



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



21st June 2024


Message from the Head Teacher

Music Mark Status

We are delighted to say that Oxfordshire County Music Service have recently granted us Music Mark School status. They have recognised the value that we place on music and celebrated all the hard work of the staff team, led by Mrs Hall, to ensure that our pupils are able to access a high-quality, diverse and inclusive music education stating, 'Your dedication to delivering a broad and balanced curriculum is both welcomed and celebrated.'



Music Enrichment Week

 It is fitting that the award comes during an amazing week of musicality. The children have made us extremely proud with both their musical talents and their enthusiasm and engagement. We began the week with one of many workshops that have been kindly provided by the parents and staff. Hedgehog children were delighted with a live horn performance from Dr Coleman, (Connie and Callie's mum) followed by some hands-on music experience. Where KS2 have been finely honing their performance and singing skills ready for their upcoming production of A Midsummer Night's Dream.

On Wednesday the whole school took part in an inter-house day, attending various workshops in their houses to build their understanding of the different musical elements. In Mr Manning's workshop the children explored texture and dynamics the children listened to music and responded through artwork, based on the story 'I See a Song' by Eric Carle. In Mrs Biggin's classroom the children learnt about timbre by exploring the different sounds they could make with junk modelling and creating their own instruments. Mrs Healey ran an exciting African drumming workshop to develop the children's understanding of beat and rhythm and Mrs Hall taught the children a wide range of songs and games involving movement and dance. Finally, the whole school gathered to learn some fun warm up songs and how to perform a perpetual canon. A great time was had by all!

On Thursday each class received a performance workshop to developing their warm up skills, breathing techniques, posture and expression. They learnt a challenging song with two-part harmonies and learnt the chorus in British sign language. We were also treated to another pop-up concert, this time on tenor horn, violin and flute thanks to Mrs Smith (Fox TA), Mrs Atkins (Ellie's mum) and Mrs McGoldrick (Asher and Jacques' mum). Our incredibly talented instrumentalists and vocalists were given the opportunity to put on a class recital for their peers, they performed with confidence and did themselves very proud. At lunch the beginnings of a school band were formed as we learnt our first piece 'Celebratory Fanfare' by Scott Watson. We are looking forward to performing at upcoming events.



Finally, on Friday the children were treated to a final pop-up concert from our resident pianist and vocalist Mrs Hodges (Digby and Florence's mum) as well as a vocal performance and short talk about public performing by the incredible Mrs Hall. The children have been blessed to experience such a range of live music this week and we are thankful to all parents and staff who have contributed their time and talent. The week culminated in a special celebration attended by Andy Nice from Oxfordshire Music service, who has worked with us to achieve the Music Mark award, and also provided us with live music. All classes performed their own pieces as well as a final performance from the whole school. A wonderful end to a very special week.

Conductor Visit



We were also delighted to welcome Chloe Rooke to school today to talk about her life as an internationally acclaimed conductor and to give a workshop for EYFS/KS1 followed by KS2. Chloe is Assistant Conductor at the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic. She conducted the Residentie Orkest and singers from the Dutch National Opera Academy in an acclaimed production of Mozart's La finta giardiniera at Amare in Summer 2023. This coming season she will conduct and assist at Opera North in Mozart Cosi fan tutte, is conducting at the BBC Proms 2024 and will assist at Garsington in a production of Britten's A Midsummer Night's Dream. She has previously conducted at Glyndebourne Festival with Donizetti's Don Pasquale, Nancy on Magic Flute, and with A Midsummer Night's Dream at Opera Rouen.

'Music is spiritual, inspiring and healing. Music fulfils unmet emotional and physical needs in all generations. Music accompanies, shapes and curates the narrative of life, with a resonance that exceeds understanding.' Chloe Rooke, conductor

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 a fun filled musical week we've had. The children have thoroughly enjoyed Learning lots of ring games and clapping songs. In our plan and play they have been inspired to make lots of instruments and explore how the different sounds change when we adapt the contents of our shakers. They wanted to make a 'show' so we practiced some different rhythms and put it all together in a wonderful rendition of "Mary had a little lamb" (chosen by the children). We learnt some more sea shanties and practiced one to perform in our celebration assembly. We also managed to squeeze in some phonics, writing our sounds and words in chalk on the playground to make the most of this beautiful weather. We have been very proud of the way they have conducted themselves this week in all the different activities and given the week their all.



Squirrel Class

The Squirrels have sung and danced their way through this music enrichment week! It has been great fun and the class have really enjoyed listening to music, hearing different instruments played and learning songs to sing. The whole school event day on Wednesday was a highlight for them all, although we did manage to squeeze in some other learning too! In English we have planned our own version of 'The Day the Crayons Quit' and the children worked in pairs to think about some other classroom objects that might quit and their possible reasons for doing so. Next week we will begin writing the story independently. In Maths we have begun our unit on time, with the Y1 children reviewing the days of the week and the months of the year. Y2 have reviewed units of time for o'clock, half past, quarter past and quarter to. In Topic we looked at different explorers and asked questions about why and where they have explored and in DT we designed our 3 favourite pizzas and explored that pizzas can come in lots of different shapes too. The next step is creating our ingredients list and instructions. Buon Appetito!



Fox Class

Another packed week in Fox Class. The play is taking centre stage (excuse the pun!) with learning and songs without the scripts. Please encourage your children to practise as we can then focus on their acting skills without the hindrance of the script. In our Maths, both classes are working on Time: Year 3 have learnt about duration and how to work it out whilst Year 4 have had fun working converting analogue to digital times. In our English, we created a non-narrative poem based on our descriptive devices. In Geography, children used Google Maps to understand longitude and latitude, the two hemispheres and recapped their knowledge of equator, and the poles. In Science, we learnt about the contribution George Washington Carver made to farming by introducing crop rotation and they understood the reasons behind it. We also enjoyed learning a song about resilience with actions naturally (!) to present in our Friday Collective Worship.



Owl Class

Its been a very theatrical, dramatic week in Owl Class, as we have turned our hands to prop making for our KS2 school production; equipped with paint brushes, oversized shirts and sunny weather, we have been busy transforming cardboard boxes into tree trunks, or bushes, or even brick walls and tombstones. As well as lots of rehearsals time for the play, we have also been polishing our rap performance that many of you will have seen today; I hope you enjoyed the show! We have had a fabulous music and creativity-centred week, with our Music Enrichment house day giving the children opportunities to create their own instruments, compose their own drum and rhythm beats, and draw on paper what sounds they can see, as well as chances to see many talented adults play a range of musical instruments. In between all this business, we have also taken some time for mindfulness, and read our books in the cool shade of our grove, and performed some breathing exercises to keep our emotions regulated in a busy week. There is still learning happening, with our Local History unit launching this week as we took crayon rubbings of the varied names carved into the school walls, and explored the history of amazing school, and wondered what it would be like for schoolchild in the past? What lessons would they have done? What was for lunch? Did they get as much homework as they do now? In RE explored how people become saints, and the idea of sacrifice for a cause that one believes in, whilst in English we have begun to explore our wonderful key text The Arrival in a bit more depth, and analysing the central themes of the story.

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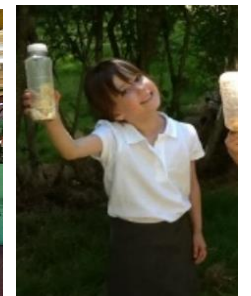
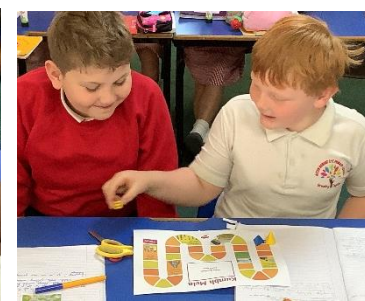
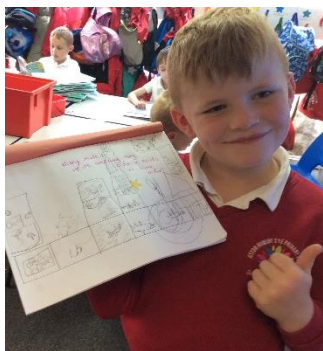
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Photo Diary of the Week



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Music Enrichment Week



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

Values: Resilience

This week we picked up the story of Moses and looked at the people entering the promised land. We looked at four main characters who demonstrated great bravery: Joshua; Benjamin; Jacob and Rahab who all showed great courage when facing great danger. We reflected on those we know who have also demonstrated resilience and bravery and thought about how we could do the same.

'Be strong and courageous, do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.' Joshua 1:9

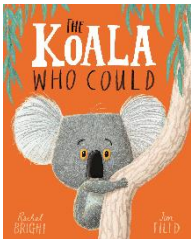
Climate Warriors Challenge

Feeling peckish? Time for a cuppa? A biscuit? What about Palm Oil? This week's challenge encourages Young Climate Warriors to learn about palm oil, the importance of 'sustainable palm oil' and the reasons to seek out the 'Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil' logo. Maybe make and enjoy some home-made biscuits instead of factory-manufactured ones? There are so many ways to influence our world for the better – from joining with global campaigns to making the most 'planet-friendly' individual choices.



Today, Friday 21st June is also 'Show your stripes day'. A chance to share in the global conversation about climate change. Extreme weather events continue to be seen more frequently around the world. Never has the need to address climate change been more urgent. Check out Warming Stripes: [BBC 1 minute explainer video](#).

Book Review: The Koala Who Could, written by Rachel Bright, reviewed by Hedgehog Class



This book was brought in by Leon. Here's what we thought of it.

Leon - This book is amazing. I like it because at first Kevin the Koala said he can't do things, but in the end, he realises he can.

Billie - I like it because it has a cute koala character in a tree.

Chloe – It was sad when the tree got cut down.

Ella - I liked it because it has a happy ending.

Flo C - I like it because Kevin 'can do it' in the end.

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	80%	7%	13%
Squirrel Class	93%	0%	7%
Fox Class	83%	0%	17%
Owl Class	78%	0%	22%

Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	37	132
Eden	53	125
Galilee	30	68
Jerusalem	24	89

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Emails and letters Sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
21.06.24	Email	KS2	Mrs King	Play costumes
20.06.24	Email	All	PTA	Summer 24 letter
18.06.24	Email	All	Mrs Biggin	Junk Modelling

June	
Wed 26 th	Eco Day – wear green, donate £1 for Eco Warrior work, no wrappings packed lunches, walk to school
Thu 27 th	Hedgehog Class trip to The Discovery Lookout Centre
Thu 27 th	RE Inspired Owl
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 - Owl Class
Mon 8 th	KS2 play dress rehearsal and first performance
Tues 9 th	KS2 play outdoor performance (weather depending, note reserve date Mon 15 th)
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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