



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



Message from the Head Teacher

Oxley Visit



We were delighted that as part of our Art programme and PSHE focus this year we joined OxTrail - Oxfordshire's first ever sculpture trail, raising funds for Sobell House Hospice. We joined 86 other schools across the county to create our own fantastic mini ox. All of these mini oxen have been joined in local herds in publicly accessible buildings for eight weeks for visitors to admire – ours is currently on display in Thame Library – do go and visit if you can. In addition, there are over 30 life-sized ox sculptures throughout Oxford in the summer. Each of the oxen has been uniquely decorated by local and international artists to form a vibrant and family-friendly trail.

Not only did we enhance our art skills in a unique way and joined in a county wide project, we were fundraising for a local very worthwhile cause - Sobell House. Once again, despite being a small school, Aston Rowant School excelled and despite fierce competition from the other 86 schools **we won the Oxley competition** – our reward a visit from the famous ox himself.

Feedback

I know that I am passionate about the school that I am privileged to be Headteacher of and that I can readily share the many wonderful strengths that we have. Many have probably come to expect it! However, I have been struck once again recently by how many other outside agencies also recognise and value who we are. I thought that I would share some feedback that I have had just in June.

OxTrail (June 24) 'WOWWWWW!!!! My goodness me, Aston Rowant are truly out of this world. What a fantastic total to have raised for Sobell House Hospice. We are so grateful. Thank you so much to all of the teachers, parents and children who got involved in your fundraising. We are really blown away. We would just like to let you know that you have come first place in our Oxley competition, successfully raising 825.45% over your target!'

OCC KS2 Moderation (June 24) 'I was warmly welcomed by the staff at Aston Rowant today. I discussed the systems in place to assess children's writing and moderated Year 6 children's work. This was accompanied with well informed and professional discussions and with clear demonstrable evidence why children had been assessed at different levels. I was particularly impressed with the quantity of writing produced by the children and the wide range of text types seen today. Thank you for the tour of your beautiful school'

Music Mark (June 24) 'Your dedication to delivering a broad and balanced curriculum is both welcomed and celebrated.'

Email from recent visiting parent (June 24) 'We were blown away by the atmosphere of nurturing love and care that we witnessed between the adults and the children as we moved around the school. The children all seemed so content and 'seen' – truly beautiful.'

And those who oversee us, OCC and Ofsted, have recently commented:

OCC School Improvement Partner: 'The school has all of the ingredients to be outstanding. The school has a strong early year's provision with excellent resources to support this. The school knows all their children very well. Individual personalised support is tailored to the needs of each child and really strong relationships and effective personalised interventions lead to very positive outcomes.'

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

I recognise that we are not perfect and there is always room for improvement and we continue to plan areas of GROWTH. We are delighted to continue to work with you on this journey. However, this week we are going to take a moment to pause and reflect and recognise the extraordinary teamwork between staff, pupils and parents that make us who we are. Before we start planning for an even better year from September.

Working Party

As part of us getting ready for September don't forget the working party tomorrow from 10am.

Kind regards
Mrs France



GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY

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Teaching and Learning in the Classrooms this week:



Hedgehog Class

This week we had our transition day when Hedgehog went to work with their new classmates in Squirrel Class and we welcomed our new starters with a Teddy Bears' picnic. All of the Hedgehog children had a wonderful time and it was a reminder of just how far they have come since that first tentative day in September last year and how much they have grown. This was also seen in their English as they wrote about their time in Squirrel as a recount using the correct structure, formal language and correct time connectives. We have also enjoyed keeping our plant diaries up to date detailing our observations of the different stages of a plant growth, from seed or bulb to flower. For Art we have enjoyed painting our seascapes using water colours and thinking about colour, light and contrast. We can't wait to show you the final results.



Squirrel Class

A week of fun and learning, with some new beginnings to look forward to. We started off the week by reading our new story called 'Dear Greenpeace' in English, and we have learned lots of brilliant facts about blue whales! The children also wrote postcards in role as Arthur the Whale. In maths we have moved on to learning about 'Position and Direction' and we have talked about the mathematical language needed for this topic. We have used the vocabulary throughout the week to play games and solve puzzles. Y1 moved between hoops in the playground by giving instructions and the Y2 children sailed a ship around treasure island using grid co-ordinates. In history we looked at two famous explorers and the children had the chance to 'hot seat' as either Neil Armstrong or Charles Darwin. The class did brilliantly at answering questions in role and thinking on their feet. Transition afternoon on Wednesday was a resounding success and the Y2 children did brilliantly in Fox Class, making me very proud. Lastly, in P.E. the children enjoyed practising their rounders batting skills and playing mini games in teams of four or five.



Fox Class

Well, this has been an odd week for us all! On Wednesday afternoon, Fox Class let some of our fully fledged foxes become Owls (!) however we gained some new Fox cubs from Squirrel! It was a fabulous time for all involved and I felt very proud sending on my Year 4's whilst excited to meet my new Year 3's. Hopefully the feelings were mutual! Within lessons, shape has been our learning in Maths for all year groups. Year 3 should now be fully converse with the terminology of horizontal, vertical, parallel and perpendicular whilst Year 4's can name the properties of different quadrilaterals and polygons. In our English, we wrote a blurb for the book whilst understanding that all fiction contains an underlying theme and the theme for our book is community. In Geography, we used Google Earth, atlases and globes to learn about countries in Europe and their capital cities. We also looked at the physical and human features found there. In PSHE on Thursday we read child friendly manifestos and voted: 40% voted for the Green Party. 35% for Labour, 15% Conservatives, and 10% for Liberal Democrats. What else did we do this week; I hear you ask? Oh yes, the small matter of rehearsing THE play happened this week! More on this next week.....



Owl Class

In this week of the General Election Owl Class had the chance to read child friendly manifestos for each of the major parties and vote for who they wanted to run our country. 44% voted for the Green Party, 22% for Labour, 22% for Liberal Democrats and 11% for Reform. As the final preparations were made for next week's production Owls used their English lesson to write a backstory for the different characters we are playing in A Midsummer Night's Dream – a fascinating insight to the characters that they have embraced. In Maths each of the teams has decided on their theme park names, themed areas and the rides, attractions and amenities within their parks, so it was time to tell their customers about them in more detail. They have started to create a brochure on their websites to be given to customers as they arrive at the new attractions. On transition day Year 6 started designing their animals to go on our Noah's Ark mural as a lasting legacy of their time at Aston Rowant School. The current Year 5 joined with those moving up and enjoyed team challenges involving hoops, holding hands, staying on lines oh and not talking as they worked out what to do! In the battle of Year 5 v Year 6 it was pretty even! They also made bunting all about themselves and created their own owls to adorn their classroom next year. The highlight of the week was on Thursday when we all enjoyed a picnic in the magnificent estate at Wormsley followed by watching Garsington Opera's production of A Midsummer Night's Dream in the opera house. It was truly magical!

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Photo Diary of the Week



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

Values: Resilience

When Paul was a prisoner in Rome, he sent a letter to his friends saying, 'I can do all things through Him who strengthens me,' Philippians 4:13. We thought about how God strengthened Paul. We thought about our life and our time at school as a journey. Sometimes the route can be easy, the weather is fine and sunny, there are lovely views and we reach our destination no trouble at all. At times the route can be difficult, the weather might be stormy, we can't see very far and we need courage and resilience to reach our destination. But like Paul we know that we are not alone and we can put our faith in God to strengthen us for whatever lies ahead.

Climate Warriors Challenge

Choices are made by everyone yesterday... including governments, voters and Young Climate Warriors ... who, although being too young to 'vote' are challenged this summer to make nature positive choices - we're primarily talking about plastics this week. July is 'plastic free' month – so can you remember re-usable carrier bags? Fill reusable water bottles? Say 'no' to straws and also drink cartons?

Links of potential interest:

- [Is this a nurdle? Identification chart](#)
- [NURDLE - a vacuum cleaner that finds nurdles in sand](#)
- [Tackling beach plastics - Beach Guardians](#)
- [Plastic Free July](#)

KS2 might like to review the manifesto commitments of Labour having won the UK General Election.

[CarbonBrief - an excellent interactive webpage in relation to manifesto commitments on energy, climate change and nature.](#)

Book Review – Dear Greenpeace by Simon James



This story is about a little girl called Emily, who writes a series of letters to Greenpeace after spotting a blue whale in her garden pond! It is a quirky story with mischievous humour and the class have loved it! Here's some of their thoughts:

Digby – I loved reading about the blue whale and some of the facts we learned.

Ted – My favourite part of the story was when the blue whale popped its head out of the pond!

Florence – The end made me happy when the blue whale went back into the ocean, where it belongs.

Barney – I loved it when Emily put salt in her garden pond.

Happiness Calendar: Jump Back Up July

Let's find ways to bounce back. You can find this month's happiness calendar [here](#).

Attendance – This week

School target 97%	97% - 100%	90% -97%	Below 90%
Hedgehog Class	80%	7%	13%
Squirrel Class	93%	0%	7%
Fox Class	83%	4%	13%
Owl Class	85%	8%	7%

Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	35	236
Eden	37	241
Galilee	43	166
Jerusalem	48	187

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Emails and letters sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
05.07.24	Letter	All	Mrs France	Parent Governor Election
05.07.24	Email	All	PTA	PTA Camp night
05.07.24	Email	Fox and Owl	Office	KS2 play – solar/fairy lights request
05.07.24	Email	All	Office	Cancelled - Collective Worship today
01.07.24	Email	Fox and Owl	Office	KS2 play – tarpaulin request
01.07.24	Email	Owls	Office	Reminder – Garsington permission slips
01.07.24	Email	Hedgehogs	Office	Teddy bears' picnic

July	
Wed 3 rd	Transition Day – all classes move up and new starters join us (Year 6 project work)
Thurs 4 th	Garsington Opera performance of Midsummer Night's Dream at Wormsley for Owl Class
Sat 6 th	Working party in school from 10am (painting inside and out, shed roof felting, general repairs)
Mon 8 th	KS2 play dress rehearsal and first performance 6:30pm (staggered character arrival time -see schedule)
Tues 9 th	KS2 play outdoor performance 6:30pm (weather depending, note reserve date Mon 15 th)
Thurs 11 th	RSE talk for Year 6
Mon 15 th	Reports out
w/c 15 th	PE Enrichment Week inc sport's day Wed 17 th
Sat 20 th	PTA camping and games night at Kingston Blount Village Hall
Mon 22 nd /Tue 23 rd	Art Enrichment Week inc Art Exhibition Wed 24 th

Academic Year Calendar 2024-25

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)
Mon 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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