



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

22nd March 2024

From the Headteacher

The end of each term is a perfect time to pause and reflect on what has taken place over the past few weeks. With Easter being early this year, it has been a short term, just shy of 11 weeks, yet we seem to have fitted an awful lot into that term over and above the usual teaching and assessment that takes place. It is quite incredible when you actually list it! It reminds me of the observation made by Ofsted when they inspected us:

'It may be a small school, but everyone here has big ideas. The school's strapline of 'growing together' encourages pupils to do this.'

- Community (Spring Term)
 - OxTrail sponsored walk for Sobell House
 - Cake sale for Sobell House
 - World Day of Prayer working with Chinnor churches
 - Red Nose Day
- Curriculum
 - Garsington Opera Youth company auditions
 - Author visit - Steve Cole
 - Poet visit – Tony Peek
 - Children's Mental Health Week inc Qi Gong
 - National Bird Watch
 - Virtual Reality headset sessions
 - Inter house Cross country
 - Inter house World Book Day
 - Inter house Tag rugby event
 - Inter house RE enrichment day
 - Inter house Forest Friday
 - Science Enrichment Week
 - KSI performance
 - Spring Service
- Resources
 - 10 new iPads
 - New electric piano
 - New allotments/raised beds
- Fun times
 - Spring disco
 - Easter Egg Hunt
 - Film afternoon



The joy is that these have been achieved by the whole school community working together and with people kindly and generously giving their time and skills to make these happen. So thank you. To the whole staff team who regularly go above and beyond the call of duty! To our incredible PTA, and the parental body supporting them, who raise funds and unstintingly give their time to open up possibilities beyond our school resources. To you as parents and carers for the big things and small things that you do that make such a difference. I hope that you are encouraged by what we have achieved this term alone, but more than this, I hope that you have seen and heard from the children what a magical term spring has been. Roll on summer term!

Bike Shed Clear-out

We are grateful to Mr Campbell who is giving his time next Wednesday to clearing out the bike shed. We will have a coned off zone which will contain everything that needs to be taken to the tip. If everyone could scoop up a few items to take to the tip then our bike shed will hopefully be fit for purpose again for those who use it daily and also for cycling proficiency that started today.

Spring Service

Please do join us for our Spring Service in church on the last day of term, Thursday 28th March at 9:15. It will be led by our Year 6 children and each class, as well as the school choir, will be participating.

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:



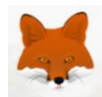
Hedgehog Class

This week in Hedgehog class we have been super busy finishing off our rockets to send Meep back to his home planet. The children have learnt joining techniques and explored how to use 3D shapes to create models. They have worked hard on their finishing techniques to make their rockets look great. In Maths we have been recalling double facts to 5 and beyond quickly. We showed our understanding of doubles in a wide range of ways from butterflies to dominos. We loved our time with Tony Peek and did poetry with movement. We have also said some thank you prayers to God for all the things we love about Spring and practiced a springtime song. We even challenged ourselves to sing the song in a round! We then used watercolours to paint some beautiful daffodils by looking closely at the details.



Squirrel Class

The class have worked hard this week on last minute practises of our performance, prior to the dress rehearsal to the school on Wednesday. And it absolutely paid off as they did a phenomenal job! The Squirrel team are so proud of the children for their efforts, I'm certain we have a few future Bafta winners in our midst! A big thank you to all our parents too for the fantastic costumes also. We did manage to squeeze in some learning amongst all the lovely events this week and the class really enjoyed the poet visit from Tony Peek and did a brilliant job of writing alliterative style poems with partners. We have completed some assessments this week for the Spring term, but we did play some maths games and use manipulatives to embed the learning of division for Y2 and place value for Y1. In RE we brought all of our learning this term together to ask 'How should Christians celebrate Easter?'. We also had a fabulous time at the school-wide Tag Rugby event organised by Mrs Campbell and Mrs Healy. What a week!



Fox Class

Our focus this week in English has been how to write persuasively. We started the week identifying the features needed to include before composing our own sentences. The whole class worked hard on their emotive language, rhetorical questions and even a little flattery. All work was linked to deforestation within rainforests and the intention is that we write to Rishi Sunak to persuade him to take some form of action. As it's been assessment week, the class have been able to showcase their maths and demonstrate their learning to me, but we have as managed to squeeze a maths lesson in too carrying on fractions for Y4 and starting a new unit on mass and capacity for Y3. In our Geography we looked at some indigenous people of the Amazon rainforest and compared their lives to our own. I brought in my blowpipe from a trip to Borneo to show the class and they enjoyed seeing the arrow fly across the room! In PSHE we have looked at the UN Rights of a Child and what this means. In our Science we focussed on nutrition and what constitutes a healthy plate of food and what we get from each type of food. Our DT lesson covered how to work hygienically in a kitchen by designing a poster – all in preparation of us making bread next week!



Owl Class

It was fantastic to speak with so many of you this week regarding your children's progress, what a bunch of stars we have here in Owl Class. They certainly impressed Tony Peek with their enthusiasm for poetry. Then in English, Owl Class have begun to put all the terms skills into practise this week by starting to plan out their information Big Write about mummification: they are grouping their information into cohesive 'chunks', selecting which paragraphs will need bullet points, which may need numbered lists for ordered instructions, and where our higher-level punctuation such as colons and semi colons can be added to enhance the 'flow' of the writing itself. I'm really looking forward to reading the finished versions! In Maths, we have concluded our topic of Percentages, Decimals and Fractions and the children have really embraced and understood the core concepts. It's brilliant to hear so many of them working out a percentage of spellings they got correct, or goals scored over lunchbreak for instance. Our bodies received just as much working-out this week as our minds, with a fantastic Tag rugby afternoon mid-week, which the children really enjoyed, and some of the Owl Class pupils could be budding professional rugby players, so watch this space! In DT we began to design the interior wall art of our Egyptian tombs - using images taken from real-life murals in Tutankhamun's own tomb, and writing their own secret messages in hieroglyphs which we will assemble next week as the last part of our Egyptian topic. Well done on a busy week Owl Class, enjoy your weekend break.

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Photo Diary of the Week



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Tag rugby tournament



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

Values: Outreach

In Collective Worship this week we continued to look at how we can outreach to others, and not just to the people we know. We looked at the story of a Samaritan man who showed kindness and compassion when he reached out to care for a Jewish man in need. As they came from very separate cultures they were not obviously neighbours, but the Samaritan showed that anyone who is in need is our neighbour whether a friend or not.

'A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.' John 13:34

Climate Warriors Challenge

It's Earth Hour this Saturday @ 8.30pm (local time). Join this global initiative, supported by millions of people in over 190 countries around the world - the 'BIGGEST HOUR FOR EARTH'. What will our Young Climate Warriors do this Earth Hour – candle-lit games, 'nature' poems, an 'animal' kitchen disco, carbon-busting charades, animal quizzes, star gazing let us know what you get up to!

- Could an HOUR change the world?
- Could it remind us that time is precious?
- Could it be the spark we need for change?
- Could it remind us of our potential if we ALL act together – ALL at the same time?

Book Review With Jesus I am Kind by G. L. Charles



An Easter children's Christian story about Jesus' kindness, compassion, and forgiveness to inspire kids to do the same. Eric is a little boy who is excited because, after Sunday School, he and his family are going to 'Fun Land' for a picnic and to ride rides. After lunch, he and his dad got in line to ride the roller coaster. Then, something amazing happened. This book takes children on an inspiring journey where they'll learn how Jesus Christ did an act of kindness to people who rejected him and how he took the punishment for the bad things everyone does.

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	80%	0%	20%
Squirrel Class	90%	0%	10%
Fox Class	74%	0%	26%
Owl Class	81%	4%	15%

Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	41	341
Eden	31	275
Galilee	68	299
Jerusalem	52	329

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Emails and Letters Sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
22-03-24	Email	All	Office	PTA Easter egg hunt
20-03-24	Email	All	Office	PTA Easter film afternoon
20-03-24	Email	Year 5	Office	Cycle training
19-03-24	Email	Squirrel	Office	Play tickets
18-03-24	Email	All	Office	Headlice
18-03-24	Email	All	Office	Poetry book sale

March	
Mon 25 th Tues 26 th	KSI Performance 'A Big Green Adventure' 6pm show – with PTA refreshments available from 5.30pm
Wed 27 th	RE Enrichment Day Full Governing Body Meeting
Thu 28 th	9:15am Spring Service in church Term finishes at 1:30pm
Thu 28th	PTA Easter egg hunt after Spring Service PTA Easter film afternoon 1:30pm – 3:15pm
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)
Tue 23 rd	Year 3/4 Swimming starts
Mon 29 th	Fox Class trip to Verulamium in St Albans
May	
w/c 13 th	SATS Mon- SPaG Tue – Reading Wed Maths papers 1&2 Thu - Maths paper
Mon 13 th	Vision screening for Reception
Mon 20 th	HSBC workshops for each class
June	
w/c 3 rd	Owl Class Residential, Rock UK Summit Centre, Breacon Beacons
Wed 5th	Squirrel Class trip to The River and Rowing Museum

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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