



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

28th March 2024

From the Headteacher

It has been a busy end to a busy term. But what a week and what a term!

A Big Green Adventure



Congratulations to both Mrs Biggin and to Squirrel Class for their fabulous production of A Big Green Adventure. The children delivered a confident performance full of humour yet with a key message about our role in protecting our environment. The acting and singing were incredible and we are all enormously proud of them all.

RE Enrichment Week

On Wednesday we had our interhouse RE Enrichment Day. We started with whole school Collective Worship before each house participated in a carousel of activities.



Collective Worship

We aim for our Collective Worship in school to be Inclusive, Invitational and Inspirational, with a respect for those people with different faiths and worldviews as well as no faith. As a whole school we looked at how we could continue to improve our times of Collective Worship, see our fabulous word clouds of ideas, as well as reflecting on and reworking our Worship Leaders' prompts.

Prayer

As part of the 'Prayer Spaces in Schools' programme we look to embed prayer and reflection into school life throughout the year, On Wednesday Hedgehog Classroom was transformed into a prayer space providing the children a way to explore personal reflection and prayer for themselves using a selection of immersive, engaging and creative activities.

Space Makers

This workshop was based on our 'Space Makers' programme with activities linked to: Stilling, Noticing, Dwelling, Mending and Blessing. These included: becoming aware of our surroundings and oneself, recognising the absence and presence of faith hope and love in different moments of life, listening and finding meaning in the words of the Bible, seeking the forgiving and healing of ourselves and others and thinking about how we can be a blessing to others.

House Names

The house names were chosen by the children when house teams were introduced back in 2019. We took time to reflect on what the significance of each of these places is in the Bible, before each house made collages and a team banner for their house name and what they represent. The banners will be used for all of our inter house events and competitions.

Vision and Values

In this workshop the children explored how we as a school embody, enact and articulate our vision of 'Growing Together' based on Colossians 2:1-7 and how our six **G.R.O.W.T.H.** values help us to this this. The children have created some fabulous ideas and art work that will be on display around the school and in the hall.

Spring Service

It was a joy to have our Spring Service this morning in church. Thank you to the children and their teachers for their fabulous contributions and to Year 6 for leading it so beautifully. Thank Mrs Atkins for playing and leading the choir and also to our parents for attending and to those who were able to walk with us to and from the church.



Cake Sale



Thank you to everyone who kindly made cakes for our cake sale last Friday. Thank you also to those who generously bought tea, coffee and cake and offered donations too. We are delighted to say that we raised £220 for Sobell House.

Easter Egg Hunt

Thank you to the PTA for kindly providing the Easter eggs for our annual Easter Egg hunt. The children all loved finding the hidden treasure and the rain held off just long enough! Also, thank you for running another incredible film 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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Teaching and Learning in the Classrooms this week:



Hedgehog Class

It has been a brilliant end to a fantastic and busy term. This week we have been saying goodbye to our visiting alien and finished off our own rockets considering how to use joining and finishing techniques. We have been so proud of the way the children worked both independently solving problems through trial and error and collaboratively by working together on the trickier parts. It was a joy to watch them work on this project. We thought about all the things we enjoy about this season of spring and wrote some prayers of thanks. We also tried out our observational drawing skills and looked closely at some daffodils in order to create our Easter cards.



Squirrel Class

What an incredible way to end the term! Squirrel Class did a fantastic performance on both nights this week and made myself and the team very proud. All six values of our school values were demonstrated during the show, such as being resilient even when they were tired, to harmony and helping their peers with forgotten lines. It was a resounding success and thank you to all who helped make it happen. We have also completed some learning amongst the excitement, mainly maths, phonics and reading. However, we did manage to squeeze in a lovely art afternoon making spring blossom trees. Happy Easter to you all and see you in April for the start of summer term.



Fox Class

Phew! We have squeezed so much into our last week! In our English, after taking time to carefully plan our letter, we wrote to the Prime Minister expressing our concerns about deforestation. The class really took on board the variety of different persuasive devices that could be included and wrote super letters. I have since photocopied them and sent them to the Prime Minister and will await his reply! From this exercise, children will see the objective of writing as it had a purpose and most definitely an audience! We managed some maths this week, but we will continue with fractions for Year 4 and mass and capacity for Year 3 after Easter. Could I ask that during the Easter break you take the opportunity to look at time with them. It is such a life skill and not the easiest to teach in a small window in our Maths lessons. Our DT project culminated in making bread which the class loved. In fact, the whole school enjoyed the aromas wafting out of the kitchen! I think the highlight was tasting their bread and I hope you all got to taste a little piece of their roll they brought home too! We also managed to find time for children to present their homework projects which were frankly amazing! Every half term I am blown away at their creativity and effort. It has been such a busy half term and I'd like to congratulate them on all their hard work and also to you the parents for supporting them in their learning. Happy Easter and I look forward to seeing you in April ready and raring for more learning!



Owl Class

Crikey, that was an action-packed week! We have crammed so much activity into our last four days in Owl Class: in English, we wrote highly detailed instructions for a novice mummifier in Ancient Egypt, tasked with the daunting job of mummifying the Pharaoh; the children worked hard to include adverbs of time, manner and sequence, as well as specific writing devices such as bullet points, numbered list, and sub-heading. They did an excellent job of striking the balance between informative and entertaining to read. In DT, we managed to age up the artwork inside our Ancient Egyptian tombs and assemble them: you have never seen so much cardboard and glue-sticks in action at once! We had a fabulous RE Enrichment Day where it's always a lovely time to work with a wide cross section of the school across the classes, and the Owl children are so supportive of the younger children. It really is a privilege to see. In Maths, each year group has completed their topics and their end of unit assessments, and have really gotten to grips with decimals, percentages and fractions. It's been an extremely busy term, and I would like to wish all of the Owl Class children and their grown-ups a restful Easter break.

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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A Big Green Adventure



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RE Enrichment Day



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

Values: Outreach

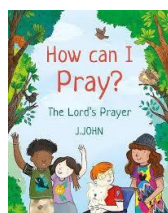
It has been our RE Enrichment Week this week and we have linked our Collective Worship to each of the elements that the houses looked at on Wednesday. Mostly importantly the children had the opportunity to reflect on our current practices in Collective Worship and refine them to be: invitational, inclusive and inspirational. We also had time to pray, to reflect using our stilling exercises, and to understand what our vision and values mean in practice.

'Keep your roots deep in him, build your lives on him, and become stronger in your faith, as you were taught. And be filled with thanksgiving.' Colossians 2:7

Climate Warriors Challenge

Astronauts looking back at our Earth from space have spoken about how it completely changes their view of our planet - blown away by its beauty, and its fragility. Taking a step outside of our everyday lives helps us to see things differently. This Easter holiday our Climate Warriors are encouraged to explore our planet with 'different eyes'. To explore a tiny patch of nature close to home that you have walked past a thousand times before, and see it with different eyes. The pioneer astronaut, John Glenn, says the most powerful quality in an astronaut is curiosity, or as we celebrate at Aston Rowant the value of 'Wonder'. So, we encourage you to 'wonder' this Easter. Where will your curiosity take you?

Book Review



We have loved this book this week. It is a fantastic introduction to the Lord's prayer. J. John explains the how's and whys of prayer in a child appropriate and accessible way. The illustrations are bright and colourful making it exciting for younger children. The author uses personal reflection and brings a refreshing honesty to discussion about the Christian practice of prayer. Breaking down the Lord's prayer, found in Matthew chapter 6, he explains each section in child speak without patronising or complicating. We recommend this book wholeheartedly during this special season of Easter.

Happiness Calendar: Mindful March

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

Attendance - Spring Term

School target 97%	97% - 100%	90% -97%	Below 90%
Hedgehog Class	66%	33%	0%
Squirrel Class	62%	31%	7%
Fox Class	56%	22%	22%
Owl Class	48%	33%	19%

Congratulations to our younger children who are closer to meeting the school and Local Authority target. Work will continue with the families in KS2 who need to be in school as much as possible at this key time in their education.

Housepoints

<i>House</i>	<i>This Week</i>	<i>Total</i>
Bethlehem	20	381
Eden	24	299
Galilee	19	302
Jerusalem	16	299

Congratulations to **Bethlehem** who are the winners of this half term's housepoint challenge.

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Emails and Letters Sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
27-03-24	Email	All	Mrs France	Thank you to the PTA
27-03-24	Email	All	Office	Wrap around booking for next term
27-03-24	Email	Fox Class	Mr Manning	Swimming for Year 3/4
27-03-24	Email	All	Office	Lunch orders for next term
26-03-24	Email	All	Office	JR Sports Group – after school football
26-03-24	Email	All	Office	JR Sports Group - survey
25-03-24	Email	All	Office	PTA Cake raffle
25-03-24	Email	Fox Class	Mrs Healy	Fox Class trip to Verulamium Museum
25-03-24	Email	All	Office	Water bottles

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
Friday 24 th	INSET day
W/C 27 th	Half Term

June

w/c 3 rd	Owl Class Residential, Rock UK Summit Centre, Breacon Beacons
Wed 5 th	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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