



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 April 2024

Message from the Head Teacher



Welcome Back to the final term of 2023-24 - I can't believe how quickly the year has gone. This is often the busiest term of the year – with class trips, sports day, as well as the statutory assessments points, we say goodbye to Year 6 and hopefully all enjoy some days outside without rain! For those glorious summer days ahead (she says with optimism!) don't forget to send the children in with sun hats and water bottles and apply sun cream each day before sending them in. Please note children should not bring sun cream into school with them but be fully covered with a suitable SPF before coming to school.

Statutory Assessments

Most of our different year groups will have some sort of statutory assessment during this summer term - these are assessments that all children across the country will be doing. These are nothing that the children should be concerned about and we endeavour to make it as normal as possible. The outcomes of these are reported in your child's end of term report at the end of term.



In the week commencing 13th May, Year 6 will sit their SATs in Reading, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation and Mathematics. After half term, all children in Year 4 will take the multiplication screening check which is an assessment of how well the children know their times tables. In Year 2, the SATs are now no longer compulsory, however, we will use them to benchmark the children in English and Maths and any children who did not pass their phonics check last year will re-sit it this year. In June, all children in Year 1 will take the Phonics Screening Check, which is an assessment of how well they have acquired and can use phonics. Finally, at the end of EYFS all the children are assessed against 17 judgments related to the Reception Early Learning Goals.

Path to Paris

We're supporting



To celebrate the Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2024, we are embarking on a virtual journey with Path to Paris, the official youth engagement programme from Team GB and Paralympics GB. Path to Paris is all about becoming more active coupled with team spirit. We will work together in our different class teams and the children and adults will all get active! This might be at school during the daily mile, in PE and at break times, or at home, maybe dancing in the kitchen, video workouts in the lounge, walking the dog, cycling to school or playing tag - it all counts towards the class journey to Paris! We will log

everyone's activity and every minute logged will automatically be converted into virtual kilometres powering the classes around the world. We look forward to letting you know how we get on and which team makes it first!

Ox Trail

I am delighted to say that Oxton Rowant our ox is complete. It looks fabulous and I want to extend my gratitude to Mrs Olsen for overseeing the project and for taking him home over the Easter break to varnish him. It was a joy that when the children gathered around the finished ox they could all identify which section they had painted.



I am thrilled to say that we greatly exceeded our fundraising target – by a massive 780%. If we receive our match funding, we will be donating £3,000.00 as a school. This is an incredible achievement. Thank you to everyone who has generously supported this project.

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:



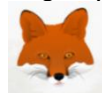
Hedgehog Class

What a wonderful start to our penultimate term in EYFS. We have got stuck straight into our new topic on the Amazon Rainforest as part of our whole school theme. This week we had a delivery of bananas only to find an Orangutan had eaten them all and was still in the box! We found out that his name is Ollie and he lives in the Amazon Rainforest. We looked it up on a map so that we can post him back but while he is here we have decided to learn more about his home. Using photos and videos we discovered other animals that live in the rainforest and that there are different layers. In Maths we have been naming and identifying 3D shapes and talking about their properties. We went on a shape hunt to see them in the environment and tried rolling them to see which shape rolled the furthest and why. In literacy we are becoming familiar with the story 'Monkey Puzzle' using the repetitive text and rhyme to make informed predictions. In our play we have been super busy making our own living rainforest. What a fun week!



Squirrel Class

And just like that we are back with a bang to begin the summer term! It was lovely to see all the children again after the Easter break, and we have enjoyed getting back into a routine this week. We have read our new text which is called Meerkat Mail and the children have enjoyed learning about meerkats, jackals and mongooses. We have started our story maps in preparation for further creative writing activities next week. In our geography lesson we focussed on desert habitats, learning where in the world you are most likely to find deserts and why. But did you know there is such a thing as a cold desert, and that both the Arctic and Antarctic continents have cold deserts? Fascinating! In science this term we are looking at Living Things and their Habitats, so of course we took the opportunity to look at animals and plants from deserts! We had a fabulous time learning how living things have adapted to survive in some of the harshest conditions on the planet. This also neatly linked in with our art topic this term, which is all about creating a collage of flora and fauna using different materials. The class completed some sketchbook work drawing leaves with shading techniques taught by the wonderful Miss Williams. All in all, a fantastic first week!



Fox Class

Fox Class have come back to school with energy and enthusiasm ready to embrace our new topics this half term. In our English, we are using *Escape from Pompeii* as our leading text, and we have spent this week refining our expanded noun phrases and prepositional phrases in order to create a setting description. In addition, in response to our persuasive writing last half term we also received a letter from 10 Downing Street thanking us for our letters and concern about deforestation. The class were thrilled to receive this, and it has helped enforce the need and purpose to communicate effectively. In our Maths, Year 4 are working with a range of fractions, improper and mixed numbers and adding and subtracting them whilst Year 3 are comparing Kilograms and grammes and have demonstrated a good understanding of both. The Romans are our History topic this half term and we kicked the lesson off recapping chronology using BC and AD and learning about early Rome and Romulus and Remus. We started having fun with the Micro:Bits too so we shall start programming them next week. In our Science lesson we carried out an investigation in tooth decay. We put hard boiled eggs into different liquids (the shell of an egg is like the enamel on our teeth) and we are observing what effect each of the liquids have on the eggshell. Even after just one day the effect is astonishing! In French we learnt the name of our capital cities and countries of the UK in French whilst in Music we listened and shared our thoughts about the song 'Blackbird' by The Beatles. The majority of the class really liked it as it was calming, and they enjoyed the melody. In our Art this half term we will be looking at illustrators and we spent our first lesson appreciating the work of two illustrators. We have also enjoyed tracking our exercise on Path to Paris. If you want to add more from home you can just go to the website and our school number is 1028. Choose Fox Class to record your activity. We're nearly at Berlin already!



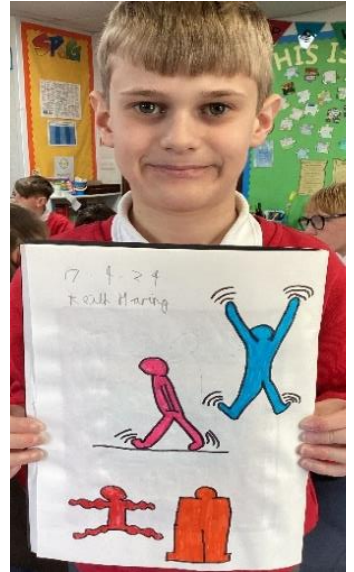
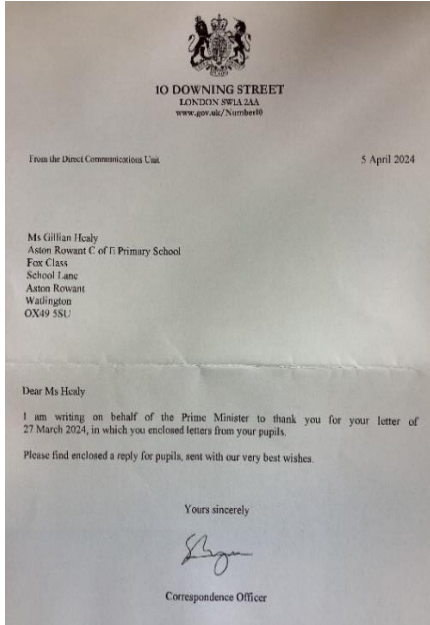
Owl Class

It's been wonderful to have a re-energised and energetic Owl Class back this week! The enthusiasm that they have shown for our new topics is fantastic; in English, in preparation for our KS2 co-production in the summer, the children are spending the week getting to know the complex cast of Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', mapping out the ties that bind the cast of characters together, as well as understanding just which sort of audience the bard hoped to appeal to in this comedy of errors! The children have loved the various mishaps and mischief that the fairies have cast on the Athenians so far, and I look forward to their writing on the topic as the term progresses. In ICT, to coincide with the school's new 3D printer, we have been using Tinkercad software to begin to render out our own three-dimensional cartoon character. We may be able to start printing some of our idea and making them a reality! In Art, the children have learnt about the incredible visual style of New York graffiti artist and activist Keith Haring, and began to create their own preliminary design for the class mural. They really enjoyed the freedom of expression and pattern building, using bright, solid primary colours and bold black lines to show movement and joy. Science found us examining the mammalian heart, learning about the four chambers of the organ, and the roles of arteries and veins in the circulatory system. They were not squeamish in the slightest! We are also competing with Fox Class in the Pathway to Paris challenge, so if you are able to, please log into the site using our school code of 1028, select Olympic Owl Class team, and record your Owl's activities so we can reach the centre of Paris first.

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

This week we looked at the words of 'Harmony' that were written by the apostle Paul over 200 years ago. Paul wanted to teach people that the best way to live in friendship is to encourage one another rather than being critical and negative. Building, perseverance and commitment take time but destroying or tearing time takes no time at all!

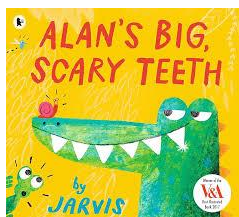
'Encourage one another and build each other up.' 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Climate Warriors Challenge

Wednesday 24th April is 'Stop Food Waste Day'. Did you know that a third of all food produced globally is lost or wasted every year, and 40% of UK food waste currently finds its way into landfill sites – where it's broken down by bacteria, producing methane – a potent greenhouse gas? UK households throw away 6.4m tonnes of EDIBLE food each year – that's equivalent to cramming over 100 Albert Hall's full of food waste! And that doesn't include the INEDIBLE waste.

Young Climate Warriors are becoming detectives this week, and joining with many others around the world on [STOP FOOD WASTE DAY](#). Take the opportunity this week to ascertain which foods are being 'binned' and unnecessarily wasted ... and trying out some new recipes – saving money and helping our planet.

Book Review by Hedgehog Class



This story is about Alan, a scary crocodile with big shiny teeth. The other animals are frightened because Alan scares them all. He scares the frogs off the lily pads and makes the parrots screech. But Barry the Beaver finds a way to make Alan less mean.

"This book made me laugh!" – Micaela

"It's a very funny book and fun to read." - Airlie

Happiness Calendar: Active April

This month, we're encouraging you to try something new! 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	86%	7%	7%
Fox Class	91%	0%	9%
Owl Class	93%	0%	7%

Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	105	105
Eden	83	83
Galilee	101	101
Jerusalem	89	89

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Fmails and letters Sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
17-04-24	Email	All	Office	JR Survey
17-04-24	Email	Fox	Office	Fox trip reminder
16-04-24	Email	Fox	Office	Swimming reminder

April

Tue 23 rd	Year 3/4 Swimming starts
Fri 26 th	Emergency Services visit
Fri 26th	Owl Class residential meeting 3:15pm
Mon 29 th	Fox Class trip to Verulamium in St Albans

May

Wed 1 st	Full Governing Body (FGB) meeting
Mon 6 th	Bank Holiday
w/c 13 th	SATS Mon- SPaG Tue – Reading Wed Maths papers 1&2 Thu - Maths paper
Mon 13 th	Vision screening for Reception
Tue 21 st	Maths Day inc HSBC workshops for each 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.
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
Wed 19 th	Dance Festival at Lord William's
Thur 27 th	RE Inspired Owl

July

Thurs 4 th	Garsington opera performance at Womslely Owl Class
Mon 8 th	KS2 play dress rehearsal
Tues 9 th / Wed 10 th	KS2 play outdoor performance (weather depending)
Mon 15 th	Reports out
w/c 15 th	PE Enrichment Week inc sport's day Wed 17 th

Academic Year Calendar 2023-24/2024-25

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)
Monday 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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