



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



2nd May 2025

Message from the Head Teacher

Green Tree School

I am delighted to say that Mrs Biggin and the Eco-Team have received the Bronze Award for the Woodland Trust's Green Tree Schools Award. They did this by designing 'tree champions' for our school trees and identifying ways in which our environment and trees need support. Our next target is to achieve the Silver by the end of the summer term, with a view to Gold in the near future. A huge well done to the whole team.

Key Areas of Information about Aston Rowant School: What is SIAMS?

SIAMS stands for the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools, and it's a specific type of inspection for Church of England and Methodist schools in England. It's a requirement under the Education Act 2005 and focuses on how the school's Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership, impacts pupils and adults.

- **What SIAMS does:**
SIAMS inspections assess how a school's Christian vision is implemented and its impact on the school community. This includes evaluating the school's curriculum, collective worship, and overall school culture to see how they reflect the school's Christian values.
- **Why we have SIAMS:**
SIAMS inspections help to ensure that Church schools are meeting the specific requirements of our denominational foundations, as outlined in the Education Act 2005. It also helps to promote best practices and ensure that all Church schools are effectively using their Christian vision to support the development and well-being of pupils and staff.
- **Key aspects of SIAMS:**
SIAMS inspections focus on the effectiveness of the school's Christian vision in enabling pupils and adults to flourish, how the curriculum reflects that vision, the impact of collective worship, and the creation of a culture that values and respects all individuals.
- **Inspection process:**
SIAMS inspections are conducted by independent inspectors who are not connected to the school. The inspectors gather evidence through observations, interviews, and document review to form judgements on the school's Christian vision and the impact it has.
- **Our SIAMS journey:**
The school was last inspected in June 2019, prior to the current leadership and teaching team starting. The Requires Improvement rating indicated that there was much work to do. With a new team in place we have worked tirelessly to transform the school and look forward to welcoming the inspectors back in the next academic year 2025-26 to witness and celebrate the school as it is now.
- **Our SIAMS standing:**
On Thursday this week we invited Mr Toby Long, Deputy Director of Education for Oxford Diocese and SIAMS Inspector, and Mrs Katie Dickens our Diocesan Link Advisor, to complete a SIAMS review. It was a really positive time and has confirmed that we are in an outstanding place both in terms of our day-to-day provision but also in our practice and paperwork ready for when we are inspected. Specific comments included:
 - An exceptionally well embedded vision with values that are known and understood and lived out
 - A culture of trust, teamwork and tenacity is driven from the top
 - Collective Worship is strong and engaging and genuinely inspiring. Best Class Worship ever seen.
 - RE is second to none and worthy of sharing with other schools far and wide

Our next step is to think about how we show and record wonder and spirituality across the curriculum – something that we are already looking at!

It was a joy to share with our visitors how exceptional our school is and for them to recognise our outstanding practice! A big thank you to the staff team and our wonderful children for doing what they do best.

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

We have enjoyed a really peaceful week in Hedgehog Class this week. We have been looking at the value of Harmony and talked about friendship being a very important part of this. We discovered that it is easier to love others and be a good friend when we ourselves are feeling calm and peaceful. We used the stillness bottle and our five-finger breathing to practice stillness. The children got very good at recognising when they felt the need to be calm. By being still, we were able to see the problem more clearly and act as Jesus did with kindness in our hearts. We are very proud of the children. In science we explored light and reflection by making light catchers. The children had a great sense of awe and wonder as we made pretty patterns in the sunshine. We looked at the festival of Diwali and how light is the inspiration in the story, so we made Diwa lamps out of clay practicing our fine motor control and our patience and resilience!



Squirrel Class

What a scorcher of a week we have had! But as always, we have continued to work hard, progress and grow. Squirrel Class are lucky enough to have welcomed back Miss Smith for her final teacher training placement. She loved our class so much that she's returned to work with us for summer term! This week the children have been working super hard on their writing, and our new story of 'The Tunnel' has really captured their imaginations. Next week they will be using all that they have learned to write a prequel story for one of the main characters. In maths we have moved on to measuring mass, with the class exploring the concept of heavier, lighter and balanced. We have used balance scales, analogue and digital scales to compare mass. Next week we will move onto exploring volume and capacity. In science this week the class learned about the seven life processes and then worked in groups to create a drama and presentation about one of these. It was fantastic to see their creativeness and teamwork during this activity! We have also been learning the special VE Day song as part of our music lessons, and the children are very excited to sing this next week during our school celebrations.

Fox Class



It's been a pleasure to welcome back Miss Wyness to our class this week. She will be with us until mid-July when she completes her teacher training. We've been busy delving deeper into Street Child using drama to help support our diary writing which has proved to be exceptional. The whole class are beginning to appreciate just how tough Victorian life was for the poor. Two children even got Head Teacher awards for their work! In Maths, the Orange Group have been calculating non-unit and unit fractions of amounts and they have appreciated just how useful their times table knowledge is for this. In the Green Group, we have focussed on calculating make a whole using tenths and hundredths and flexibly portioning them. In Science this week, we learn the functions of the structures of a plant and our investigation is based on what effect water has on a plant. We have 3 plants to observe and each receives either no or a set amount of water daily that was decided by the class. In History, children learnt about life as an apprentice during Tudor times; when asked what they would do some chose to be a blacksmith as they were strong, one chose to be an apothecary so they could make their family better and one chose to be a gong farmer as they had a poor sense of smell. I will leave you to find out what a gong farmer is... In our Art, we took time appreciating the skill required by birds to build nests. They need to be extremely resilient! We used long strokes to build up our sketches aiming to achieve a concave shape before using wax crayon and watercolours for effect.



Owl Class

Despite the heat, Owl Class have been super productive and busy as ever: In Science, the children -led by Mis White, our visiting student- explored the concept of air resistance as part of our topic of unbalanced forces; to understand how surface area can affect drag force, the children used balloon to time how long the tiny parachutists were airborne depending on the size/surface area of their balloon: could they find any correlation? Could they define and summarise their answer into an effective conclusion? In English, the children wrote as Lady Macbeth, using all her persuasive skills to convince Macbeth to bring his ambition to an entirely different kind of conclusion. The children had to flatter, reason, provide opinions and present as facts, and ensure they used a range of effective persuasive openers to ensure their letter was an engaging, fluid read. In History, the children explored the idea of whether King Henry VIII was a fair ruler, or a tyrant. They examined a range of historical sources, including Hans Holbein's famous portrait of the King, to understand what sort of message the king might be trying to send out to the public; does this mean that we can trust this painting to be entirely factual? Or did Henry VIII agree to a little 'air-brushing'? In Maths, the Year Fives have continued to explore the use of substitution of letters for values in algebra, and the year Sixes have begun a programme of revision for the up-coming SAT's, which will start on Monday 12th May. In Art, the children used their collage typeface from last week as the basis of a typeface inspired by their own interests, with the goal of combining this typeface with a 3D map all about their chosen subject.

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Photo Diary of the Week



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Whole School Topic - Autumn Term: Signs & Symbols

Values: Harmony

This week we have reflected on the fact that one way to show someone that they are a valued friend is to be a friend. Christians believe that Jesus is our closest friend, even closer than a brother or sister, and he gives us an example of how to be a good friend to others. In the Bible there is a book of wise sayings called the book of Proverbs. We looked at Proverbs 18:25 which says:

'There is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.'

Climate Warriors' Challenge

We're taking action on PAPER this week.... junk mail, receipts, wrapping paper ... using both sides, 'off white', scrap paper, saving envelopes, toilet paper tubes. Are paper and cardboard an over-used, under-valued commodity that with our fast pace of life we just take for granted? Our children are challenged this week to REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE and RETHINK.

REDUCE - Help banish the junk mail and avoid the packaging.

REUSE - Be creative with the scrap paper, used envelopes and old magazines.

RECYCLE - Rescue the toilet roll tubes and make sure they're recycled.

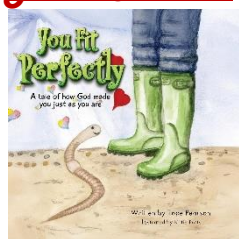
RETHINK - Talk to your parent/carer/teacher about switching to recycled paper.

Links:

[A novel way of recycling: sucking ink off paper.](#)

[How is paper made?](#)

Book Review **You Fit Perfectly by Tope Pearson, Illustrated by Katie Potts**



We were delighted to be gifted a copy of this beautiful book by the Godfrey family who are friends with the illustrator Katie Potts. 'You Fit Perfectly' is a thought-provoking and beautifully-illustrated picture book, that teaches children the importance of not comparing themselves to others and appreciating what they have and who God created them to be. When Sam the earthworm sees his friend transform into a beautiful butterfly, he feels very inferior and wants to become like her. He tries so hard but without success until, one day, he learns something amazing: he fits perfectly in the grand plan of God's wonderful creation, just the way he is.

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	92%	0%	8%
Squirrel Class	97%	0%	3%
Fox Class	89%	4%	7%
Owl Class	92%	0%	8%

Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	36	62
Eden	43	62
Galilee	46	63
Jerusalem	38	66

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March | 2024 - 2025Green Tree School
Bronze Award

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Emails and letters sent this week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
02.05.25	Email	Hedgehog	Mrs Hall	Wheels day reward
02.05.25	Email	All	Office	VE Day song link
29.04.25	Letter	All	Office	PTA cake raffle reminder
28.04.25	Email	KS2	Office	Dynamo's cricket at ARCC
28.04.25	Letter	Fox	Mrs Healy	Victorian Day
28.04.25	Letter	All	Mrs Biggin	VE Day celebrations

May	
Wed 7 th	VE Day celebration – am lessons, games pm street party, parents and carers welcome Wear red, white and blue
w/c 12 th	SATs Mon- SPaG Tue – Reading Wed – Maths 1 & 2 Thur Maths 3
Wed 14 th	Smartphone Free Childhood parent meeting with Paul Swan 19:00-20:00
Sat 17 th	Family sponsored walk for school library
Mon 19 th – Fri 23 rd	Walk to School Week
Wed 21 st	Fox Victorian Day
Fri 23 rd	INSET day
June	
Wed 4 th	Stay and Play #1 for EYFS Sept 25
Mon 9 th – Fri 13 th	Year 1 Phonics Screening Check
Wed 11 th	PC Ben visit KSI
Thu 12 th	Year 4/5/6 cricket at Thame Cricket Club
Mon 16 th – Fri 20 th	Arts Week
Wed 18 th	Dance Festival @ Lord William's Dance Studio
Wed 18 th /25 th / 2 nd	Icknield Buddy System
Wed 25 th	Opera First workshop in school for Owl Class Stay and Play #2 for EYFS Sept 25
Fri 27 th	Bee Keeper visit and workshop Fox Class
July	
Tue 1 st / Wed 2 nd	KS2 Open Air Performance
Fri 4 th	Lord William's taster day
Tue 8 th	Opera First performance @ Garsington Opera for Owl Class
Tue 8 th / Wed 9 th	Icknield Transfer Day
Wed 9 th	School move up day, Stay and Play #3
w/c 14 th July	Sports Enrichment Week inc Sports Day Wed 16 th

Academic Year Calendar

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)
Autumn 25	
Mon 1 st Sept – Thurs 23 rd Oct	Autumn Term (1) (INSET 1 st and 2 nd)
Mon 27 th – Fri 31 st Oct	HALF TERM
Mon 3 rd Nov – Fri 19 th Dec	Autumn Term (2)
Spring 26	
Tue 6 th Jan – Fri 13 ^h Feb	Spring Term (1)
Mon 16 th – Fri 20 th Feb	HALF TERM
Mon 23 rd Feb – Fri 27 th Mar	Spring Term (2)

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