



**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



**4<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

## *Message from the Head Teacher*

### *Parent Survey*



Please find here the QR code for this year's parent survey. This is your chance to provide feedback about your child's school experience, the school's environment, and the quality of education we provide. We have also been speaking to the children and staff about their views on the same areas. We then use this information to understand different people's perceptions and thoughts and to identify areas for improvement, which in turn informs our school development plan. So please do take this opportunity to have your say – both positive and areas for improvement. Both really matter to us.

### *Key Areas of Information about Aston Rowant School: School Development Plan*

The parental survey is just one piece of evidence that the Governors and I will utilise as we write the School Development Plan for next year. Our School Development Plan (SDP) is a strategic document that outlines our priorities, improvement goals, and actions for the year ahead. It acts as a roadmap for the school's development, focusing on our vision and how it will be achieved – in particular using the key questions 'How do we GROW the children?' and 'How do we GROW the school?'. This enables us to focus on improvement, to identify specific areas where the school needs to improve and set targets for these areas. It also ensures that key stakeholders (teachers, staff, governors) are aware of the school's goals and their roles in achieving them and provides a framework for monitoring and evaluating our progress. Finally, the SDP helps in prioritising how we use our resources (financial, human, etc.) to support these improvement initiatives.

In essence, a School Development Plan is a dynamic document that guides our growth towards continuous improvement and ensures the best possible learning experience for all of our children. We put an overview of the SDP on the website each year but we are more than happy to chat through it with you. Please just ask if you want any more information.

### *End of Term*

As well as making our long-term plans, we have a number of exciting short-term plans for the final few weeks of term. Next week is Owl Class Residential at Home Week. I know there are many fun activities planned including a trip to the opera. As a heads up too, for our current Year 4 and 5 children - we will be in Wales enjoying our Residential Week at Rock UK this week next year!

The following week is our Sports Enrichment Week. The whole school will be enjoying: circus skills on Monday, Zorb balls and Sumo wrestling on Tuesday, Sports Day on Wednesday, a Colour Run (yes really!) on Thursday and Dance on Friday. Don't forget we also have our Art Exhibition on Sports Day to showcase the incredible artwork created in Art Enrichment Week.

It is our End of Year (Leavers') Service on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 9:15am in church – everyone is warmly invited. The term officially ends at 13:30 that day but the wonderful PTA are running a fun Games Afternoon for the children.

### *Wind in the Willows*

I love the book *The Wind in the Willows*. Not only does it have an enchanting narrative and vivid descriptions of the beauty of nature, it also explores the timeless themes of friendship, loyalty and adventure. The book features a wonderful cast of characters, each with unique personalities and quirks, including the adventurous Mole, the river-loving Ratty, the proud Toad, and the wise Badger who each challenge, encourage and support each other through many an adventure.

What a privilege and joy it was this week to be transported to the riverbank and watch the KS2 production of *The Wind in the Willows*. I am enormously proud of each and everyone for the part they played, front stage and back stage, to bring this wonderful story to life. A huge thank you goes to Mrs Healy and the KS2 team for their vision, determination and hard work in staging this production. Thank you to the children for the wonder, trust, harmony and resilience that they clearly demonstrated not only this week but each and every day from the auditions right up to the phenomenal final performances.

I want to end with a verse from the finale, *Friends Together*, which encapsulates what productions like these, and all that we try to achieve through our vision and enrichment activities for the children who attend Aston Rowant School.

*This is the life, the way it's meant to be,  
 Taking our time and making memories.  
 Travelling together and talking over tea,  
 These are the happiest days of our lives.*

*The happiest days, the happiest days of our lives.*

*Kind regards  
 Mrs France*

**GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY**

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



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



### *Hedgehog Class*

What a lovely week we've had in Hedgehog. On Wednesday we did some fantastic observational drawing of shells, looking closely at the different types and textures. We then decided to explore coral reefs. We looked at what kind of life enjoys a warmer climate and finished our underwater worlds with some beautiful swimming fish! We learnt how coral reefs habitats are becoming endangered by plastic pollution. We used our courageous advocacy skills and decided to make posters and adverts to stop people dumping waste in the ocean. In phonics we have been practicing reading and writing with our consonant cluster blends like fl, bl and br. In maths we identified doubles and near doubles using dice formations.



### *Squirrel Class*

How resilient the children have been this week! The scorching temperatures haven't beaten us yet, and the class still managed to learn and succeed in many ways. We have continued with our STEM inventions in English lessons, with the class creating a set of instructions on how to use their creation using bossy verbs. The Y2 children have also been identifying and using co-ordinating conjunctions in sentences. In Maths learning we have moved onto time this week, learning about telling the time to the nearest hour and half hour on analogue clocks. We also discussed some time facts, such as how many minutes in an hour and how many hours in a day. Our topic this week saw us designing our ideal balanced and nutritious sandwich for our cooking and nutrition unit. Watch this space for a letter next week explaining this activity in more detail! Lastly, in History we learned about another famous female aviator - the pioneering Amy Johnson. We learned about her life and achievements, understanding how she was a significant individual from beyond living memory. Enjoy the weekend Squirrels!



### *Fox Class*

I must first start by saying how proud I am of both Fox and Owl classes this week. They were so committed to learning their lines and songs and they all gave 100% in their performances this week even though they had to contend with extreme heat! It was a pleasure to be around such dedicated children who oozed enthusiasm! Even though the Wind in the Willows did tend to take quite a lot of our time this week along with end of term assessments, we still managed to squeeze in more learning! In Geography we learnt about what an amazing leader Sir Ernest Shackleton was and plotted his route from the UK to Antarctica using 4-digit map references. In Science we looked at the human impact on a range of habitats and the class had a choice as to how they would present what that had learnt. Some chose to make a quiz, some a poster and some used trioramas to display their learning. An afternoon of great teamwork – Shackleton would have been proud! In Computing, we learnt about branching databases (linked to classification keys in Science), before making our own based on a list of animals and finding key closed questions of Yes/No to isolate them from the list. Children then had the opportunity to make their own; countries, cars and pathogens were the choice of some! In DT, we learnt about eating seasonally before completing a season wheel finding out what fruit and vegetables are grown in which season. We also researched seasonal desserts! In French, we wrote sentences ensuring the adjective followed the noun. A very busy and long week so enjoy a restful weekend!



### *Owl Class*

This week, Owl Class have been busy putting on the show of a lifetime alongside Fox Class, as they performed a brilliant performance of The Wind in The Willows. I also feel compelled to say just how much I enjoyed the play, and was blown away by the concentration, dedication and resilience shown by the children. Aside from acting Owl Class did squeeze some learning into the week: in English, Owl Class created short concise sentences using a range of adverbials of time and place to describe Leonards arrival in the UK and Year 5 expanded on this further in a creative writing exercise in which they were challenged to detail their journey across a part of the school field; the only issues was they had been miniaturised, and had to use their adverbials of time and place, combined with expanded noun phrases and figurative language to tell their tale. In Science, we looked at the gestation cycles of humans and animals, creating scatter graphs to compare the length of gestation time and the average mass of the animal: could the children interpret any patterns from the scatter graph data? Quickly we spotted a link between the size of the animal and gestation time - the bigger the animal, the longer it spends in the womb. We even found out that the African Elephant foetus spends 22 months in the womb! In Maths, Year 5 began to look at the four quadrants (linking nicely to our Science) and plotting grid references using both positive and negative X and Y axis, and then tested their understanding of the four quadrants with a complex game of battleships, which got quite competitive (Mr Manning lost a ship almost immediately). Year 6 completed an investigation into repeating spiral patterns, and linked them to an algorithm to draw the pattern out in their book: this did lead to us creating an algorithm dance to help us visualise building up a pattern out of repeated sets. In Forest Friday, we blended in some artwork and crafted realistic portraits of snails found in the school gardens, and created our own list poems about the little creatures and the way they move, using a wonderful range of adjectives and imagery. Quite a week! Well done Owl Class, enjoy your weekend.



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*Photo Diary of the Week*



**GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY**

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



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***Wind in the Willows***



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## School Topic - Autumn Term: Signs & Symbols

### Values: Resilience

When Paul was a prisoner in Rome, he sent a letter to his friends saying, 'I can do all things through Him who strengthens me,' Philippians 4:13. We thought about how God strengthened Paul. We thought about our life and our time at school as a journey. Sometimes the route can be easy, the weather is fine and sunny, there are lovely views and we reach our destination no trouble at all. At times the route can be difficult, the weather might be stormy, we can't see very far and we need courage and resilience to reach our destination. But like Paul we know that we are not alone and we can put our faith in God to strengthen us for whatever lies ahead.

### Climate Warriors' Challenge

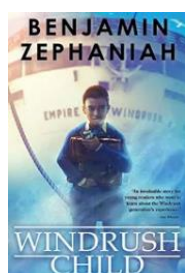
July is 'plastic free' month. Plastic Free July is a global movement encouraging people to reduce single-use plastic consumption throughout the month of July and beyond. It's a campaign designed to raise awareness about plastic pollution and empower individuals to make sustainable choices. The initiative aims to inspire millions of people to refuse single-use plastics and find reusable alternatives. So, can you remember re-usable carrier bags? Fill reusable water bottles? Say 'no' to straws and also drink cartons?

Links of potential interest:

[Tackling beach plastics - Beach Guardians](#)

[Plastic Free July](#)

### Book Review **Windrush Child** by Benjamin Zephaniah reviewed by Laila-Beth and Soraya, Year 6.



We wanted to review Windrush Child as we have been learning about it this term. As Leonard journeys his way to England from Jamaica, he wonders what life in the 'Mum Country' will be like. Hoping to find his father there, he has to deal with leaving his grandma back home in Maroon Town. He dreams about talking about Dad and Granddad with Grannie under the veranda of her old, crooked house and the taste of Jamaican food. He leaves home to fly the kite of his dreams in an English sky, but he finds hard times and unfriendliness instead. It's quite a sad story, but it really made us think about life in England years ago if you weren't the same as everybody else. We give it four stars out of five!

### Happiness Calendar: Jump Back Up July

Let's find ways to bounce back. 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%        | 3%       | 0%        |
| Fox Class         | 93%        | 0%       | 7%        |
| Owl Class         | 76%        | 10%      | 14%       |

### Housepoints

| House     | This Week | Total |
|-----------|-----------|-------|
| Bethlehem | 53        | 162   |
| Eden      | 57        | 168   |
| Galilee   | 46        | 168   |
| Jerusalem | 50        | 151   |



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### *Fmails and letters Sent this Week*

| Date     | Email/Letter | For  | From       | Concerning               |
|----------|--------------|------|------------|--------------------------|
| 04.07.25 | Letter       | All  | PTA        | PTA Summer events 2025   |
| 04.07.25 | Email        | All  | Mrs Healy  | PE Enrichment Week       |
| 04.07.25 | Email        | All  | Mrs France | Celebration Assembly     |
| 02.07.25 | Email        | Owls | Office     | Garsington trip reminder |

| July                                      |  |
|---|--|
| Tue 8 <sup>th</sup>                       | Opera First performance @ Garsington Opera for Owl Class<br>Fox Class – last swimming session  |
| Tue 8 <sup>th</sup> / Wed 9 <sup>th</sup> | Icknield Transfer Day  |
| Wed 9 <sup>th</sup>                       | School move up day, Stay and Play #3 13:00-15:00 with presentation for parents at 14:00 and uniform sale                                   |
| w/c 14 <sup>th</sup> July                 | PE Enrichment Week including:<br>Wed 16 <sup>th</sup> Sports Day with PTA BBQ 12:00-13:00 – all welcome<br>Thu 17 <sup>th</sup> Colour Run |
| Wed 16 <sup>th</sup>                      | Art Exhibition of children's work from Art Enrichment Week (on sport's day)  |
| Tues 22 <sup>nd</sup>                     | Leavers Service 9:15 @ church<br>13:30 End of term<br>13:30 – 15:15 PTA Games Afternoon<br>15:15 – 15:45 PTA Summer Raffle                 |

### *Academic Year Calendar*

| Summer 25   |  |
|---|--|
| Tue 22 <sup>nd</sup> April – Thu 22 <sup>nd</sup> May | Summer Term (1)  |
| Mon 26 <sup>th</sup> May – Fri 30 <sup>th</sup> May   | HALF TERM  |
| Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup> June – Tue 22 <sup>nd</sup> July  | Summer Term (2)  |
| Autumn 25   |  |
| Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sept – Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> Oct   | Autumn Term (1) (INSET 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> ) |
| 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   |  |
| Tue 6 <sup>th</sup> Jan – Fri 13 <sup>h</sup> Feb     | Spring Term (1) (INSET Mon 5 <sup>th</sup> )                 |
| 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 – Thu 21 <sup>st</sup> May | Summer Term (1) (INSET Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> )                |
| 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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