



Aston Rowant C+E Primary School
School Lane, Aston Rowant, Oxon OX49 5SU
01844 351671

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Headteacher: Mrs Helen France

17th May 2024

Message from the Head Teacher

It has been a busy week here in school where the children have been demonstrating their hard work, resilience and harmony.



The Year 6 children have had their SATs and the children have been amazing. Their work ethic has been outstanding and their test skills exemplary. Congratulations to all our Year 6 children for their hard work this week and throughout the year. We are extremely proud of them all and know that they tried their best and have shown the school values of resilience and harmony throughout. They have grown in confidence and ability which will serve them well at secondary school. A special thank you to all the staff who have helped in supporting and encouraging the children to do their best.

After half term our Year 4 children will complete their Multiplication Check, Year 2 children will have SATs and Year 1 will have the Phonics Screening check. We know that they will make us equally proud.

I know there is often debate around this time of year about the value of testing in primary schools. Certainly, these summative assessments show the progress that children have made in English and Mathematics throughout their primary education. SATs also offer a valuable introduction to formal exams and the experience helps prepare pupils for future exams. More recently SATs were used in determining GCSE results mid-pandemic as it is currently the only national independent tests between Year 6 and Year 11.

However, it's important to remember that these tests only measure certain skills. They don't show that a child is an excellent communicator, a talented musician or an up-and-coming entrepreneur. Therefore, whilst these tests are important for children, parents and teachers alike - they are not the be all and end all.



Our school vision is 'Growing together, rooted in God, to enjoy fullness of life'. We want our children to learn a broad range of skills both in and out of the classroom to excite them about the future. We have a range of activities available at Aston Rowant School to enrich the National Curriculum and make a child's time at school unforgettable. We provide special days and weeks across the school year for children to engage with: World Book Day, British Values Day, Maths Day, Science Week, RE Enrichment Week, Art/ Music Enrichment Week, Walk to School Week, Be Bright Be Seen Day, Anti Bullying Week, National Online Safety Day and Green Day. We have run an inter-house cross country event, a tag rugby tournament and had house team days for Maths, RE and Reading. Not forgetting our workshops with Garsington Opera, HSBC and virtual reality headset experiences. We also provide activities to support basic life skills – such as First Aid workshops and Bikeability. And what fantastic performances we have had with our EYFS nativity and KS1 play, with our big KS2 production yet to come.

We have a variety of clubs on offer across the school year – football, multi-sport, choir, art, timetable rockstars, chess, dance, eco warriors and we are about to start a science club, explore club and cookery club. We have swimming for Years 3 and 4 and Forest School for all year groups. We also provide opportunities for children to get involved in the wider life of the school with: Play Leaders, House Captains, Worship Leaders, Librarians; Eco Council and School Council. We provide regular trips for the children to bring the curriculum to life. This year alone includes: Residential in the Brecon Beacons; Tower of London; Verulamium; Look Out Centre; River and Rowing Museum; Garsington Opera House, Race Horse ground and Lopemead Farm. We have regular visitors into school with an author, a poet, the fire brigade and baby lambs so far and a renowned conductor visiting soon. We also engage in activities with our local partnership of schools – which includes Science Day, Dance Festival and Literacy Workshops. We applied for a Blue Peter Reading Badge for most children and hope to introduce the Young Duke Award soon. In addition, we have supported 7 different charities this year, including our OxTrail project, and continue our links with a school in South Africa.



Finally, we encourage Young Enterprise projects both individually and as whole class endeavours. These provide fantastic opportunities to learn essential life skills - like money management and entrepreneurship - by putting them into practice. Two of our Year 5 children, Devon and Laila-Beth, recently created their own Young Enterprise initiative and had a stall at the school gates after school for several weeks leading up to Easter. I am delighted to say that they raised enough to buy an authors' chair which has been built and is ready to be installed. We are very proud of the girls and grateful to everyone who supported their stall. We also hope that Max's Muncher with the monies raised by Max, Year 3, will be installed this summer.

There are many initiatives to celebrate and a lot to be proud of – but don't just take my word for it...

'It may be a small school, but everyone here has big ideas. The school's strapline of 'growing together' encourages pupils to do this. [There is] an ambition for every child to achieve well with no limits placed.' Ofsted 2022

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

This week is Hedgehog class we have been creating our own jungle stories. Through our reading experience we understand that stories usually contain a problem and a solution. In a culmination of all the texts we have covered over the term we have built up a repertoire of possible problems and have been using them to create our own story maps, using puppets and toys to 'act out' our stories and really get into the mind of the reader. What will our characters say or do? Will this be interesting enough for someone else to read? Next week we will be taking part in some extended writing based around our story maps and considering our word choices carefully as we write larger quantities. In Maths we have been exploring sharing and looking at how each group needs to be equal. We repeat this in lots of our daily routines; sharing fruit, getting into teams or sharing resources in our play and we have begun to realise that only even numbers can be shared fairly with a friend.



Squirrel Class

This penultimate week of the half term has flown by, and we have been as busy as ever! In our maths lessons the Y1 children have been practising multiplication facts and learning about arrays. We have used counters and cubes to create arrays and use them to help with our times tables. The Y2 children have embarked on a new unit about fractions. This week we have re-capped how to recognise equal groups and what you need to do to find a half. Next week we move onto quarters and thirds. In English we have continued with *The Wind in the Willows* learning and we have written diary entries in role as Mr Toad! We have also enjoyed fun speaking and listening lessons 'hot seating' characters from the story in conversation. Digby and Matilda demonstrated this in the celebration assembly today. Our science learning looked at river habitats, in preparation for our school trip next half term. We looked at common animals and creatures found near UK rivers and how they have adapted to their environment.



Fox Class

This week in Fox Class has seen Year 3 starting on a Money unit. They are already demonstrating a good understanding but if I could ask that you engage with them by giving them money to count and talk about change – an aspect they probably may not have come across before since the advent of tapping with phones or cards! Year 4 have been moving on with their decimal journey by understanding the value of each digit and if zero placeholders are needed and where. In our English, we have been writing direct speech between characters from our story focussing on the punctuation and reporting clause to ensure clarity. In our History, we compared how the Celts lived to the Romans recognising the features that the Romans brought with them when building towns and cities. Science saw us showing our artistic abilities by revisiting what a food chain is and then making a pictorial version – see the pictures! In French we use iPads to find out about where different countries were in relation to the equator the understanding what names the French use for these countries. We then write sentences describing if they were north or south of the equator. We had a go at composing some music using the glockenspiels to fill the instrumental section of *Blackbird* by the Beatles. The class were really good at keeping the beat and recognising what notes would sound best. The illustrations for their chosen poem is coming along nicely in addition to their choice of the writing of the poem. In our Class worship, we discussed helping each other and how, as a class, we are all linked and are able to be there for each other. We made a spider's web when telling each child how much they mean to us. I'm sure you agree, a busy week!



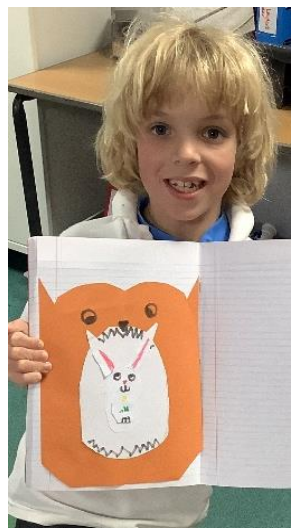
Owl Class

It might be the last full week before Half-Term, but it might just have been our busiest week yet: most notably, our fabulous Year 6's have completed their SAT's exams, and have performed so well. The work ethic that they have brought to this challenging time has been fantastic; we are all incredibly proud of them. I must thank all the staff here who have helped along the way; if it takes a village to raise a child, as the saying goes, then it takes a whole school team to get a child through Year 6! Thank you to the Squirrel Class children who made each of Owl Class beautiful, personalised congratulation cards for completing their exams. Aside from SAT's, the children have been just as busy: the Year 5's have been using protractors to measure angles on a straight line or around a point accurately, and have been using their known facts about angles to find missing values, as well as creating some really effective setting descriptions about the enchanted forest from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. In Science, the children performed their own research into their investigations about heart rates and exercise using jump pads and data loggers to accurately record their data, and will be putting this data to good use to come to their own conclusions. In music, we wrote and performed our own rap lyrics: we had raps about swimming, gaming, even Mr Manning had a 'mic drop' moment with his own middle-aged themed rap about gardening! In Geography, we acted out our own working model of erosion and deposition and found out about how meanders and Ox-bow lakes can be formed. Well done on a challenging week to all the Owls. They have really handled the schedule changes and moving between classes well, and I hope they all have a restful weekend!

GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY

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

Photo Diary of the Week





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

Values: Harmony

In Collective Worship this week we learnt that being a good friend isn't just about sharing the good times. Sometimes we need to show compassion towards our friends when times are tough. That can often mean giving them time and listening to them carefully when they want to talk. Showing loyalty, kindness and consideration can be a wonderful gift and make all the difference when we need it most.

'A friend is always loyal, and a brother is born to help in times of need.' Proverbs 17:17

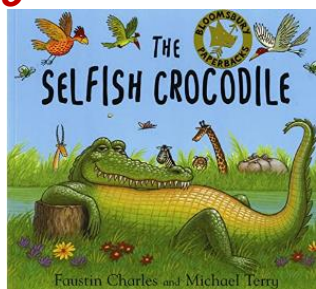
Climate Warriors Challenge

A healthy sustainable planet requires us to tackle climate change and needs us ALL to take action. 60% of our 2035 carbon emissions reductions target relies on consumer choices (UK Committee on Climate Change). Young Climate Warriors' challenges encourage families and our wider community to take small actions each week. Together, these cumulative actions can make an impact. 'Little by little, a little becomes a lot'. This week it's about getting outside more, avoiding the car where possible can reduce car exhaust emissions, and there's scope for fun along the way. Cloud-spotting, whistling bird song, a 'funny faces' trail, or dew-bathing – what choice will you make as a family?

Related links:

['Six epic journeys to school' - BBC Newsround](#) [Met Office - Cloud-spotting guide](#)

Book Review recommended by Hedgehog Class



"The Selfish Crocodile" is a story about a crocodile who didn't like to share. He won't let the Jungle animals bathe or drink in his river! Suddenly he develops a rather nasty toothache which makes him cry and unsurprisingly the animals are not keen to rush to his aid. First, we had to decide if they were real or 'crocodile tears'. We then really enjoyed making predictions throughout this book, eventually drawing on the text hedgehog are covering in R.E. Lessons about "The boy who cried wolf". Finally, an unexpected character makes an appearance in a rather undeserved act of kindness leading us into a great discussion on whether we should only be kind to people who are kind to us or if we really should love our enemies too? A fantastic book with lots to talk about!

Happiness Calendar: Meaningful May

This month, we're encouraging you to try find ways to be part of something bigger. You can find this month's happiness calendar [here](#).

Attendance – This week

School target 97%	97% - 100%	90% -97%	Below 90%
Hedgehog Class	73%	7%	20%
Squirrel Class	93%	0%	7%
Fox Class	83%	0%	17%
Owl Class	78%	4%	18%

Housepoints

<i>House</i>	<i>This Week</i>	<i>Total</i>
Bethlehem	62	381
Eden	69	372
Galilee	68	338
Jerusalem	73	358

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Fmails and letters Sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
15-05-24	Email	All	Office	PTA – Sydenham Fayre
15-05-24	Email	Hedgehog Class	Office	Trip – The Discovery Lookout Centre
14-05-24	Email	Squirrel Class	Office	Trip – The River & Rowing Museum
14-05-24	Email	Fox Class	Office	Eco trip – Lopemead Farm
13-05-24	Email	Year 6	Office	Transition Guide

May	
Tue 21 st	Maths Day inc HSBC workshops for each class
Wed 22 nd	Stay and Play for new Reception Class
Friday 24 th	INSET day
W/C 27 th	Half Term
June	
w/c 3 rd	Owl Class Residential, Rock UK Summit Centre, Breacon Beacons Year 4 multiplication check
Wed 5 th	Squirrel Class trip to The River and Rowing Museum
Fri 7 th	Fox Class and Eco Warriors '6 Inches of Soil'. at Lopemead Farm in Long Crendon. 2:30 No Celebration Assembly
Mon 10 th	Celebration 80 th Anniversary D-Day also British Values Day (wear red, white, blue)
w/c 10 th	Phonics Screening check
Wed 12 th	Garsington opera Workshop Owl Class
Fri 14 th	2:15 extended Celebration Assembly with Residential Trip overview
W/C 17 th	Arts Enrichment Week 2:15 extended Celebration Assembly with Music presentation
Wed 19 th	Dance Festival at Lord William's
Wed 19 th	Stay and Play for new Reception Class
Wed 26 th	Eco Day – wear green, donate £1 for Eco Warrior work, no wrappings packed lunches
Thu 27 th	Hedgehog Class trip to The Discovery Lookout Centre
Thur 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 at Womslely 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

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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