



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

8th March 2024

From Mrs Healy ***World Book Day***

Firstly, thank you to everyone who provided the children with their amazing creative poetic costumes! We had such variety from a fox in his socks, a cat in his hat, Mrs Butler (no Derek Drew though), some revolting rhymes and nursery rhymes.

Throughout the day, children worked with their Houses and were exposed to all types of poetry. Mrs Hall and Mrs Olsen gave the children an opportunity to work on their performance of poetry, noting when you speak loudly, quietly or change our voice. Mrs Biggin used newspapers to help the children make poems. Cutting out words they liked, they linked them together to form poems. In addition, they had a go at blackout poems where they were given a page of text from a book, and they used a black pen to cross out words leaving only words they wanted in a poem. In my class we looked at the poetic devices of alliteration and personification. I gave them the poem's first line of "When I blew the magic dust" and they had a go at writing their own alliterative lines and illustrating each one. We found using a dictionary enabled us to find an even better range of words. At the end of the day a book was made of all their poems which will be on display after Collective worship on Friday. Mr Manning used The Highway Rat as inspiration for children to paint images to illustrate the poem. Our day finished with a book swap and it was such a joy seeing children recommend books to others, then take a book and sit and read it immediately. Thank you for your book donations – they were very well received!

I was fortunate enough to have some time to wander through all the classes and I loved the buzz coming from all the children. They were all engrossed in their activities and worked so well across the years. Another successful World Book Day!

Remember to use the vouchers given out by March 31st!

Cross Country

Tuesday saw our annual inter-house cross country competition. The weather was on our side and the sun came out to support us! The whole school were full of anticipation as the routes planned were meant to challenge but everyone stepped up to show just how resilient they were. Hedgehog Class set the afternoon off with a super run around the football pitch – all children were full of smiles as they crossed the line. Next up were Squirrel Class who had to contend with running around the whole school field. Again, they demonstrated an eagerness to do well for their House but all helped with the whole school supporting them. Fox Class took on the whole field, the playground AND the whole field again. This really was a challenge, but everyone finished feeling proud of what they had achieved. Finally, Owl Class completed the afternoon by running around the field and then out of school towards the cricket field and back. The whole class showed the rest of the school what grit and determination really looked like. After much number crunching and double-checking the result was announced and amazingly both Galilee and Jerusalem houses came first! In addition, new time records were set for Squirrel, Fox and Owl Class.

This event couldn't have taken place without the support of the parent marshals who cheered/ran with and encouraged the children as they passed. Thank you!

From the Headteacher

Red Nose Day

Next Friday, 15th March, is Red Nose Day. Children can bring their red noses in and make a donation towards the Red Nose appeal if they wish.

OxTrail

Our Ox has arrived! We will be starting to decorate it over the next couple of weeks so do watch this space for details. OxTrail have announced a new competition – Oxley the ox on the promotion posters will visit the two organisations which have surpassed their fundraising target by the highest amount. Aston Rowant has made a cracking start. Our cake sale on Friday 22nd March will also go towards this amazing cause – so do support it generously. We would love to meet Oxley!

Happy International Women's Day and for everyone celebrating Mothers' Day have a wonderful time and don't forget the service in Aston Rowant Church.

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

It's been yet another fabulous week in Hedgehog class. We had such fun on World Book Day reciting poetry and creating lots of poems of our own. The children looked amazing, well done! This week we enjoyed making a counting book to help our visiting alien to take off for home. We explored the number facts within 9 and 10 and made lots of different representations. We investigated different joining methods in our DT topic and began creating our rocket shapes. We have begun thinking about spirituality in our class worship and what it means to be still. We used a muddy bottle of water and watched as the mud settled and the water became clearer. This showed us that when we take time to be still then we can see things clearly and what we think are big problems can often seem a lot smaller. We have been applying this to the things we are worried about this week. It has been a great tool. We will continue to explore this 'stilling' over the term.



Squirrel Class

We have come to the end of another fabulous week at Aston Rowant and thank you to Mrs Healy for all her hard work organising two wonderful events for the children. The class loved both the cross country and World Book Day activities and came away with a real sense of achievement and enjoyment. In English lessons we have started story mapping our current text 'The Way Back Home' and the children worked collaboratively in pairs. We hope to finish these next week. In Maths we are continuing our addition and subtraction lessons in Year 1 with a focus on counting tens, whilst in Year 2 we have been practising doubling and halving and looking closely at the 2x tables. In RE we have been looking at the Last Supper and the significance of the bread and wine. We have also been spending lots of time practising our KS1 performance of 'A Big Green Adventure' and learning the songs. Please could all costumes be sent into school next week ahead of our dress rehearsal. Many thanks!



Fox Class

It's been busy, busy, busy in Fox Class this week! We have now started our new text The Great Kapok Tree and what better way to start it was by researching just what a kapok tree is! I was so impressed at how children carried out their research on our iPads – I also gave them free reign to choose how they recorded their notes. Many chose to use the non-chronological layout we had looked at the previous week which made me very happy! We also examined the first page of the book expressing our opinions about what we thought about the book so far and made predictions. Finally, we started looking at inverted commas and the associated punctuation. In our Maths, both year groups continued with fractions gaining new skills ranging from; comparing, ordering, finding them on a number line and understanding improper fractions. In Geography we learnt about the layers in a rainforest and of course these could not be learnt without a song! It really does help embed their learning! In our Science, we looked at the use of our muscles, focussing on the use of the biceps and triceps. We made a model of our arms noticing where they relax and contract. During our DT lesson, we thought about what extra ingredient we would add and our design when we make bread in a few weeks' time. We drew and labelled what we are hoping to achieve!



Owl Class

Another busy, creative week in Owl Class has whizzed by again! In History, we looked at how the Ancient Egyptians defended their Kingdoms, and the children were tasked with researching the greatest victories of their choice of Pharaoh, and how that leader won the decisive victory: one of the most important ideas that the children realised quickly was that the one of Egypt's greatest defences was its inhospitable desert and intense heat! In Science, we looked at the fossil record and traced the development a range of different species, and wondered why to separate families evolved into crabs! Since we haven't evolved into crabs ourselves as yet, we decided to tackle percentages in maths, and began by using our fractions knowledge to find the fractional amounts out of one hundred, the decimal equivalent in tenths and hundredths, and then look at the percentage equivalent. The children have really gotten to grips with this concept quickly and we will be delving deeper into this topic next week. We must mention World Book Day which was tremendous fun, and a chance to mingle in our houses and be creative with paints. What a busy week Owls!

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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World Book Day



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

Values: Outreach

There are many stories in the Bible about Jesus noticing the needs of others and showing compassion. Once he went off in a boat to find a place away from the crowds where he and his disciples could rest. But when he reached the shore, on the other side of the lake there were yet more people wanting him to help them and heal those who were ill. Jesus reached out to them and showed his love through his outreach and compassion and this week we thought about how to do the same.

'When Jesus saw the crowd his heart was filled with compassion, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.' Mark 6:34

Climate Warriors Challenge

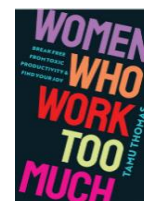
Electric lighting is fundamental to our way of living today, and we are enormously grateful for Edison's perseverance, but could we use it more sparingly? This week's Young Climate Warriors challenge encourages children to 'zap the lights' at home – relying on the sun's light when they wake up, switching off unnecessary lights – and reducing our electricity-related carbon emissions.

Harnessing solar energy can play a substantial role in reducing our global carbon emissions, and whilst taking action at home this week Young Climate Warriors are also encouraged to investigate solar energy projects around the world.

'TIME' is the theme of this year's British Science Week, which we celebrate next week. Every 1.5 millionths of a second, the sun releases more energy than all humans consume in an entire year... definitely scope for more solar energy projects!

Book Review by Mrs Biggin Women Who Work Too Much by Tamu Thomas

In honour of International Women's Day, I'd like to recommend a book by a friend of mine that has just been published this week! I'm currently reading it and its message is about how to escape the trap of toxic productivity, build boundaries, avoid burnout, and live with joy. A must read for modern life!



Happiness Calander: Mindful March

This month let's pause, breathe and really take in what's all around us. You can find this month's happiness calendar [here](#).

Attendance – This Week

School target 97%	97% - 100%	90% -97%	Below 90%
Hedgehog Class	100%	0%	0%
Squirrel Class	93%	0%	7%
Fox Class	91%	0%	9%
Owl Class	76%	0%	24%

Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	77	226
Eden	66	188
Galilee	50	170
Jerusalem	68	170

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Emails and Letters Sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
08-03-24	Email	Year 5	Office	Cycling
06-03-24	Email	All	Office	Reminder – book swap
06-03-24	Email	All	Mrs France	Parents consultations
05-03-24	Email	All	Office	Primary Newsletter – School nursing team

March

Sunday 10th	Mothers' Day Service at Aston Rowant Church 10:30am
11 th – 15 th March	National Science Week
Fri 15 th	Red Nose Day 2:30pm Last Celebration Assembly (stage up after – volunteers welcomed)
Mon 18th	Poetry Workshop
Tues 19 th Wed 20th	Parents' Evenings
Wed 20th	Tag Rugby event
Fri 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 Sobell House (OxTrail)
Mon 25 th Tues 26 th	KSI Performance 'A Big Green Adventure'
Wed 27 th	RE Enrichment Day Full Governing Body Meeting
Thu 28 th	9:15am Spring Service in church Term finishes at 1:30pm

April

Mon 15 th	Summer Term starts
Fri 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)
Mon 29 th	Fox Class trip to Verulamium in St Albans

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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