

*From Mr Manning*  
*British Science Week 2024*

8-17 March  
**British Science Week 2024**

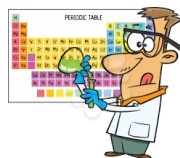


British Science Week burst into activity this week in Aston Rowant School as the children in all year groups became inquisitive scientists and asked those vital 'I wonder' questions. This is such an exciting week as a teacher, as we hand over the investigative process to the children. They always come up with such excellent questions and ideas and take our experiments into new and unusual places. The week began with a live assembly from the home of time, The Royal Observatory in Greenwich introducing this year's topic of time.

The children took part in a series of investigative, time-based challenges across the week, including: how long could a potato power a clock? What other vegetables and fruit could act as batteries (a little hint for parents whose phone is low on 'juice'; in a pinch try a lemon to boost your battery!), what might happen to an raw egg when it is left in vinegar for 48 hours, making a water clock to keep time, or the effects of warm water, oil, salt water or vinegar on Skittles, or even demonstrating the process of genetic adaptations over thousands of years, using just little paper moths and felt-tip pens.



The highlight of the week was the wonderful workshop run by our wonderful Mrs Atkins and her incredible volunteers; Mrs Fincham, Dr Jones, Mrs Funnel, Mrs Cobb, Mrs Shepherd, and Mrs McGoldrick. We are grateful to those who have given up time and resources to print out colour booklets, stickers, raise money for equipment and help make this week so special.



This year's workshop picked up the time theme and looked at chemistry and its uses in solving mysteries in a forensic manner: the children had to use chromatography skills to find out which pen wrote a fraudulent cheque, explored the periodic table, the half-life and reactions of various metals, including an explosive demonstration of magnesium in water! Bunsen burners were used, test tubes were shaken and stirred, solutions made reversible changes were reversed and irreversible changes completed.

The children have had a wonderful week and have shown that fantastic Aston Rowant approach to learning: asking great questions, being inquisitive, and being methodical and working together. It's been a real privilege to watch this happen this week and their enthusiasm has been infectious! Thank you, Aston Rowant PTA, teachers and community, for working together to enable the children to have such an exciting week, which has provoked such enthusiasm and interest in all the pupils here.

*From the Headteacher*  
*Forest Friday*

Today we have enjoyed a whole school Forest Friday. What a fabulous day it has been! Thank you to Miss Williams for organising it all and the whole staff team for their support and enthusiasm. The children have made shelters; whittled willow; planted pumpkin and sunflower seeds; and finally illustrated and recorded life within our school grounds. The show showed great harmony as they worked in their houses, resilience as they both built and planted and true wonder for the incredible grounds that we have been blessed with.



*Piano*



Firstly, I want to thank Mrs Hodges, and also Mrs Jones and Mrs Atkins, for working so hard to achieve a grant for our new incredible electric piano and thanks to Ali Gordon-Creed, the District Councillor, who awarded us the grant. Thank you also to the PTA for meeting the rest of the cost. Finally, thanks go to Mr Jones who kindly built it with Mrs Hodges for us. It was a joy to have it played at our Celebration Assembly last Friday – just two hours after it arrived! This means that our old piano is looking for a new home. If you know anyone who can collect it and rehouse it then please let us know.

*Author Visit*

The author Matt Brown is visiting Thame Library to talk about the new book in his 'Kevin the Vampire' series on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. The event will be suitable for children aged approximately 7-11. The Book House will be selling books and Matt will be signing them after the event.



*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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Headteacher: Mrs Helen France

## *Teaching and Learning in the Classrooms this week:*



### *Hedgehog Class*

We have had a wonderful science week with lots of questions and exploration. The children have been exploring the idea of time and change. We began by immersing some eggs in vinegar and watched carefully as they changed over the week. Eventually the eggs became soft and bouncy. We had a lot of fun bouncing them! The children then initiated some of their own investigations including floating and sinking. We discovered that peeled oranges sank while unpeeled oranges floated! In the water area we had a bottle race to see how we could make our bottle empty the fastest. We learnt about reactions and how our brain tells our body to do things so we decided to test our reaction speed by catching a ruler and measuring the number. The lower the number, the faster our reaction time! It was a tricky experiment but super fun! We then looked at how water changes in a number of experiments. We made lava lamps, walking water and even tipped it upside down without spilling it! What a fun week!



### *Squirrel Class*

A busy week (again!) but that's how we roll here at Aston Rowant! In English the children have moved onto independently writing their own stories of 'The Way Back Home' and we have looked at adjectives in Y1 and using different sentence types for effect in Y2. I'm very excited to see how these stories develop over the last few weeks of term, and the class have already shown an interest in writing their own sequels to the original story! Our maths lessons have been consolidating place value to 50 for Y1 and multiplication and division for Y2. We have enjoyed an incredible Science week exploring the themes of time and change with lots of fabulous investigations and experiments each afternoon, so a big thank you to Mr Manning for spear-heading a fun filled week! The children were particularly fascinated by the skittles experiment and the potato clock! The predictions, questioning and connections demonstrated by the class were outstanding.



### *Fox Class*

Even though it was a bit of a dreary week outside, inside, our classroom has been full of learning! We spent some of our English lessons learning about direct speech and loved a song teaching the key points of using inverted commas which became a bit of an ear worm! We also tried debating – looking at logging and oil exploration in the Amazon rainforest and the arguments for and against. In our Maths, Year 4 carried on with their mixed numbers and improper fractions conversion and also equivalence in fractions which Year 3 also touched on. In our Geography, children enjoyed carrying out research on the iPads about a rainforest animal of their choice focussing on location, diet, size and which layer in the rainforest it would be found. Science saw us demonstrate how much we remembered about the names of our bones by using Mille as our living skeleton! We then looked at animals and their skeletons be it an endoskeleton or exoskeleton. A discussion was held as to what they would prefer to have; some chose an exoskeleton as they felt they would be better protected. Children have been excellent at learning their numbers in French to 50 and were able to demonstrate this in class both orally and in written work. We also discussed the European currency and the use of euros and centimes. Throughout the week, we have enjoyed carrying out a range of investigation which has given us the opportunity to display our curiosity and prediction skills. We are also so grateful to Mrs Atkins and the PTA for providing us with such a fabulous afternoon of science learning too – thank you.



### *Owl Class*

Another busy week in Owl Class, but we can't stop now! In English, we have been looking at cohesion in information writing, and how we can group together related facts and ensure that they 'flow' in a readable and exciting style: it's quite a skill to master! The children gathered information about the Lenobe people of North America first, before moving on to write about topics that they know plenty about: how could they fashion these to be readable, exciting and informative? They did a great job; I have learnt so much about topics such as coarse fishing and freestyle dance. In History, we looked at the grisly process of mummification, but also why the Egyptians felt the need to do this to their deceased, exploring the idea of the Ancient Egyptian afterlife, and the trials that they believed happened to reach this reward. Of course, being about removing the brain through the nose, the children loved this and were extremely enthusiastic. In maths, we have been looking at percentages, and how to find the equivalent fraction or decimal. And to end the week, we had an excellent morning outside for our whole school Forest School, which was a fantastic chance to get out in our wonderful school grounds and for the children to creatively solve a range of problems and activities. It all culminated with your very own Owl Class teacher setting his hand on fire – all in the name of Science! (please note extensive risk assessments were in place!)

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*'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**

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***Science Enrichment Week***



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

**Values: Outreach**

In Collective Worship this week we looked at having the courage to care. We encouraged the children to think about what they could do, perhaps at home, to show their kindness and love for others. Sometimes we are tempted to think that a problem is too big for just one person to solve alone or when we face difficulties or worries that we are all alone, but if we can reach out to others we can work together to make life a little easier.

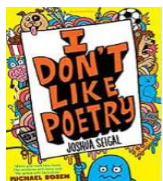
‘Whatever you did for one of your brothers you did also for me.’ Matt 25:40

**Climate Warriors Challenge**

Our magnificent, mighty oceans, covering 71% of our planet, are struggling with the impacts of climate change, as well as being crucial in helping us to combat it. Our oceans annually absorb a quarter of global carbon emissions – with phytoplankton and zooplankton playing a huge role in this. ‘Blue Carbon’ projects – protecting, restoring and promoting seagrass meadows, mangrove swamps and salt marshes, could also help it absorb even more.

Young Climate Warriors are challenged this week to learn more about our oceans - pioneering advances being made in the relation to ‘blue carbon’, seaweed farming and ocean plastics removal; and to help their family reduce their ‘consumption’ of plastic packaging.

**Book Review by Mrs Healy I don't like poetry by Joshua Seigal**



I have been reading poetry from this book for the past week and Fox Class have loved them. Joshua's poems range from the clever and witty to the downright silly. The title of the book also has a poem with the same name and we loved what Joshua did with it. Everyone would highly recommend this book is likely to win over the most reluctant readers. If you get it, let me know your favourite!

**Happiness Calendar: Mindful March**

This month, we're encouraging you to try something new! You can find this month's happiness calendar [here](#).

**Attendance - This Week**

School target 97%	97% - 100%	90% -97%	Below 90%
Hedgehog Class	93%	7%	0%
Squirrel Class	93%	0%	7%
Fox Class	61%	0%	41%
Owl Class	70%	0%	30%

**Housepoints**

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	74	300
Eden	56	244
Galilee	61	231
Jerusalem	57	227

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***Emails and Letters Sent this Week***

<b>Date</b>	<b>Email/Letter</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Concerning</b>
12-03-24	Email	All	Office	Forest Friday – 15 <sup>th</sup> March
11-03-24	Email	KSI	Office	Reminder – Play tickets
11-03-24	Email	All	Governing Body	VA Consultation Response

<b>March</b>	
Mon 18 <sup>th</sup>	Poetry Workshop
Tues 19 <sup>th</sup> Wed 20 <sup>th</sup>	Parents' Evenings
Wed 20 <sup>th</sup>	Tag Rugby event
Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Year 5 cycling starts. (future dates April 19 <sup>th</sup> , 26 <sup>th</sup> . May 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> , 17 <sup>th</sup> . June 14 <sup>th</sup> , 21 <sup>st</sup> , 28 <sup>th</sup> (test day) 2:30pm Book look with cake sale for <b>Sobell House (OxTrail)</b>
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> Tues 26 <sup>th</sup>	KSI Performance 'A Big Green Adventure'
Wed 27 <sup>th</sup>	RE Enrichment Day Full Governing Body Meeting
Thu 28 <sup>th</sup>	9:15am Spring Service in church Term finishes at 1:30pm
<b>April</b>	
Mon 15 <sup>th</sup>	Summer Term starts
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup>	9am PTA meeting – school hall Year 5 cycling (future dates April, 26 <sup>th</sup> . May 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> , 17 <sup>th</sup> . June 14 <sup>th</sup> , 21 <sup>st</sup> , 28 <sup>th</sup> (test day)
Tue 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Year 3/4 Swimming starts</b>
Mon 29 <sup>th</sup>	Fox Class trip to Verulamium in St Albans
<b>May</b>	
w/c 13 <sup>th</sup>	SATS Mon- SPaG Tue – Reading Wed Maths papers 1&2 Thu - Maths paper
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Vision screening for Reception</b>
Mon 20 <sup>th</sup>	HSBC workshops for each class
<b>June</b>	
w/c 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Owl Class Residential, Rock UK Summit Centre, Breacon Beacons

***Academic Year Calendar 2023-24/2024-25***

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

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