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**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**



**12<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

### *From the Headteacher:*

It was fabulous to gather together in church at the start of the year to welcome all of new starters, both in Hedgehog and across the school, to our Aston Rowant family. Thank you to our friends and parents who also joined us, it was lovely to have a full church.

### *SIAMS*

On Monday we will be welcoming two Inspectors for our SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools). This is a mandatory inspection for all Church of England and Methodist schools in England, required under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005. Our last SIAMS inspection was June 2019. The inspection evaluates how effectively the school's distinctively Christian vision, rooted in its theological foundations, enables pupils and adults to flourish. SIAMS inspections contribute to the improvement of church schools and help ensure they remain recognisably Christian institutions. We look forward to sharing with them who we are as a whole school community and all of the exciting work that we have been doing inside and outside of school.

### *House Teams*

Our House Team system facilitates the opportunity for vertical learning when children across all the year groups come together for special events or activities, it can also foster friendly competitive spirit along the way through various inter house competitions or the gaining of house points.

We are excited to confirm that Chloe and Douglas (**Bethlehem**), Max K and Oliver (**Jerusalem**), Florence and Henry (**Galilee**) and James and Aava (**Eden**) will be our House Captains this year.

Housepoints are totalled each week by the House Captains and announced in the Celebration Assemblies. At the end of each half term the winning house collectively chooses their reward. Individual housepoints are also totalled. When individuals reach 25 housepoints they stand for a round of applause in the Celebration Assembly, for 50 housepoints they receive a sticker, for 75 housepoints they receive a certificate and for 100 housepoints a special gold badge that can be worn as part of their uniform for their whole time with us at school. Housepoints are reset for individuals at the end of each term.

### *Roles and Responsibilities*

We are delighted to announce that Aurora is our School Council leader this year working with Tabitha (Owl), Phoebe and Matilda (Fox) and Amelia and Lexie (Squirrel). Brodie will be Eco Warrior Leader working with Esme (Owl) Hendrix and Annie (Fox) and Billie, Ophelia and William (Squirrel). Our Year 5 children will rotate as Playground Leaders. The Year 6 children rotate as our Worship Leaders for our joint Collective Worship sessions and other years lead their class worship sessions.

### *Parent Reps*

We are looking for volunteers to be parental representatives for each class again this year. The main aim of the parental meetings is to use the voice of our parents to help us achieve the best possible outcomes for our children. It is an opportunity for the Headteacher to share information about the school development priorities and for the parent representatives to share feedback from their class. Information shared is always thematic rather than an opportunity for individual circumstances to be discussed.

### *Jeans for Genes*

Jeans for Genes is a national fund-raising event which supports the Children's Medical Research Institute and helps find cures for children's genetic diseases. Next Friday the children can wear jeans for the day but with their school polo shirts and jumpers. The children are encouraged to make a donation on the day which goes directly to the Children's Medical Research Institute.

### *Food Bank*

We were delighted last year that Squirrel's Courageous Advocacy project was to support the local food bank, Sharing Life. The box is back outside the main office door for any donations of long-life food products or toiletry items. Mrs Biggin will be re-drafting a rota for people to help drop off the items at a central collection point.

### *And finally...Parking*

From time to time, we receive complaints from the school's neighbours regarding inconsiderate parking by parents including parking in the turning circle outside school and parking across private driveways. For this reason, we restrict the parking in Plowden Drive. This area is for a rolling drop off only, allowing parents to park briefly for children to safely enter or exit the vehicles, but not to park for longer than this. If you need to knock on the office door or wish to stand at the gate then we ask that you park in the village. There should be NO parking in the turning circle. We would also like to highlight that the speed limit for the whole village is 20 mph. Hopefully everyone has now settled into the swing of the new school year and can work with us to ensure positive relationships with the wider school community. Thank you for your help in this matter.

### *Kind regards*

*Mrs France*

**GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY**

*Growing together, rooted in God, enjoying fullness of life. (Colossians 2:1-7)*

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



### *Hedgehog Class*

Hedgehog Class have made an absolutely brilliant start to their school life. They have settled so well and the EYFS team are all really impressed with them. We have been getting to grips with lots of aspects of starting 'big school' this week. We played real life 'Guess Who?' to learn each other's names. We met Howard the Hedgehog who has been helping us to learn how to be good friends. The children came up with some brilliant rules to help us to be good friends and have an amazing year of learning ahead. We have practiced our listening skills through lots of games including some really fun parachute games and repetitive stories such as "The little Red Hen", "The three little pigs" and "The gingerbread man". In our 'exploring' time we have begun to explore all the resources that help us with our learning. We love the new garden and have spent lots of time this week digging, cooking in the mud kitchen and picking runner beans in the growing garden. We practiced our dexterity by making peg beanstalks and squirry bottle duck races. What a lot of learning in such a short space of time. We are all really looking forward to next week already!



### *Squirrel Class*

Our first full week as Squirrel Class and we have hit the ground running with our learning! We have started to read our leading text 'Dogger' by Shirley Hughes and the class began the week by bringing in their own favourite cuddly toys to school. We used these as a prompt to write sentences about our teddies and why we love them. We explored feelings and emotions around Dave losing his Dogger and expanded our vocabulary board (the word sad was banned!). In Maths this week the Y1 children have been consolidating their counting skills, using natural resources to count accurately to ten and practise forming their numbers correctly. The Y2 children have been looking at 2-digit numbers and identifying how many tens and ones are in a number, using dienes blocks to support understanding. We started our Art lessons this week and looked at how different artists explore their environments to scavenge for material to inspire their art. We learned about an artist called Nicole White who enjoys mudlarking on the banks of the River Thames and then creates beautiful fish sculptures with what she finds. It was lovely to meet some parents this week at our Meet the Teacher afternoon and all the documents shared are now on the class page on our school website. Have a great weekend!



### *Fox Class*

Fox Class have made an amazing start in growing their learning this week! Thank you to those who came to the Meet the Teacher meeting; the presentation is now on our website for those unable to come. In Maths, both year groups are working on place value either within hundreds or thousands. We've also focussed on number formation ensuring that they are formed correctly, neat and not reversed. In our English, we have started to work on our text with children wondering what the story will be about using our inference skills, visualizing the scene using our imagination and artistic skills then becoming the main character with a hot seat activity which aided their writing showing understanding of the old man's emotions. Thank you for the jam jars! Children transformed them into dream jars demonstrating what the old man may have dreamt of. In our Geography, children learnt about what settlements were and the different types. We recapped the names and capital cities of the countries that make up the UK too using atlases. In our Science, we learnt about what a light source is and what it isn't with lots of lively discussion about the moon and mirrors! In our Art lesson, we looked at two very different artists, Laura McKendry and Edgar Degas. In our sketchbooks we wrote our thoughts about some of Degas's work before attempting to draw dogs like Laura! We will continue our journey in charcoal next week. In Computing we looked at the advantages and disadvantages of using text or images as a form of communication. Mr and Mrs Turton came in as part of their weekly visit to teach chess enabling the class to grow their skills and playing each other over the year. What a week!



### *Owl Class*

What a brilliant start to our new school year: the class have gelled right away and are working really well together and with our new class routines. It was also lovely to meet many of you face to face on Monday at Meet the Teacher presentation, and to be able to tell you about just some of the plans that we have in store for the children this term. We have made a fantastic start in our topics: in English, the children have been using their inference and deduction skills to wonder about the protagonist of Viking Boy, and have written predictions and character descriptions of the three Norns (Norse witches) who introduce our tale, focusing on figurative language to really create a visual image in the readers head. In Maths, we recapped and consolidated our understanding of place value, using physical and abstract resources to get to grips of this vital, bedrock skill for the learning ahead. Science found the children exploring links between our hearts and our health, whilst History has us reenacting a Viking raid on Lindisfarne Abbey to aid our creative writing!

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# Photo Diary of the Week



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## Whole School Topic - Autumn Term: What Makes Me Me?

### Values: Wonder

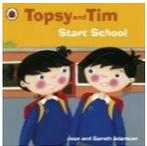
This week in Collective Worship we have been reflecting on the new school year and encouraging one another to feel positive about change and new beginnings. We looked at the Parable of the Soil where Jesus tells us that we are like soil! He gives us a mini gardening lesson, reminding us simply that plants need the right kind of soil in which to grow. This reminds us of our mission statement: 'Growing together, rooted in God enjoying fullness of life.' As a school community we are called to grow, but we need the right conditions to allow ourselves, and each other, to grow properly. Our teachers are like the sower in the story...throughout the year they will try to plant seeds which in time will grow. The wider school community and friends and family will also do the same. Our challenge is to provide the right soil for those seeds to grow, so that we can reach our full potential and be the people God created us to be. As the new school year gets under way, let's take a look at ourselves and see what kind of soil we are, and what kind of soil we want to be...

*'But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears God's word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.'* Matthew 13:23

### Climate Warriors Challenge

We don't all have 'beautiful' solar panels, but we're kicking off the Autumn term on a positive note thinking about monitoring our household electricity consumption and how we can all take simple actions to reduce it. Over 50% of our UK electricity, in 2024, was generated from renewable sources of energy. Maybe focusing on the positive and beautiful will elicit more attention, gain more traction, and help spur us on to take care of our planet, more than ... heatwaves, droughts and floods ... that's where you all as climate warriors come in! Can you (with your parents and carers) find your special electricity meter key or hunt down your smart meter? Read your meter each day at the same time and work out how much electricity your household uses each day in September. Does it vary day to day? Or at certain times? Why? Can you think of ways to reduce it?

### Book Review 'Topsy and Tim Start School' recommended by Leo, Reception



This week, Leo brought in *Topsy and Tim Start School* to share with the rest of Hedgehog Class. He said, "It's just like us! We are starting school too."

We enjoyed reading this book and comparing Topsy and Tim's first day to ours. They met friends they already knew and made some new ones. They had to find their pegs in the class and navigate the playground, just like us!

### Happiness Calander: Self Care September

Self-care isn't selfish. It's essential. It is an investment in you. You can find this month's happiness calendar [here](#).

### Attendance - This week

| School target 97% | 97% - 100% | 90% -97% | Below 90% |
|-------------------|------------|----------|-----------|
| Hedgehog Class    | 88%        | 6%       | 6%        |
| Squirrel Class    | 89%        | 7%       | 4%        |
| Fox Class         | 93%        | 0%       | 7%        |
| Owl Class         | 80%        | 0%       | 5%        |

### Housepoints

| House     | This Week | Total |
|-----------|-----------|-------|
| Bethlehem | 30        | 30    |
| Eden      | 41        | 41    |
| Galilee   | 37        | 37    |
| Jerusalem | 34        | 34    |

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### *Fmails and letters Sent this Week*

| Date     | Email/Letter | For      | From       | Concerning                             |
|----------|--------------|----------|------------|--|
| 12/09/25 | Email        | All      | Office     | PTA Cake Raffle                        |
| 12/09/25 | Email        | Year 6   | Office     | Open Events at Lord Williams's School  |
| 12/09/25 | Email        | Year 3   | Mrs Healy  | Doodle accounts                        |
| 12/09/25 | Email        | Owl      | Mr Manning | Proposed school trips                  |
| 09/09/25 | Email        | Squirrel | Mrs Biggin | History lesson – printed photo request |
| 09/09/25 | Letter       | All      | Office     | SIAMS Inspection                       |

| September  |   |
|--|---|
| Monday 15 <sup>th</sup>                                | SIAMS Inspection  |
| Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup>                              | Rock Steady Music group   |
| Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup>                              | Open Evening at Icknield Community College for Year 7 intake 2026 – no booking required   |
| <b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup></b>                          | <b>PTA Meeting 09:00 School Hall</b>  |
| Friday 19 <sup>th</sup>                                | Jeans for Genes Day (wear your jeans with school sweatshirts and make a donation to this charity by either bringing in a £1 or paying online via our <a href="#">Just Giving Page</a> ).<br><b>2:30pm First celebration worship in school for parents</b> |
| Friday 26 <sup>th</sup>                                | 2:30pm Harvest in school celebration worship (donations for local food bank)  |
| <b>Monday 29<sup>th</sup></b>                          | <b>Individual, sibling and class school photos Please contact the office for sibling photos</b>   |
| Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup>                               | Open Morning #1 for Reception 2026 (originally 1 <sup>st</sup> Oct)   |
| October  |   |
| Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup>                                | Open Evening at LWS for Year 7 intake 2026 – letter sent with booking details today   |
| Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup>                               | Open Morning at LWS for Year 7 intake 2026  |
| Monday 20 <sup>th</sup>                                | Open Morning #2 for Reception 2026  |
| Friday 24 <sup>th</sup>                                | Be Bright Be Seen Day (wear bright clothes for Road Safety Day)   |
| November   |   |
| Friday 7 <sup>th</sup>                                 | Open Morning #3 for Reception 2026  |
| w/c 10 <sup>th</sup> November                          | Anti-Bullying Week Power for Good   |
| Mon 10 <sup>th</sup> and Tue 11 <sup>th</sup>          | Parents' Evenings (Mon O, F, S) (Tues O, F, S, H)   |
| Friday 14 <sup>th</sup>                                | Children in Need (wear spots and dots and make a donation to this charity)  |
| Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup>                             | Full Governing Body Meeting   |
| December   |   |
| Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> Dec                           | Fox – Pre-Historic Workshop with British Museum   |
| Tue 9 <sup>th</sup> 14:00 & Wed 10 <sup>th</sup> 17:30 | EYFS Nativity in school hall  |
| <b>Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup></b>                       | <b>09:30 Panto in school – donations welcome and supported by PTA</b>   |
| Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup>                             | 18:00 Christingle in church   |
| Friday 19 <sup>th</sup>                                | Christmas Party School ends 13:30   |

### *Academic Year Calendar 2025-26*

| Autumn 25   |  |
|---|--|
| Mon 1 <sup>st</sup> Sept – Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> Oct   | Autumn Term (1) INSET 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sept |
| Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 31 <sup>st</sup> Oct       | HALF TERM  |
| Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup> Nov – Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec    | Autumn Term (2)  |
| Spring 26   |  |
| Mon 5 <sup>th</sup> Jan – Fri 13 <sup>h</sup> Feb     | Spring Term (1) INSET Mon 5 <sup>th</sup> Jan                  |
| Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> Feb       | HALF TERM  |
| Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb – Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> Mar   | Spring Term (2)  |
| Summer 26   |  |
| Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> April – Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> May | Summer Term (1) INSET Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> May                 |
| Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> May – Fri 29 <sup>th</sup> May   | HALF TERM  |
| Mon 1 <sup>st</sup> June – Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> July  | Summer Term (2) INSET Mon 20 <sup>th</sup> July                |

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