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 April 2024

Message from the Head Teacher

Planters

Hopefully you will have noticed how beautiful the front of school is looking with our new planters in situ and full of flowers. Thank you to the Cobb family for taking on this project and for Taylar agreeing to look after them. We look forward to enjoying their vibrant colours. Thank you to our former Year 6 for providing the planters – they have a Hedgehog, Squirrel, Fox or an Owl on them for each of the classes. I wonder if you have spotted them…

Emergency Services

As part of our PSHE curriculum we teach our children about the emergency services and what to do in an emergency, so they know what to do if they ever need to ask for help. We were all really excited to have a fire brigade visit the school today. Thank you to both Mr Kings for their time and willingness to let the children ask questions, explore the fire engine and each have a go with the hose. Do ask your children about 'Test it Tuesday!' We have also enjoyed PC Ben talks in KS1 and this term will have basic First Aid for the whole school.

Cycling

We are delighted that our cycle training has started again for our Year 5 children, and we are grateful to Mr and Mrs Turton for delivering this with the support of a team of parent volunteers. Cycle training is an important part of our broader curriculum as it equips children with vital life skills. The children not only learn to cycle and maintain their bikes, they have to understand the highway code (and pass a test on it!), they also gain independence, social skills, and it supports their sense of wellbeing, not forgetting that it gives them an option for transport which is both independent and green.

Please note that we encourage ALL children to wear cycling helmets – including those who cycle to and from school.

Class Emails

From the beginning of May we will return to the system where we have one admin email which will be managed by the office staff and all emails to school will come into that inbox. This is monitored daily and throughout the day and we will ensure that anything that needs to be forwarded to the class teachers will be done so in a timely manner. This will ensure that the teachers are freed up to focus on teaching and pastoral care, which is the most productive use of teacher time. Please note that the office is staffed every day except for Tuesday afternoons and Thursdays. Mrs French (Bursar) works for all finance matters on Thursdays and Fridays.

Holidays in Term Time

Despite our continued focus on the importance of children attending school consistently, we have had an increase in requests for holidays during term-time. Current Government regulations state: *'head teachers may not grant leave of absence during term-time unless there are* ***exceptional*** *circumstances. Parents should plan their holidays around school breaks and avoid seeking permission from schools to take their children out of school during term time unless it is* ***absolutely unavoidable****.'* For clarity exceptional circumstances do not include: weddings, birthdays, family gatherings, rescheduled holidays or much needed R&R for family members. Please note that parents cannot authorise their child's absence in term time; only schools can do this. We publish our term dates well in advance and ask that as per the Government guidance you plan your holidays around these and avoid seeking permission for your child to miss key learning time.

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

We have been working super hard in Hedgehog this week with lots of brilliant learning. In Maths we have been exploring patterns, looking at the ways patterns repeat and then having a try at creating our own patterns. We challenged ourselves to make symmetrical patterns and even explored tessellation. We had great fun! In English we have been adapting the story of Monkey Puzzle to create our own stories using some of the language patterns that we have noticed and choosing our own characters to act out the story with our friends. In topic we have really enjoyed learning about the ways animals adapt to their environment in the Rainforests. We made some camouflage chameleons and painted animal patterns as well as learning about the layers of the rainforest. On Friday we were very excited to have a visit from Mrs Smith who bought in some baby lambs to cuddle. We also had saw a fire engine and squirted water from the hose. What a wonderful end to a wonderful week!

Squirrel Class

The squirrels have had another successful week of learning. In English lessons we have been busy gathering facts about meerkats. The children have now started to use these facts to write fact files. We will continue this next week and add extra sub-headings and pictures. In Maths we have looked at measuring mass and the class have experimented with balance scales. We also looked at the units of measure for mass and compared the mass of different classroom objects. In our geography lesson we looked at the flora and fauna of hot deserts and the animals that live there. We recorded some examples in our books and looked at hot deserts on Google Earth. In Science we talked about the processes for living creatures and then we went on a microhabitat hunt around the school grounds. We found spiders, ants, worms, woodlouse, mushrooms and centipedes! In art lessons we sketched local flora and fauna again, but this time using different dry materials (chalk and pastels) and discussed the difference between using just a pencil. On Friday we loved the visit from both the Fire Brigade and the baby lambs.

Fox Class

Another week of focussed Foxes! Year 4 have started their journey in Maths with decimals and found that understanding fractions ***really*** helps whilst Year 3 are measuring capacity and volume. Why not ask them what the difference is? Our English has focussed on pronouns and how they can make our writing more cohesive and add clarity. We ended the week working on our oracy skills working with poetry through intonation, volume, tone and action. In our History we learnt about the early Roman conflicts and how they organised themselves both in consul and triumvirates. We learnt about Mark Anthony and Cleopatre and how they were defeated by Octavian and Agrippa. We made Top Trump cards to compare them. The whole class were gripped by the lesson! Our computing lesson saw us download our firs piece of programming for the Micro:Bit using MakeCode. Over the past week we have been making observations of our eggs for our Science investigation. Children were aghast at the results! We also learnt about our teeth and their purpose spending time looking in mirrors at our own teeth! This week is the Jewish festival of Passover, also called Pesach. In RE last term, we looked at the story of Moses and God rescuing his people from Egypt which is remembered and celebrated through the Passover meal. On Thursday Fox Class enjoyed its own Passover meal and sampled some new foods. Finally, after learning about the role of an illustrator last week, we drew our own illustration ensuring we used an interesting style of handwriting too.

Owl Class

Owls have been busily working away this week; as we came to the end of the end of our volume unit, the Year Sixes had the challenge of converting their own bodies into 'Minecraft' style cuboid blocks, and finding the volume of their arms, legs, torsos etc, and then combining them to find their total body volume. This was a really fun practical lesson, with some of our taller Owls being almost too tall for the metre sticks! Year Five used their area skills to plan their own perfect garden, mapping out how much grass seed would be needed after they added benches, flower beds, or in one case, an enormous hot tub! We even were able to work out how much our grass seed would cost to cover the remaining surface area. In English, we have been creating exciting opening paragraphs to grip readers attention, and planning our non-chronological reports about the cast of characters of A Midsummer Night's Dream. Science found us using macro lenses to explore the close-up body structure of a female mosquito, and looking at blood and the circulatory system in humans, whist in ICT we continued to create more complex 3D renders of cartoon characters, using the grouping, scaling and duplicating tools in Tinkercad. In Art, we continued to refine and develop our graffiti ideas a step further, taking inspiration from the short film Austin's Butterly: about how a simple design can be adapted, altered, improved and refined over several drafts to create something really quite special by the end.

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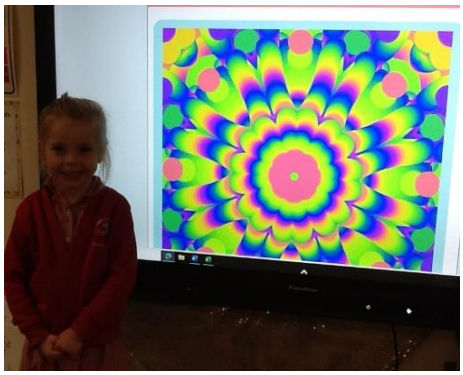
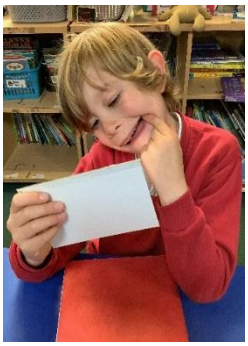
Photo Diary of the Week





GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY

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

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Whole School Topic - Summer Term: All Over the World.

Values: Harmony

This week we have reflected on the fact that one way to show someone that they are a valued friend is to be a friend. Christians believe that Jesus is their closest friend, even closer than a brother or sister, and he gives us an example of how to be a good friend. In the Bible there is a book of wise sayings called The Book of Proverbs. We looked at Proverb 18:24 which says:

'There is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.'

Climate Warriors Challenge

Batteries are a fundamental part of the solution to combating climate change – both in terms of our transition to electric vehicles and in allowing us to store renewable energy until it is needed. This week's challenge encourages our young climate warriors to think about batteries and the raw materials needed to make them. You are encouraged to take 'charge' of the used batteries at home and make sure they are recycled. Every single person counts, every single battery counts.

You might like to explore more using one of these links with your families.
Learn how fruit peel is used to recycle lithium batteries.
How the humble battery can help save the world.
Are batteries made of sand the future of clean energy?

Book Review: Meerkat Mail by Emily Gravett reviewed by Barney in Squirrel Class

Meerkat Mail is about a little meerkat called Sunny who decides he has had enough of living with his family in the hot Kalahari Desert and sets off on a journey to find the perfect place to live. I loved reading this story and give it 5 stars. I liked learning about some different countries in Africa and the meerkats. I learned some new words like termites, marsh and jackal. My favourite bit was the ending because Sunny realises there's no place quite like home.

Happiness Calendar: Active April

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	87%	0%	13%
Squirrel Class	86%	0%	14%
Fox Class	79%	4%	17%
Owl Class	74%	0%	26%

Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	79	184
Eden	62	145
Galilee	37	138
Jerusalem	58	147

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Emails and Letters Sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
26/04/24	Email	Fox	Office	Fox trip reminders
24/04/24	Email	All	Office	Multi-sports afterschool club

April	
Mon 29th	Fox Class trip to Verulamium in St Albans
May	
Wed 1st	Full Governing Body (FGB) meeting
Mon 6th	Bank Holiday
w/c 13th	SATS Mon- SPaG Tue – Reading Wed Maths papers 1&2 Thu - Maths paper
Mon 13th	Vision screening for Reception
Tue 21st	Maths Day inc HSBC workshops for each class
Friday 24th	INSET day
W/C 27th	Half Term
June	
w/c 3rd	Owl Class Residential, Rock UK Summit Centre, Breacon Beacons Year 4 multiplication check
Wed 5th	Squirrel Class trip to The River and Rowing Museum
Fri 7th	Fox Class and Eco Warriors '6 Inches of Soil'. at Lopemead Farm in Long Crendon.
Mon 10th	Celebration 80th Anniversary D-Day also British Values Day (wear red, white, blue)
w/c 10th	Phonics Screening check
Wed 12th	Garsington opera Workshop Owl Class
Wed 19th	Dance Festival at Lord William's
Thur 27th	RE Inspired Owl
July	
Thurs 4th	Garsington opera performance at Womslely Owl Class
Mon 8th	KS2 play dress rehearsal and **first evening performance**
Tues 9th	KS2 play outdoor performance (weather depending, note reserves date Mon 15th)
Mon 15th	Reports out
w/c 15th	PE Enrichment Week inc sport's day Wed 17th

Academic Year Calendar 2024-25

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