



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

19th January 2024

From the Headteacher

Oxtrail



At the beginning of December we announced that as part of our Art programme this year we will be joining OxTrail - Oxfordshire's first ever sculpture trail, raising funds for Sobell House Hospice. We are delighted to say that we will be joining 82 other Learning Programme participants. Even more exciting is that our individual mini ox sculpture has been ordered, it is currently being made in Poland and will soon be on the moooooo-ve!

So now is the time for us as a school community to get mooooo-ving! We need to agree on the design for our mini ox, which will firstly be on display in Oxford before coming to settle here permanently in our school grounds. We also need to raise funds to help us cover the cost of our ox and also raise funds for Sobell House and our school community.

Last year, Sobell House Hospice cared for 66% of the people who died in Oxfordshire and supported their families. This was made possible because of volunteers who put in dedicated time and effort into fundraising for them. Our support will make it possible for them to provide a variety of services including specialist, compassionate nursing care, bereavement support and therapy to our patients and families at the time they need the support the most.



In addition, Sobell House provide constructive and age-appropriate resources to help children learn about their work and what palliative and end of life care. We would like to build the resources that we have in school to support children who are bereaved, children who face illness themselves or in their families, as well as having resources for children who face other key challenges in day-to-day life.

A letter was sent out today detailing the design competition as well as our idea to fund raise. Please do support this very worthwhile project if you can.

VC to VA Church School



We know that some people missed the consultation evening on Tuesday who had wanted to attend. I have popped the PowerPoint on our website. In summary, we believe that changing our status to a VA school will help us:

- Be clear on our identity and confirm our Christian vision
- Have more control over how we spend money in our school
- Gain greater opportunities to carry out much needed maintenance and remedial works on our buildings and grounds

Governor Vacancy

Are you interested in working with the school's leadership team by shaping and challenging the drive for school improvement? We have an exciting opportunity as we are looking to appoint a new school governor. School governors offer strategic guidance, rather than getting involved in the operational aspects of a school. They have the opportunity to help set the general direction of the school and how it is developed; to be a critical friend by supporting the work of the leadership but also being willing to question and challenge when the need arises, to make a difference in improving standards throughout the school and to support young people's futures. They usually attend around six meetings per year.



CAMHS



CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service) are offering free mental workshops for parents and carers. Subjects currently on offer include: Teen Anxiety; Self Harm; Dealing with Low Moods; How to Talk to Your Distressed Child. Please see the flyer sent out this week by the school office for the QR code with more information.

Kind regards

Mrs France

GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY

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Teaching and Learning in the Classrooms this week:



Hedgehog Class

It's only our second week of term and the children are well stuck into our seasons topic. We have been exploring measures of weight and capacity in Maths. We've been having great fun estimating and filling pots. This activity uses great reasoning and calculating skills as they apply their understanding of both space and number. We've had to think and choose good mathematical vocabulary to explain our ideas. In Literacy this week, we have been continuing work on adjectives by reading and talking about a range of winter poems. The children went on an adjective hunt outside and found some sneaky nouns trying to disguise themselves! We used the adjectives to create some group poems using our best speaking and performance skills. In topic we've had great fun investigating the winter weather by keeping a weather diary and measuring the rainfall (or snowfall!). We have also enjoyed creating autumn tree art using the media of collage this week. We used hole punches to make our own letters.



Squirrel Class

The Squirrels really have been busy this week! We continue to explore the theme of 'Home is Where the Heart is' through our class text, and this week we have completed some drama and role play in small groups. We have discussed the emotions of different characters in the text and how their perspectives will vary. In maths this week we used lots of manipulatives to review place value in Y1 and in Y2 we have been reviewing 3D shapes, including counting vertices, faces and edges. In Geography we looked at the four countries that make up the U.K. and named their capital cities. We located our home county and talked about features we could recognise in the maps. In Science and Art we doubled up our lessons and collected materials of all different kinds to make an original sculpture. Some children found the experience challenging and others found it liberating! Last but not least, we have made a start on our class performance, with the children auditioning and being allocated parts. Watch this space for further info and requests for help with costumes and props! Have a lovely weekend and see you next week.



Fox Class

Our first full week back giving us the opportunity to embrace our new History topic of the Shang Dynasty. We looked at where China is located then spent time revisiting the work of archaeologists and how they managed to understand how people lived thousands of years ago by interpreting their findings. We also started work programming using Scratch. In our English, we spent time understanding what adverbial phrases were and I was so impressed at how much the class have remembered in relation to their understating of SPaG. We have also written two very different letters this week from different characters within our class text giving the children the opportunity to display their use of vocabulary and persuasion – we practised first imagining we were phoning them. Our Science this week allowed each group to plan their own investigations as to what they needed (thank you in advance for their unusual requirements that need to come to school next Tuesday), understand what variables were and how they were going to measure/observe their results. They are working brilliantly together. In our French, children enjoyed playing games linked to colours. The recorders were out in our Music lessons learning A and G to help us accompany Mamma Mia! Finally in our Art lesson this week we looked at how artists use mark making – to help us do this we used viewfinders to zoom in on particular areas then recreated them in our sketchbooks. Busy, busy, busy!



Owl Class

The second week back in and the children are really digging down deep into their topics. Geography found us examining the North and South poles studying 3D Models of the planet and making comparisons between these regions and other parts of the globe. By switching between thermal models, population density models and kilowatt per hour usage the children were able to draw conclusions about the Polar Regions using independently gathered data. Science was full of 'lightbulb moments' as the children used the international symbols of circuitry to plan, share or swap and finally make a range of working parallel circuits, as well as putting their trouble-shooting skills to the test and fixing some of Mr Manning circuits that were 'mysteriously' not working... what did they need to do to help? In Maths Year 5 have been using short division to find answers with a remainder, whilst Year 6 have been looking at ratio and proportion, ending with an online *Scholastic Ratio Design Challenge* where they put their skills to the test to build a new aquarium. In French we said 'bonjour' to friends and relatives, whilst in English we have had fantastic fun identifying our target market for a Polar Expedition and have begun our first drafts of our persuasive adverts. I nearly signed up myself! Well done on a busy and productive week 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

This week we looked at what it is like to stand on God's promises. We know that God's promises are true and we can always trust them. They are like a sturdy platform that we can stand on. In the Bible, God promises:

Do not fear for I am with you. Isaiah 31:41

I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you. Isaiah 41:10

Give all your worries to me because I care for you. Peter 5:7

He tells us that when we pray to him, he listens and gives us strength when we are facing hard times. He promises us that absolutely nothing can separate us from his love.

Climate Warriors Challenge

What can you draw without a pen or pencil, chalk or charcoal? Your curtains! Have you ever stopped to wonder why you really need them ... do they just feel like another job to do? Drawing your curtains in the morning – letting the sunlight flood in can reduce the need to turn on your lights, saving electricity. How about drawing your curtains in the evening, how can that help our planet? This week ... your challenge is to close your curtains when you're back from school. When you see it starting to get dark outside – can you stop what you're doing and head off to close your curtains? You'd be helping to keep your home warmer and reduce your heating-related carbon emissions. Before you tug at any curtains, please check with your parent/carer!

As humans, we put on jumpers, coats and hats when we get cold, but how do you think animals that live in cold climates keep warm? Penguins have dense oily feathers and a thick layer of fat, birds fluff up their feathers to trap air, and sheep grow a thick wool coat. Learn about how polar bears stay warm here. What does your home 'wear' to stay warm? ... Curtains and insulation!

Links that may be of interest:

[How polar bears stay warm. Natural History Museum](#)

[Insulation keeping the house warm. Curious Kate. Fun Kids radio podcast](#)

Book Review Ravi's Roar by Tom Percival reviewed by Mrs Biggin



I had the opportunity to read this book to my daughters this week, thanks to the lovely Mrs Healy who shared it with me. The story is of a little boy named Ravi who is normally able to control his temper, but he is pushed to his limit one day when nothing seems to go right for him. The book explores the emotion of anger, which we all feel from time to time, but does so in an engaging and sensitive manner to spark conversations about dealing with our emotions and expressing ourselves appropriately.

Happiness Calendar: 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	86%	4%	10%
Fox Class	78%	9%	13%
Owl Class	81%	8%	11%

Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	58	112
Eden	61	91
Galilee	70	106
Jerusalem	60	104

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Fmails and letters Sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
19-01-24	Email	Owl	Office	Garsington Opera
19-01-24	Email	All	Office	OxTrail fundraiser
17-01-24	Email	All	Office	Choir
17-01-24	Email	All	Office	Parent governor vacancy
17-01-24	Email	All	Office	CAMHS webinars

January

Monday 22 nd	Garsington Opera Workshop and auditions Owl Class
Wednesday 24 th	PTA meeting – 8pm at The Inn in Emmington
Wednesday 31 st	R and Year 6 Weight/ Height Measurements
Wednesday 31 st	Author visit from Steve Cole with book sale/signing after school Full Governing Body Meeting

February

5 th – 9 th February	Children's Mental Health Week inc: Tues 6 th Sponsored walk Wed 7 th Qi Gong
Tuesday 6 th	Internet Safety Day
Monday 19 th	PC Ben talk KSI
Wednesday 21 st	VR headset experiences for each class (topic based)

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 2:30 Last Celebration Assembly (stage up after – volunteers welcomed)
Tues 19 th Wed 20 th	Parents' Evenings
Friday 22 nd	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

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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