

### ***Message from the Head Teacher***

Greetings from the heart of the Welsh Valleys. What a week it's been for the children at Aston Rowant School with the opportunity to enjoy school trips and unique educational and experiential opportunities that we can't give them in school. This week our children have had a chance to learn outside of the classroom, engage in hands-on activities, and deepen their understanding of various subjects.

Owl Class have been at Rock UK's Summit Centre, just south of Merthyr Tydfil, where we are overlooked by beautiful hills and woodland. We are reaching the end of a fun-packed week where we have tested our nerves and enjoyed a range of adventurous activities from water sports to abseiling, bushcraft to archery, not to mention half a day hill walking in the beautiful South Wales valleys and a full day caving exploring the subterranean world below.



We chose Rock UK as it is a Christian charity whose values closely align to ours and who have a passion to invest in young people. From building resilience and a sense of achievement, to developing skills in communication and teamwork, as well as creating unique opportunities to try new activities, this week has been an incredible opportunity for us to help develop our children to grow together in confidence and experience - which hopefully encourages and inspires them to try new experiences in the future. We've had an incredible time. Do take the opportunity to look at the photos in the newsletter and join us (even if you don't have a child in Owl Class) to hear about our adventures in next week's celebration assembly. We have a lot to share!



Fox Class had their own adventure this week with a visit to Lopemead Farm, Long Crendon. They went as part of the 'Six Inches of Soil' initiative looking at soil health and regenerative farming. The children heard the inspiring story of young British farmers challenging the industrial food system and transforming the way they produce food - to heal the soil, our health and provide for local communities. They then had workshops looking at:

1. Soil health: examining healthy vs unhealthy soil samples, and exploring signs of life within each sample under a microscope,
2. Water: testing the health of water from 3 different sources and comparing the results they find.
3. Food: planting a tray of salad leaves in some healthy soil, exploring the connection between soil and food. They brought the tray back to Fox classroom and continue to nurture and grow them.

Squirrel Class visited the River and Rowing Museum and enjoyed a day looking at 'The River of Life'. They explored the natural history and stories of the River Thames from prehistoric times to today. They then used samples from the Thames to develop their scientific skills of observation and identification to name and group living things in different ways and identify their suitability to their environment (adaptation). Finally, they investigated predator/ prey relationships, and explored the idea of simple food chains.



Hedgehog have had a great time following the theme of the familiar story "We're Going on a Bear Hunt." They built on the learning that they had done in their 'Weather and Seasons' topic in Term 1 and went for a seasonal walk to compare signs of summer with the autumn, as well as following a map and adapting the text to match the area and season. They found paw print clues in long swishy grass, a deep cold river, some thick oozy mud and eventually found the bear in a big dark forest. He gave them some rubber ducks and they had lots of fun racing them down the river. The children had a lovely picnic in the woods and then returned to school full of excitement!

I would say it's a quieter week next week but it's our British Values day on Monday (don't forget to dress in red, white and blue), Garsington Opera will be in on Wednesday and then the following week it's our Arts and Music Enrichment Week... The fun never ends at Aston Rowant School!

***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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Headteacher: Mrs Helen France

## *Teaching and Learning in the Classrooms this week:*



### *Hedgehog Class*

It has been a fantastic first week back to our final term in Hedgehog class. We enjoyed engaging in our new Sun, Sea and Sand topic through lots of great play. We have been running a very busy beach shop, making pirate ships with very tall masts and creating under the sea worlds in the art area to name a few. In Maths we have been learning how to use apparatus to represent numbers quickly and practicing our subitising. In Literacy the children have been developing a greater understanding of non-fiction texts and how they are structured to compare seaside holidays 'now' and 'then'. In order to write an effective piece of information we have learnt how to give factual sentences rather than opinions. In Art we have been looking at seascapes and discussing which ones we like or dislike. We try to give reasons for our opinions in full sentences. We have really enjoyed learning some sea shanties in music and are beginning to explore pitch and tempo.



### *Squirrel Class*

A busy first week back and a new story to kick off the last half term of the year! The class have really enjoyed the fun story of 'The Day the Crayons Quit' by Drew Daywalt. We have sequenced the story and written a summary on some colourful posters. We will complete more writing next week based of this story, composing our own letters to the main character Duncan as a crayon. In maths we have continued our learning on fractions, with the Y1 children learning how to recognise a half of a shape or amount and the Y2 children moving onto recognising thirds and identifying unit and non-unit fractions. In science we have learned about inventors and famous inventions, and we will explore who invented greenhouses and make some of our own. But of course, the highlight of the week was our class visit to the River and Rowing Museum in Henley. We had a fantastic time handling some museum exhibits, walking along the Thames towpath and exploring the galleries. The children were fantastically behaved and a real credit to the school, sharing their extensive knowledge and demonstrating our school values. Well done Squirrels and thanks again to our helpers!



### *Fox Class*

Wow! What a week! We kick started our week by transforming our classroom into a bakery and baked some delicious hot buns ensuring we knew our imperative verbs whilst making them! Moving on they then applied for a role as a baker explaining persuasively why they would be perfect for the role! We've also carried out some role play when learning about different jobs within the small fishing village our new text is based on. In our Maths, Year 3 are working on time, and I would ask that any opportunity at home to talk about the time, either reading it, asking how long it will be until a set period etc would be so beneficial for them. In Year 4, we have moved our decimals onto money. They have learnt how to use the decimal point when it comes to money, and I would also ask if you could talk about change as this is something they may not often come across. In our science we learnt about some famous botanists and the lengths they went to, to find new plants. We then went on a plant hunt in our grounds before creating our own new species. In History, we finished off our Romans topic by finding out what the Romans left then made a fact file about that period. In our French we learnt about the seasons and enjoyed playing a game in class to embed the new vocabulary. We have also started to learn the new songs for the school show which we are very excited about. We were fortunate to have our very own Open the Book worship and the class really enjoyed acting and sang magnificently! We had a really informative trip on Friday morning as Mrs France mentioned. Phew! Now it's time to recharge ready for a new week of learning next week!



### *Owl Class*

Hello from (mostly) sunny Wales! Owl Class have been having an incredible time in the Brecon Beacons. As I'm sure you have seen from the photos, we got up to an incredible range of activities from archery and abseiling to hill-walking, canoeing and caving. The children had opportunities to challenge their own preconceptions of their abilities and what they are capable of, using our school values of resilience, harmony and trust to truly grow together. It has been a real privilege to spend this time with your children, and to see them work together, support one another and simply be the wonderful, creative, funny and passionate children of Aston Rowant School. There may not have been much sleep(!), but there have been many magical memories made.

**GRATITUDE    RESILIENCE    OUTREACH    WONDER    TRUST    HARMONY**

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***Photo Diary of the Week***



***Photo Diary of the Residential Week***



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

**Values: Resilience**

This week we turned to our final value of the academic year – resilience. Owl Class have been away on their residential and embracing activities that are testing their courage, strength and resilience. Year 6 children begin their final term with us before they embark on the next chapter in their lives. Each of our children are preparing to move on to the next academic year. We know that there will be many joys ahead as well as some disappointments and setbacks. But our courage and determination, and trust in God, will strengthen us and grow us into the people we were created to be.

*'We also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.'* Romans 5:3-4

**Climate Warriors Challenge**

Can you imagine what it would be like to live on a desert island, in the middle of the jungle, or on a boat sailing around the world? All you have is there with you – you can't pop to the shops, or make a purchase online. It's GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK – join in for the big swap. Swap old magazine scraps for a 'fabulous funky birthday card' ... swap your old jam jar for a 'happy jar full of jokes' ... do you get the gist!?

It's Father's Day next week, if you're looking for ideas - how about a jar full of lovely promises – maybe one a day for a week?! You could promise to read him a favourite story or poem; help him choose his outfit; lie down on the grass and look for shapes in the clouds together; bring him a nice cold drink and some slices of apple when he is working; or walk barefoot on the grass together!

**Book Review - Fantastic Mr Fox by Chloe, Year 4**



The story is about a fox trying to find food for his family, but some nasty farmers are trying to kill him. He is very clever but he does get his tail cut off which upsets him. It is a very exciting adventure and I like the end best because Mr Fox gets free and the nasty people get taught a lesson. It showed that being kind to friends and family are more important than being nasty.

**Happiness Calendar: Joyful June**

This month, we're encouraging you to look for what is good. You can find this month's happiness calendar [here](#).

**Attendance – This week**

School target 97%	97% - 100%	90% -97%	Below 90%
Hedgehog Class	93%	0%	7%
Squirrel Class	93%	0%	7%
Fox Class	78%	0%	22%
Owl Class	96%	0%	4%

**Housepoints**

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	35	35
Eden	31	31
Galilee	17	17
Jerusalem	27	27

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***Fmails and letters Sent this Week***

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
07-06-24	Email	All	Office	Reminder – British Values day
05-06-24	Email	All	Office	School uniform
05-06-24	Email	Dance club	Office	Tickets for the Festival of Dance
05-06-24	Email	All	Office	Leavers and Class photographs
03-06-24	Email	Years 2-6	Office	Cookery Club

June	
Mon 10 <sup>th</sup>	Celebration 80 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary D-Day also British Values Day ( <b>wear red, white, blue</b> )
w/c 10 <sup>th</sup>	Phonics Screening check
Wed 12 <sup>th</sup>	Garsington Opera Workshop Owl Class
<b>Thurs 13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Leavers and Class Photographs</b>
Fri 14 <sup>th</sup>	2:15 extended Celebration Assembly with Residential Trip overview and cake raffle
W/C 17 <sup>th</sup>	Arts Enrichment Week 2:15 extended Celebration Assembly with Music presentation
<b>Mon 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Bag2School collection</b>
Wed 19 <sup>th</sup>	Dance Festival at Lord William's Stay and Play for new Reception Class <b>PTA 2<sup>nd</sup> hand uniform sale 3.15pm</b>
Wed 26 <sup>th</sup>	Eco Day – wear green, donate £1 for Eco Warrior work, no wrappings packed lunches
Thu 27 <sup>th</sup>	Hedgehog Class trip to The Discovery Lookout Centre
Thurs 27 <sup>th</sup>	RE Inspired Owl
July	
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Transition Day – all classes move up (Year 6 project work) <b>Inc Teddy bears picnic for Hedgehogs and new starters</b>
Thurs 4 <sup>th</sup>	Garsington opera performance at Wormsley Estate - Owl Class
Mon 8 <sup>th</sup>	KS2 play dress rehearsal and first outdoor performance (6.30pm)
Tues 9 <sup>th</sup>	KS2 play outdoor performance (6.30pm) (weather depending, note reserve date Mon 15 <sup>th</sup> )
Fri 12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>DHL Trucks and Child Safety event – Fox and Owl Class</b>
Mon 15 <sup>th</sup>	Reports out
w/c 15 <sup>th</sup>	PE Enrichment Week inc sport's day Wed 17 <sup>th</sup>

***Academic Year Calendar 2024-25***

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

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