



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

23rd May 2024

Message from the Head Teacher

Voluntary Aided School

We are delighted to say that following our consultation Aston Rowant CofE School will become a Voluntary Aided school on 1st June. Thank you for your support of this process. In essence you will see very little change as the school already operates as a VA school in many respects, but now as a VA school we will be aided (or supported) by the Local Authority, where as a Voluntary Controlled school we were controlled by the LA.



As previously outlined the changes mean:

- ❖ Admissions: The governing body is the admitting body not the LA.
- ❖ Staffing: The governing body employs the staff rather than the LA
- ❖ Governors: Foundation Governors are the majority on the board, where as a VC they were the minority
- ❖ RE programme: The governing body and the headteacher decide on the contents of the RE syllabus. We may adopt any syllabus or produce our own. Previously we had to use the LA Agreed Syllabus
- ❖ Repairs and capital development: For larger schemes we will have access to specific VA capital budgets allocated by the Diocese. If a grant is awarded it covers 90% of gross costs.

A big thank to our Wellbeing Governor, Mr Tom Sowerby, for his hard work in overseeing this transition.

Statutory Inspections for Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS)



All Church of England schools (VA and VC) have an additional inspection to Ofsted, SIAMS, which evaluates the extent to which church schools are distinctively and recognisably Christian institutions. The primary objective of a SIAMS is to evaluate both the effectiveness and distinctiveness of a school as a church school. The SIAMS inspection focuses on the impact of the Church school's Christian vision on pupils and adults. This involves looking at the school's Christian vision, the provision the school makes because of this vision and how effective this provision is in enabling all pupils to flourish.

Vision and Values

The SIAMS inspection framework changed in September 2023 placing a greater emphasis on every (VA and VC) church school's theologically rooted Christian vision and its impact on pupils and adults. This prompted us as children, staff and governors to look at our mission and vision. Last week's newsletter gave an overview of how well our vision of 'Growing Together' is bedded into our culture which was remarked on by Ofsted, 'It may be a small school, but everyone here has big ideas. The school's strapline of 'growing together' encourages pupils to do this.' We strive to grow to be the best we can be in all aspects of life and we aim for excellence across the curriculum and within the life of our school community rooted in our Christian values as a church school.



This vision is rooted in a passage from Colossians 2:1-7 which talks about having fullness of life. We gave this passage to the children on our RE day and they looked at how each of our GROWTH values was interwoven through the verses – do see the display of their ideas in the hall. The children have also written how they can apply each of the values on the coloured leaves.

Our final piece of work was to ensure that our vision and mission clearly articulated who we are as a school. We have tweaked the wording but kept the culture and ethos celebrated by Ofsted in our last inspection.



Vision: To be a community of courageous life-long learners, who are rooted in God, live out our Christian values and enjoy life in all its fullness. (Colossians 2:1-7)

Mission: Growing together, rooted in God and inspiring one another through our values and our broad enriched curriculum.

Strapline: Growing together, rooted in God, having fullness of life (Colossians 2:1-7)

Kind regards
Mrs France

GRATITUDE

RESILIENCE

OUTREACH

WONDER

TRUST

HARMONY

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Teaching and Learning in the Classrooms this week:



Hedgehog Class

We have had a fabulous last week of term in Hedgehog class - beginning with some brilliant maths enrichment opportunities and a visit from HBSC. We then participated in some big writes. This is a period of extended writing to build the children's stamina to write longer texts in year 1 and to enable them to 'go deeper' with their creative ideas. They started with the stimulus of different jungle texts and looked at some Y1 writing. They then came up with a plan for their own stories. We were very proud of both the resilience the children showed us as well as the way they linked what they knew from other texts. We said goodbye to Ollie as he returned to the Rainforest thanking him for teaching us so much, from mapwork and geographical features to habitats and communities. It has been a fantastic topic and the children have been really engaged. We can't quite believe we are nearing our last term in Hedgehog already! We hope you have a restful half term and enjoy some sunshine!



Squirrel Class

A busy last week in Squirrel with lots of fun and learning. We started off the week by continuing our Wind in the Willow writing. We have created some brilliant diary entries and I've been very proud of the children attempting to use all the features of a diary in their work. In maths we continue to work on fractions for Y2 and we have learned about a quarter and a third this week. We have also looked at finding fractions of quantities and amounts. Y1 have finished off their learning on multiplication and division by making equal groups through sharing and grouping. This is good preparation for the children when moving onto fractions after the half term break. The children also enjoyed a special maths day on Tuesday with the team from HSBC and discussed the importance of money management and saving money long-term for a special purchase. Lastly, in art this week we looked at the artist Eric Carle and studied his many drawings from his famous picture books. We heard how he took inspiration from walks in the countryside with his father as a young boy and loved to sketch the minibeasts he encountered. The children then had a go at sketching a wildflower meadow scene. I hope you have a wonderful half term and look forward to seeing you all for the start of Summer 2 term!



Fox Class

A shorter week but not short on learning! In Maths, Year 3 finished their Money topic understanding the concept of change – something not seen much in day-to-day life now due to smart phones and cards! In Year 4 we continued on our decimal journey comparing and ordering decimals. On Tuesday, we thoroughly enjoyed the Maths Day where we had the chance to organise some fun fayre maths games for Squirrel class. Fox Class showed themselves to be responsible and encouraging to the younger years as well as demonstrating super arithmetic skills! We also got a chance to hone our TTRS skills! In English, children write their own 'Escape to Pompeii' stories being mindful to include speech. It was a joy to read their efforts as it was a super showcase of what they have learnt this half term. In our History, we enjoyed learning about Boudicca and her efforts to stop the Romans; we discussed if she was a hero or villain. Thank you also to the PTA who funded our Roman topic box. We spent an enjoyable afternoon looking and handling the artefacts then sketching and writing about them. We finished our concertina books in Art where we developed our skills as an illustrator working on both pictures and font. Finally, we spent the afternoon programming the Micro:Bits – we had the opportunity to try to make it a step counter as well as becoming a light/temperature sensor. I think a well-deserved week off is needed! Have a lovely week and I look forward to another busy half term of learning to come!



Owl Class

Somehow it's the end of term already! Now that SATs are out of the way for our Y6 Owls, we've been casting our eyes on our English writing, completing some fabulous Big Writes, including a discussion piece: 'Should Shakespeare be taught in primary school?' The children had to first examine the arguments from both sides; this was trickier than expected, as everyone has loved our Shakespeare unit! Once we mapped out arguments for and against, we set about constructing our balanced argument, listing the points from both sides, saving our own opinion for the very last conclusion. It's been really exciting to watch the children argue that the love theme in A Midsummer Night's Dream is not too complicated for children to understand, or that the murderous themes in Macbeth are suitable for a younger audience. In Science, we completed our heart rate and exercises investigations, whilst in Art we created beautiful nature themed posters to sit alongside the poetry we have crafted in our Forest Friday sessions recently. In Maths, we had a TTRS challenge session, attended the Maths Fayre and created maths-themed games for the Hedgehog Class. After busy week like this, I think they all deserve a little break. See you next half-term, stay safe and have fun!

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Maths Day 2024

This week we had the pleasure of welcoming Jane and Hillary from the HSBC Education Team. They delivered workshops to each class, looking at a range of key topics from our money system and saving money, to budgeting for food shopping and family days out at sporting events.

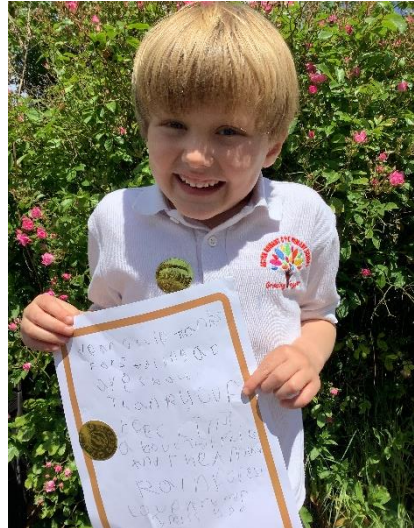
The highlight of the day was our 'Fun at the Fair' sessions. Both Fox and Squirrel class organised their own fairground stalls, which all included some element of maths. They ran their stalls for Hedgehog and Squirrel class who had an amazing time! The stalls included: Hook-a-duck, Crazy Golf, Hoopla and even a 'Shooting Stars' stall, where the children earned point for shooting stars with Nerf Guns. It was such a joy to see the classes mixing and as always to witness our values in action, particularly the nurturing side of our KS2 children as they worked alongside the younger children. They really were amazing.

On top of this, we also ran a TTRS/Numbots Challenge throughout the day. The winners for the most correct answers are:

Year 1 – Harry
 Year 2 – Matilda
 Year 3 – Esme
 Year 4 – Max
 Year 5 – Laila-Beth
 Year 6 – Harry



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 focused on forgiveness and how it is a key component in living harmoniously. Christians believe that when they say sorry to God for the wrong things that they have done He forgives them completely and gives them a new start, a completely clean slate. We had an acronym for forgiveness: to help us learn how to forgive and live in harmony. 'Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must forgive others.' Colossians 3:13

- Forgetting the hurts
- Offering a new beginning
- Restoring a friendship
- Giving and receiving
- Identifying responsibility
- Valuing the truth
- Ending an argument
- Not holding a grudge
- Encouraging honesty
- Saying sorry
- Starting again.

Climate Warriors Challenge

Our half-term challenge is about wildflowers. Young Climate Warriors are encouraged to identify some of their local wildflowers, and plant a 'wildflower meadow in a pot'. Wildflowers that have grown and evolved here in the UK for hundreds of years are struggling to adapt quickly enough to the impacts of climate change. Our beautiful wildflowers have evolved alongside our native wildlife and are a particularly attractive food source for our native pollinators.

You may find the following links helpful:

[Summer flower 'Spotter sheet' - Wildlife Watch](#)

[Native Flower Identification tool](#)

[Naturalist App - National Geographic Society](#)

[How to grow a wildflower meadow in a pot or container - The Bumblebee Trust.](#)

Book Review by Squirrel Class *The Invisible Dog* by Dick King-Smith



We have just finished reading this story as our whole class text and the children have enjoyed it immensely. It tells the tale of a little girl called Janie who is so desperate for a dog that she thinks up an imaginary Great Dane called Henry! Janie carries around a leash and collar and fully believes that Henry is her pet, much to the annoyance of her parents. But can she convince her parents to let her get a real dog? A great read for early readers and dog lovers everywhere.

Happiness Calendar: Meaningful May

This month, we're encouraging you 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	93%	0%	7%
Squirrel Class	93%	0%	7%
Fox Class	96%	0%	4%
Owl Class	85%	0%	15%

Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	41	422
Eden	51	423
Galilee	47	385
Jerusalem	49	407

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Emails and Letters Sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
23.05.24	Email	Owl	Office	Residential pick up location
23.05.24	Email	All	Office	Wrap around care
23.05.24	Email	All	Office	Lunch orders
22.05.24	Email	Owl	Mrs France	Urgent – medical forms for residential

May	
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 and cake raffle
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
Thurs 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 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)
Fri 12 th	Road Safety with DHL Fox and Owl Classes
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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