



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

26th January 2024

From the Headteacher

Garsington Opera



We were privileged to have Garsington Opera come into to school to run a workshop with Owl Class on Monday this week and also provide the children with the opportunity to audition for fully funded places to join the Garsington Opera Youth Company. I am delighted to say that an incredible 13 of our children were successful and have been offered a place to join the company to perform 'A Trip to the Moon' on the Garsington Opera stage in the summer. Open auditions are also being held on 3rd February at the opera house.

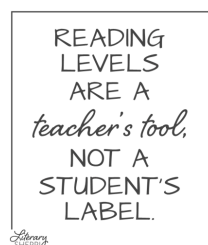
Author visit and book sale

We are delighted to be welcoming Steve Cole to Aston Rowant School next Wednesday to do an assembly and workshop with the children. Steve is a bestselling author who has written over 200 books for children, including *Astrosaurus*, *Z. Rex*, *Cows in Action*, *The Slime Squad* and many other books (including several original Doctor Who stories). More recently he has written the *Secret Agent Mummy* series for younger readers, *Stop Those Monsters!* and the *Young Bond* series. As a writer-editor he has worked with the families of Enid Blyton, Agatha Christie and Ian Fleming, and at the BBC was in charge of Doctor Who publishing. There will be a book sale after school.



Book Levels

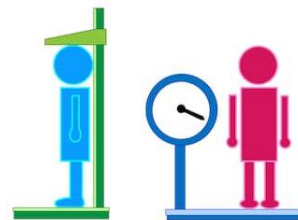
At Aston Rowant we use the Rocket Phonics reading scheme which is a series of books carefully written to support the process of learning to read and to help children GROW as readers. This is supported by systematic synthetic phonics which teaches children the letter sounds and how to blend them as well as some 'tricky' words that are essential for reading in English: words such as the, said, there, was. By the age of 6 or 7, most children should have enough phonics knowledge to be able tackle and at least 'decode' any new word in a book. However, it's important to remember that understanding what the words mean – both individually and in the context of the story or information text – is also vital for reading progress and important for motivation.



Teachers listen to children read for accuracy and fluency and asks questions to check comprehension. We need to know that a child is secure and confident at a given level and have gained all of the required skills within that level before moving them on. It's also important to bear in mind that not all levels are of equal size. In the first few years of school, the steps of progress are fairly small, and children will move through a number of levels quite quickly. As children move up the levels, the steps become broader and 'moving up' happens less frequently. It is also important to remember that different children develop their reading skills at different rates so comparing your child with others is not helpful. A child won't move on a level until we are confident with all elements of their comprehension, fluency and expression.

Weight and Height Measures

As part of the National Child Measurement Programme, children are weighed and measured at school. The information is used by the NHS and your local council to plan and provide better health services for children. If you have a child in Reception (ages 4 and 5) or Year 6 (ages 10 and 11), you will have received a letter with more information from your local council before your child is measured. On the day, trained staff will weigh your child and measure their height while they're in their clothes at school. They'll make sure the measurements are done sensitively and in private, and your child's results will not be shared with teachers or other children.



Your child's measurements will be used to check they're in the healthy weight range. If your child is above a healthy weight, you can get support from your local council or NHS services. Your child does not have to take part, but every child who's measured is contributing to the national picture about how children are growing. The more children who take part, the clearer that picture will be. The information collected helps your local NHS and local council plan and provide better health services for the children in your area. Find out more about [how your child's data is collected and processed as part of the National Child Measurement Programme](#) on the NHS Digital website.

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



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

Teaching and Learning in the Classrooms this week:



Hedgehog Class

Hedgehog have had another fantastic week. We have been practising our listening skills through our literacy sessions on poetry. First we listened carefully to a poem, picking out the adjectives and then listening to relaxing music whilst we drew what we heard. This has been a very valuable exercise as it developed focused listening skills which can then be very helpful in following instructions and to improve learning across the curriculum. They are also developing their auditory memory as well as focusing their listening to draw out key information. They then had to explain to their friends how they knew what to draw. We recommend practicing this activity at home. In our topic we enjoyed using marble inks to create our spring trees. We got very messy and had lots of fun! In our music we have learnt the names of some percussion instruments and explored how to play them in different ways. We have really seen an improvement in play this week through class discussions on what is 'good' play. The children are becoming more and more articulate about how they are learning through their play.



Squirrel Class

The week began with a storm and Squirrel class have blown me away this week with their excellent writing skills! We have been writing speech and thought bubbles for different characters on our class text, Beegu, and I am so impressed with their efforts. The children can't wait to show parents on our open day to view books! In maths Y1 are continuing to consolidate place value, with learning on one more/one less and using a number line to 20. Y2 have been reviewing money and calculating pounds and pence, alongside missing values. This is quite tricky, so we have been using the play money to support understanding in a fun way. In our Science lessons this week, Y1 completed an experiment into waterproof materials and we learned about the Scottish inventor Charles Macintosh. Y2 looked at testing materials in a different way, mainly investigating if they could be bent/twisted/broken/squashed! It was lots of fun and the classroom was a bit of mess afterwards! Our geography lesson entailed learning about the difference between human and natural features in our world. We then researched famous landmarks from each country in the U.K. using the class iPads. Lastly, in art we sketched different designs for a possible aircraft for Beegu – now the fun begins when we make the actual sculptures! Any cardboard boxes, sellotape/masking tape, pipe cleaners, tin foil or kitchen roll tubes gladly received! 😊



Fox Class

This week, we started off learning about fronted adverbials and the impact they have on the reader – see how many I use in this piece! After lots of practice, they were producing lots of super sentences. In addition, we used a dictionary and thesaurus to find exciting vocabulary to describe characters in our key text. We all enjoyed saying rambunctious! In our Maths, Year 3 have now completed the multiplication and division unit but please ensure they are using TTRS as much as possible to keep their fabulous skills honed! Year 4 learnt the formal method of multiplication which enabled them to multiply 3 digits before moving onto division using flexible partitioning and remainders. Our History lesson looked at chronology and finding out when and how the Shang Dynasty came to evolve. On Tuesday afternoon, our classroom was alive with scientific investigations! It was such a pleasure to see each group thoroughly engaged in what they were investigating. They demonstrated super teamwork and methodical working. Wednesday is becoming a bit of a highlight for us all as when Abba strikes those chords everyone lurches into singing Mamma Mia with such gusto. We've also managed to play the glockenspiels and recorder too in time. I was very impressed. In RE we looked at Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur and enjoyed tasting apples dipped in honey and trying to sound the shofar! In our Art this week, we have been practising our sewing skills prior to our mixed media creation to come and planning how we will use it. The class have certainly shown their Fox colours this week by being resourceful, clever and adaptable!



Owl Class

Owl Class started the week with a brilliant workshop with the Garsington Opera, showcasing their talents, enthusiasm and all being fabulously well-behaved as they auditioned with their own choice of song, and joined in organised group activities. By now, all children will have heard if they have been offered a place but do remember that open auditions are being held at the Opera House on the 3rd February if your Owl would like a second go. Back in the classroom, it's been a 'hands on' Maths week, with Year Six getting stuck in -quite literally- with Ooblek and ratios! The children had to find the perfect ratio to mix water and cornflour together to make the puzzling, non-Newtonian liquid that is Ooblek, and then experiment and record the effects that changing that ratio may have on the Ooblek's consistency, whilst the Year Fives began their fractions unit with building mixed numbers out of the maths manipulatives and explaining their reasoning. In English, we explored the 'bathtub' or Goodnews/ Bad news /Goodnews way of delivering less than ideal facts in a positive way, as we continue to craft persuasive recruitment leaflets for Shackleton's Expedition: we had to let slip that the crew member will be exposed to treacherous, freezing weather without putting them off! In Art, the children begin to transfer their Sami inspired geometric patterns from page to foam board, using carving tools and lots and lots of patience! These are shaping up to be really fantastic, and I can't wait to see final product!

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



GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY
'Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him.' Colossians 2:7



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

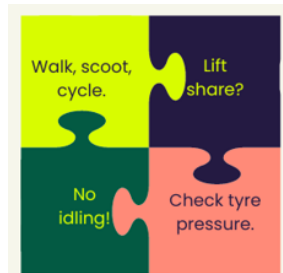
Whole School Topic - Spring Term: Home is Where the Heart is.

Values: Trust

We read a story from the Bible this week where Jesus' friends found themselves in a scary situation when a storm rose up and they were in a small fishing boat. Jesus asked the disciples two questions: *Where was your faith? Why didn't you trust me?* We talked about how it can be difficult to trust when we are worried or frightened but that we can trust in God in every situation because he is always with us.

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

Climate Warriors Challenge



National Puzzle Day is on Monday 29th January. This week we've got a guzzle-busting challenge - reducing your carbon emissions related to your car journeys. There are 4 pieces to the guzzle-busting jigsaw puzzle: walking or cycling rather than driving; lift-sharing where possible; checking tyre pressure and reducing idling.

A couple of other 'Climate Change puzzles'

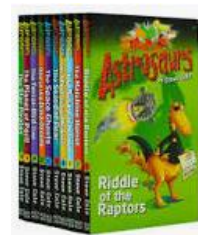
[Climate Change Crossword. YCW](#) (pdf attached below, including answers)

[Climate Change Wordsearch. ESOL.](#)

The RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch is coming up- [RSPB's BIG GARDEN BIRDWATCH - here's a video](#) with details. Birds are particularly sensitive to air pollution, so this challenge is also an opportunity to help them out.

***Book Review* Astrosaurs by Steve Cole Age 7-11 by Mrs Healy**

I just couldn't just pick one! These books are a fun and engaging way for young readers to learn about science and space exploration. The series currently consists of 22 books, each of which tells a standalone story set in the Astrosaurs universe. They are easy to read and every child I know that has read them...loves them!



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	86%	7%	7%
Squirrel Class	90%	0%	10%
Fox Class	70%	4%	26%
Owl Class	81%	0%	19%

Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	78	188
Eden	77	168
Galilee	77	180
Jerusalem	67	171

GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY

'Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him.' Colossians 2:7



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

Emails and Letters Sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
26-01-24	Email	All	Office	Local events
24-01-24	Email	Owl	Office	Garsington Opera Workshop

January	
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:
Tuesday 6 th	Internet Safety Day
Tuesday 6 th	Sponsored Walk
Wednesday 7 th	Qi Gong
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)

GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY
'Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him.' Colossians 2:7