unfold? Nearly 200 countries at COP28 agreed to transition away from fossil fuels but what will it look like 'on the ground' in 2024? In addition, 20,000 young people will be joining The American Climate Corps which will help install solar projects, mitigate wildfire risk and enable home efficiency measures. Also agreed at COP28 was the Climate Loss and Damage Fund: to be initially managed by the World Bank. Will 2024 bring the first step towards climate justice?

How will YOUR 2024 story unfold? Young Climate Warriors are challenged to create a 2024 chooser/chatterbox– on the theme of protecting our natural world; and then to launch the ‘great unfolding’ by playing the game with members of their family and asking them to join in with their 2024 story, undertaking the ‘action’ to help protect our natural world.

***Book Review*** Rory Branagan Detective – The Leap of Death, by Andrew Clover recommended by Mrs Olsen



Rory Branagan is the best detective in town. Well, he is actually a schoolboy who thinks he is the best detective in town. This is the fifth book in the series, in which we follow Rory and his best friend Cat on a trip to the ‘Car Bonanza’, where people are doing epic car stunts, jumping out of planes and breaking world records. But then one stunt goes terribly wrong. But was it really an accident?! It is a good job Rory and Cat are there because if this is a crime, it needs solving.

***Happiness Calander: Happier January***

**How can we start this new year happier?** This month, we’re encouraging everyone to focus on small steps to try to boost happiness - for ourselves and others around us - to spread kindness and hopefully inspire others to do the same. You can find this month’s happiness calendar [here](#).

***Attendance – This Week***

School target 97%	97% - 100%	90% -97%	Below 90%
Hedgehog Class	93%	0%	7%
Squirrel Class	93%	0%	7%
Fox Class	83%	0%	17%
Owl Class	93%	0%	7%

***Housepoints***

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	44	44
Eden	30	30
Galilee	46	46
Jerusalem	44	44

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### *Emails and Letters Sent this Week*

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
10-01-24	Email	Owl	Office	Blue Peter reading badges
09-01-24	Email	All	Office	VA Consultation reminder
08-01-24	Email	All	Office	Friday Football with JR Sports Group
08-01-24	Email	All	Office	Flood alert
08-01-24	Email	R & Y6	Office	School height & weight measurements

#### January

Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Consultation about becoming a VA school- parents, carers and local community 6:30pm in school hall
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Garsington Opera Workshop and auditions Owl Class
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup>	PTA meeting EVENING
Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup>	R and Year 6 Weight/ Height Measurements
Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup>	Author visit from Steve Cole with book sale/signing after school Full Governing Body Meeting

#### February

5 <sup>th</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup> February	Children's Mental Health Week
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Internet Safety Day
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup>	PC Ben talk KSI
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	VR headset experiences for each class (topic based)

#### March

Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Cross Country Run event
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	World Book Day (not Thursday to avoid PE)
11 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup> March	National Science Week
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Red Nose Day 2:30 Last Celebration Assembly (stage up after – volunteers welcomed)
Tues 19 <sup>th</sup> Wed 20 <sup>th</sup>	Parents' Evenings
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	2:30pm Book look with cake sale
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> Tues 26 <sup>th</sup>	KSI Performance 'A Big Green Adventure'
Wed 27 <sup>th</sup>	Full Governing Body Meeting
Thurs 28 <sup>th</sup>	9:15am Spring Service in church

### *Academic Year Calendar 2023-24*

#### Autumn 23

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)

#### Spring 24

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)

#### Summer 24

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)

**GRATITUDE    RESILIENCE    OUTREACH    WONDER    TRUST    HARMONY**

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