



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



19th July 2024

Message from the Head Teacher

PE Enrichment Week

We have reached the end of another amazing PE Enrichment Week. It has been a great opportunity to encourage all pupils to be enthusiastic about sports, even the non-athletically inclined. The importance of sports in primary school cannot be underestimated, and getting children involved in sports and excited about what they can do at a young age can make a real difference as they grow and develop. We have ensured that we have had a diverse range of activities across the week so that that even children who aren't competitive and don't enjoy traditional school sports, can get involved and take part in physical activity, leading to potential improvements in both physical and mental wellbeing.



The week started with Karate run by Jun Shihan Fincham. Karate is a great exercise for benefitting children mentally, physically, and spiritually. It was great to see the children's focus as they had to maintain a particular posture and position. Owl Class were particularly impressive with their push ups, sit ups and shouting 'Oss'!

On Tuesday we tried out Sumo wrestling. The protective Sumo wrestler costume gave us the freedom to really let ourselves go and tackle our opponents with vigour before inevitably rolling around laughing! It's not every day you get to roll around in giant air-filled balls - so we loved the opportunity for some zorbing too. There's nothing glamorous about zorbing, it's funny and a bit ridiculous but that's what makes it so enjoyable! We also had the opportunity for class Nerf gun wars.

On Tuesday we tried out Sumo wrestling. The protective Sumo wrestler costume gave us the freedom to really let ourselves go and tackle our opponents with vigour before inevitably rolling around laughing! Also, it's not every day you get to roll around in giant air-filled balls - so we loved the opportunity for some zorbing too. There's nothing glamorous about zorbing, it's funny and a bit ridiculous but that's what makes it so enjoyable! Finally, we had the opportunity for class Nerf gun wars.



On Wednesday the sun shone and we had an exceptional Sport's Day, with a carousel of activities in the morning and races in the afternoon. School sports days are ideal for highlighting the importance of teamwork and taking part, even if the activities are outside of some pupils' comfort zones. In the run-up to your sports day, we used our P.E. lessons to become familiar with each event and encourage children to set personal targets for the events that you will be running at your event. This gives pupils an achievable goal to aim for on Sports Day so that even those who aren't athletic can feel the success of setting a faster time than their previous ones.

We always link Sports Day to our work on Growth Mindset; encouraging pupils who have not achieved what they hoped to, to learn from a potentially negative experience and use it to progress in the future. I think that it was evident to all who had the privilege to watch the races in the afternoon the resilience and determination of each of our fabulous children and the camaraderie and encouragement for everyone participating regardless of house team or year group.

On Thursday we had Urban Strides teaching us street dance. It was a great, motivational, and inspirational workshop which got the children and teachers alike on their feet, dancing to great music and feeling confident and free while doing so. We had the chance to unleash our creativity and express ourselves with some pretty cool moves and shapes!



Finally, on Friday each class had a cheerleading session and developed their own routine made up of elements from dance, gymnastics and stunts. We even had our own 'signature' cheers and chants.

It has been a fabulous week. Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make it happen, and particularly Mrs Healy as PE Lead for organising and implementing it all so brilliantly.

There are only three more days to go! Do join us for our Leavers' Assembly on Wednesday when we will bid an emotional and fond farewell to our 17 incredible Year 6 children. I am both looking forward to it and dreading it in equal measure!

Kind regards

Mrs France

GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY

Growing together, rooted in God, enjoying fullness of life. (Colossians 2:7)



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Teaching and Learning in the Classrooms this week:



Hedgehog Class

What high energy week we've had! The children have enjoyed a full range of activities from zorbing to street dance. We have been very impressed this week with the children's enthusiasm and resilience at sports day. They were so encouraging to each other which has been amazing to see. In addition, we have been continuing our everyday learning with tricky words in phonics, really consolidating those spelling patterns and using them in sentences. In Maths we have been looking at directions and using the Beebots to learn our left from our right in order to make up some new dances. In Topic we have finalised the seascapes by adding collage details and they look great! We finally finished our plant diaries after 7 weeks of looking after our vegetable plants. We had three very clear winners and the plants are coming home to go in our gardens. We hope you enjoy some summer produce!



Squirrel Class

What a jam-packed sporting week we have had! We have enjoyed karate, zorb balls, nerf battles, sports day, urban dance and cheerleading! The children have given their best to each experience and have shown a joyful sense of wonder and resilience through it all. Well done Squirrels! Our week started with making our own pizzas – thank you to Mr & Mrs Godfrey for this fabulous experience and for bringing their pizza oven. We have managed to keep our learning going too, with the children in Y1 learning about money and the Y2 children finishing off their learning on position and direction. We have loved playing shops in Y1 and the Y2 children were challenged to use the Beebots to draw a 2D shape. In English we read some poetry, some of it very silly and funny! We drew characters using descriptions in the poems and compared our drawings to those in the poem. In Science we invented our own machines using renewable energy sources and I loved seeing the amazing creativity on display. A super penultimate week of term!



Fox Class

Bodies and brains were kept active this week! Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the range of different activities during the week and gave 100%. The rain didn't dampen their enthusiasm for the zorb balls or sumo wrestling either! We have still managed to squeeze in some learning too! In Maths, Year 4 have been continuing with plotting co-ordinates and plotting different 2D shapes whereas Year 3 have started a statistics unit looking at pictograms and checking the key for important information. In our English, the whole class enjoyed writing poetry based on nature. We used a poem by Kate Wakeling as the inspiration before creating some super descriptive poems ranging from volcanoes, the moon to flowers. In our Geography, we focussed on the Campania region in Italy and compared it to the South East of England looking at the terrain, rivers and other geographical features. We used QR codes to take us to websites with maps to support our learning. In DT, after designing our pneumatic toy last week, we made our creations and ensured it looked good too. Never a quiet week in Fox Class!



Owl Class

It's been a week of sporting, mental and physical challenges this week as sports enrichment week provided an incredible range of activities for all of the children: zooming in zorb balls, scuffling in sumo suits, following complex katas in karate, and breaking to the beat in street dance. As if this wasn't enough, the children ran countless races in the summer sun on Sports Day. The Owl children were excellent; thank you for those grown-ups who have let me know how kind and responsible our Year 5 and 6 children have been, looking after smaller children and cheering everyone on. Elsewhere in the classroom, we have been putting our problem solving and reasoning minds to the test with a range of maths challenges, including one of my favourites The Konisberg Bridge problem. The children have had to use all their accrued maths skills to solve these problems, as well as thinking outside of the box on one or two occasions. The Year 6 children have also had their chance to add their own designs to the Noah's Ark mural, as is tradition, whilst in English the children crafted their own versions of the chilling animation Alma. Well done for another excellent week Owl Class.

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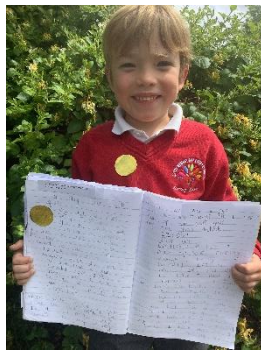
SUPPORTING
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Photo Diary of the Week



GRATITUDE

RESILIENCE

OUTREACH

WONDER

TRUST

HARMONY

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P.F. Enrichment Week



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Sports Day



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

Values: Resilience

We thought earlier in the term about how life can feel like a journey. This week we looked at how life can also feel like a race. We reflected on how resilience might be needed for the race of life. Christians believe that Jesus is with them in every challenge that they face in their lives. Just like a good trainer, or parents at sports day, standing at the finishing line of a race encouraging the runners to keep going.

'Let us run with perseverance the race that lies before us. Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from beginning to end' Hebrews 12:1-2

Climate Warriors Challenge

There are so many awe-inspiring patterns in nature ... to find during the summer holidays - spirals, hexagons, fractals, hearts, teardrops, tessellations, circles ... when you start looking they are everywhere.... here's a [Patterns in Nature checklist](#).

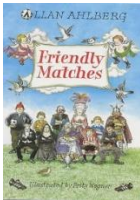
Links to using patterns in nature to help us understand and protect our world:

[Rainforest Connection project](#) - we think this is an awesome project - harnessing our awesome natural world!

[Antarctic ice cores - what they tell us about climate change](#)

Or maybe you could create their own patterns in nature this summer - [Andy Goldsworthy](#) might provide inspiration, and here's a [BBC Bitesize explainer](#).

Book Review – Friendly Matches by Allan Ahlberg



Although the final match of Euro 2024 didn't go as we had hoped, football fever has gripped every generation. Friendly Matches is an entertaining, and at times thought-provoking, collection of poetry covering a range of different aspects of the game - team talk, The Song of the Referee to memories of the 1966 World Cup, in Allan Ahlberg's unique style using sonnets, rhyming couplets, narrative poems. A beautiful book for all ages and levels of engagement!

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	100%	0%	0%
Squirrel Class	93%	3.5%	3.5%
Fox Class	65%	4%	31%
Owl Class	89%	4%	7%

Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	12	272
Eden	22	295
Galilee	18	196
Jerusalem	10	212



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Emails and letters Sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
17.07.24	Email	All	Mrs France	Car Parking on the Green
17.07.24	Email	All	Mrs France	Parent Governor Election Results
15.07.24	Email	All	Office	PTA BBQ on Sports day
15.07.24	Email	Owl Class	Mrs France	Reports

July	
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
Wed 24 th	9:15 Leavers' Service in Church

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)