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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



19th September 2025

From the Headteacher:

SIAMS

On Monday we had our Statutory Inspection for Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS), which looks at how the school is living up to its foundation as a church school. Our inspection went really well. Thank you to our whole school community: children, staff, parents and governors who all contributed to the inspection and shared what it is to be part of the Aston Rowant family. We look forward to receiving our report in a couple of weeks' time and sharing it with you.

Rock Steady

On Thursday, Aston Rowant was buzzing with energy as we welcomed a very special visit from Rock Steady Music School – a national organisation bringing the thrill of rock music to schools across the UK! Children were treated to an electrifying live concert showcasing all the key instruments of a rock band – drums, electric guitar, keyboard, and vocals. The atmosphere was electric as pupils clapped, danced, and even had the chance to join in the performance themselves! The joy and excitement were contagious, and it was truly inspiring to see so many budding musicians light up with passion. Following this incredible morning we are pleased to announce that Rock Steady will be running weekly music lessons at Aston Rowant! These fun, high-energy group sessions are open to children of all ages and abilities. They'll get to form their own bands, develop their musical skills, and build confidence, teamwork, and creativity along the way. Best of all, each term will finish with a **live concert** for parents and the school to celebrate their progress and talent! Learning music doesn't just sound good – it's proven to boost brain development, improve focus, build social skills, and enhance overall well-being. **Don't miss out!** Spaces are limited and filling up fast. Sign up now using the link in the letter sent home this week. Give your child the chance to shine like a rock star!

Jeans for Genes

Today we supported Jeans for Genes - a national fund-raising event which supports the Children's Medical Research Institute and helps find cures for children's genetic diseases. Thank you to everyone for coming in their jeans. It was a visible reminder that although we all belong to one school family, and have many similarities, we are also created to be unique and special, and for some children that means that they face genetic diseases. We raised £94.80 which goes directly to the Children's Medical Research Institute.

Harvest

Our Harvest this year will be on Friday 26th September. We will have a special celebration assembly that day which as always is open to parents, carers and siblings. We also invite the children to bring in donations for our local food bank, Sharing Life. They are requesting: cereal, soup, pasta, rice, tinned tomatoes, pasta sauce, lentils, beans and pulses, tinned meat, tinned vegetables, tea or coffee, tinned fruit, biscuits, UHT milk, and fruit juice. Thank you in advance for supporting this very worthwhile cause.

Open Days

We will be hosting three 'open days' for Early Years for those families looking for a place for September 2026. These will be on Tuesday 30th September 9:30-10:30, Monday 20th October 14:00-15:00 and Friday 7th November 9:30- 10:30. If you know anyone who might be interested then please do let them know. They can book in via email to the school office.

School Photographer

Please note that the school photographer will be in on Monday 29th September to take class, individual and sibling photographs. Please note that due to the poor uptake of the service this is the photographer's **only** visit to school this year. There will **not** be another class photo in the summer, or individual Year 6 photos. If you do want a child who is not currently in school to have a picture with their sibling then please do let the school office know. Siblings who are currently in school will automatically be taken together. Please do make the most of these fabulous images – remember the school receives a donation for every item ordered.

Chatbots and Children

It is no secret that children and young people are spending more time online. With social media platforms baying for their attention this trend isn't going anywhere. But something getting less media attention are chatbots. Whether it's researching homework with ChatGPT or making friends with a fictional persona on Character.ai, they are increasingly becoming a part of children's lives. If used in moderation they are generally considered a help rather than a hinderance. But there are some concerns that they could be replacing human connection or spreading false information. The Children's Society has recently published an article both the benefits and the dangers of chatbots for children, and what parents should keep in mind. You can find it here: <https://www.childrensociety.org.uk/what-we-do/blogs/chatbots-and-children>

Kind regards

Mrs France

GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY

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Teaching and Learning in the Classrooms this week:



Hedgehog Class

Wow – what a fun-packed week we've had in our class! There's been excitement, laughter, learning, and lots of muddy hands (just the way we like it!). We met Simon our new PE coach and had an absolute blast learning new team games. We worked together, cheered each other on, and showed some brilliant teamwork – it was fantastic to see everyone getting stuck in and having fun. Midweek brought a real treat – we were lucky enough to listen to a live rock concert! The music was loud, exciting, and had us all clapping along. It was such a fun way to experience music and rhythm in action! Even more exciting was the grand opening of our brand new garden area! We explored all the new spaces, from balancing on tyres to digging in the mud and even making our own dens. There were lots of imaginative ideas and plenty of teamwork as we created cozy hideaways and muddy masterpieces. In class, we made a great start in phonics, beginning to learn our very first phonemes. We practiced our reading and writing skills with lots of enthusiasm, and it was lovely to see everyone so proud of their progress. What a week – full of learning, exploring, and most importantly, lots of fun! We can't wait to see what next week brings!



Squirrel Class

We have been very busy this week in Squirrel Class and really got stuck into our learning. In English the children have been writing sentences using feeling words. The class brainstormed different words for happy and sad (banned words!) and then used these in sentences as part of our writing in role. The class did brilliantly, and I was blown away by their amazing ideas. In Maths the Y1 pupils have been learning to count from a larger group and count on from any number. They have completed lots of hands-on learning in the outdoors, using conkers and leaves to support understanding. The Y2 children have been practising using a place value chart to show tens and ones and partitioning numbers to 100. Next week we look at 'unbundling' tens to flexibly partition numbers (e.g. if children know that 27 is made up of 2 bundles of 10 straws and 7 more straws, then by physically unbundling 1 group of 10 straws they see that 27 could also be made up of 1 bundle of 10 straws and 17 more straws). In R.E. we looked at the holy trinity and looked at how our values are linked to the trinity. Our History lesson was also super fun as we got to look at photos of ourselves (and each other!) as babies and then place these along a timeline to aid understanding in chronology. Lastly, in Art this week we went on a nature hunt to find three objects that inspire us and then used our HB pencils to draw these in our sketch books, with a focus on showing light and dark. Well done Squirrels!



Fox Class

We have had a brilliant week in Fox Class this week. I have been blown away by their creativity in our English lessons. We have been focussing on using our adjectives, verbs and adverbs effectively. They have written setting descriptions and also contrast poems where children had one verse focused on a colourful dream whilst the second verse was based on what the main characters life was really like. In our Maths, we have been digging deep into understanding the value of each digit in either 3- or 4- digit numbers and stressing the importance of the zero placeholder. In our Geography, we enjoyed pouring over OS maps for our local area identifying residential, commercial and recreational areas. In Science, we learnt about reflection and that materials and properties best reflect. We used different materials to look at our own reflection to see what effect they had on us. In Art, we worked on our charcoal skills trying out a variety of different techniques to achieve a range of results. I was particularly impressed in their tidying upskills too! That's just the tip of the iceberg with what we have covered this week but I feel they all deserve a weekend off!



Owl Class

What a busy week in Owl Class! We dived into our English topic, exploring our wonderful source text of Viking Boy and its incredible range of descriptive language – we began thinking; what could we magpie? What made the descriptions so effective? Using the Norse two-word poem style of Kennings, we used metaphor to describe the main characters (Skuli, the villain was Lie Teller, for example). We then created black out poems by deleting all the extra text from copies of the chapter, leaving only the descriptive language: the results were then transcribed to create amazing poetry, which also acted as a fantastic word bank of descriptive language for next week's coming Big Write. In Science, we took health surveys of the class and split the lifestyle habits into 'Good Habits' and 'Bad Habits' (Owl Class being Owl Class, the habits were overwhelmingly good!), before exploring the workings and the functions of the circulatory system in humans and animals. Maths saw Owl class recapping their place value skills, using a range of concrete and abstract methods to maintain place value as we multiply by powers of ten, and partition numbers up to ten million using part-part-whole models and bar models to represent their findings. In History, the children examined a range of different sources about the Vikings, and tried to establish how reliable these sources were: who wrote them? Would they have bias for or against the Vikings? This is such an important concept for children to think about, and not just in terms of History. I'm very happy to announce that our Viking Trip will be going ahead next week on Wednesday 24th, so please do ensure that the children's permission slips are returned to the school office by Monday. Well done Owl Class, enjoy your weekend!

GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY

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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 built on our learning last week when we looked at the Parable of the Soil where Jesus tells us that we are like soil! This week we looked at the Apostle Paul's gardening metaphor! He talks about how Paul planted the 'seed' which is when he taught the people of Corinth the message of the forgiveness of sin through faith in Christ. Paul describes Apollos as watering this seed which means that he provided additional teaching, to help the seed take root and grow in the hearts of the Corinthians. But Paul says that God is the one who caused the seed to grow. We know from last week we are the soil. This week we thought about: What has God planted in us? How might God help us to grow? What will it look like? What will help us grow? What will stop us growing? We have planted our own acorns in Forest Friday to help us reflect on these questions.

'I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow.' 1 Corinthians 3:6

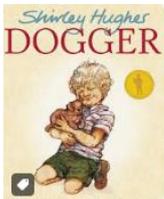
Climate Warriors Challenge

It's a week of conversations and campaigning. There are the world leaders in New York for the UN General Assembly and a week of lobbying - organised by The Climate Coalition. In the UK there is a nationwide push to meet your MP, and call for the leadership we need in response to our climate crisis [#ActNowChangeForever](#). It is also [Global Goals Week](#) - to increase action, awareness and accountability for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This week's challenge is to learn about our Global Goals – to think about children around the world - and how we can help achieve Goal 13 'Climate Action' by cutting our water use. I wonder what you can think of to do...

Did you know that you have a super power?! Check out this excellent 6 minute animated movie to discover more: [Global Goals: World's Largest Lesson - Everyone's got a super power](#) or [BBC Bitesize link](#) - for more detail on each of the SDGs.

Book Review Dogger by Shirley Hughes by Squirrel Class



This heart-warming picture book is a deserving winner of the CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal for illustration. The charming artwork beautifully captures a bygone era, while masterfully portraying childhood emotions and behaviours which are just as relevant today as when it was originally published in 1977. Exploring concepts of love, loss and kindness, this classic tale will be cherished by the entire family and will particularly appeal to any child who has a favourite toy.

Happiness Calendar: 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	100%	0%	0%
Squirrel Class	93%	0%	7%
Fox Class	90%	7%	3%
Owl Class	84%	4%	12%

Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	38	68
Eden	23	64
Galilee	25	62
Jerusalem	38	72

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Emails and letters sent this week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
19.09.25	Letter	Hedgehog	Office	School health nursing support
19.09.25	Email	All	Mrs Hall	Rock Steady sign up
19.09.25	Letter	Owl	Mrs France	Residential 2026
18.09.25	Letter	Owl	Mr Manning	Owl trip to Ufton Court
17.09.25	Letter	All	PTA	PTA: Movement for Good Awards
16.09.25	Email	Fox	Mrs Healy	Fox homework

September

Wednesday 24 th	Owl Trip Ufton Court
Friday 26 th	2:30pm Harvest in school celebration worship (donations for local food bank)
Friday 26th	PTA: Cookie sale after school for £1 an item
Monday 29 th	Individual, sibling and class school photos Please contact the office for sibling photos
Tuesday 30 th	Open Morning #1 for Reception 2026 (originally 1 st Oct)

October

Friday 3rd	PTA: Christmas card artwork due home for parents to order
Tuesday 7 th	Open Evening at LWS for Year 7 intake 2026 – letter sent with booking details
Thursday 9 th	Open Morning at LWS for Year 7 intake 2026
Monday 20 th	Open Morning #2 for Reception 2026
Wednesday 22 nd	Flu immunisations
Friday 24 th	Be Bright Be Seen Day (wear bright clothes for Road Safety Day)

November

Friday 7 th	Open Morning #3 for Reception 2026
w/c 10 th November	Anti-Bullying Week Power for Good
Mon 10 th and Tue 11 th	Parents' Evenings (Mon O, F, S) (Tue O, F, S, H)
Friday 14 th	Children in Need (wear spots and dots and make a donation to this charity)
Friday 14 th	Annual Health and Safety Inspection
Wednesday 26 th	Full Governing Body Meeting

December

Friday 5 th Dec	Fox: Pre-Historic Workshop with British Museum
Friday 5th Dec	PTA: Wreath making workshop
Tue 9 th 14:00 & Wed 10 th 17:30	EYFS Nativity in school hall
Wednesday 17 th	09:30 Panto in school – donations welcome and supported by PTA
Wednesday 17 th	18:00 Christingle in church
Friday 19 th	Christmas Party - am School ends 13:30
Friday 19th	PTA: Film/craft afternoon 13:30 – 15:15

Academic Year Calendar 2025-26

Autumn 25

Mon 1 st Sept – Fri 24 th Oct	Autumn Term (1) INSET 1 st and 2 nd Sept
Mon 27 th – Fri 31 st Oct	HALF TERM
Mon 3 rd Nov – Fri 19 th Dec	Autumn Term (2)

Spring 26

Mon 5 th Jan – Fri 13 th Feb	Spring Term (1) INSET Mon 5 th Jan
Mon 16 th – Fri 20 th Feb	HALF TERM
Mon 23 rd Feb – Fri 27 th Mar	Spring Term (2)

Summer 26

Mon 13 th April – Fri 22 nd May	Summer Term (1) INSET Fri 22 nd May
Mon 25 th May – Fri 29 th May	HALF TERM
Mon 1 st June – Fri 17 th July	Summer Term (2) INSET Mon 20 th July

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