



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



11th July 2025

Message from the Head Teacher

Sports Enrichment Week

We are looking forward to our Sports Enrichment week next week. Please make sure children wear their PE kit to school each day, have a water bottle and a sun hat. Please also apply sun cream before school each day. Our sports day is on Wednesday 16th July. The children will compete in their house teams with a carousel of activities in the morning and races in the afternoon. Families are very welcome to join us for the PTA BBQ from 12 noon and stay for the afternoon races. It is helpful if children can wear a t-shirt in the colour of their house on this day.

Staffing for Next Year

Everyone, children and staff alike, had a wonderful 'move up' day on Wednesday. We were also joined by our new starters in Reception who seem to have already started finding their feet. I am pleased to confirm the staffing structure for next year:

Hedgehog: Mrs Olsen (Mon- Wed) Mrs Hall (Wed – Fri) with Mrs Surman

Squirrel – Mrs Biggin (Mon – Thur) Mrs France (Friday) with Mrs Ansell (Mon- Wed) Mrs Marriot (Thur) Miss Williams (Fri)

Fox – Mrs Healy (Mon- Fri) with Mrs France (Thur pm) and Mrs Pilley (Mon- Fri) and Mrs Marriot (Mon and Tues)

Owl – Mr Manning (Mon- Fri) with Mrs Smith (Mon- Fri) and Miss Williams (Mon – Thur)

Sadly, Mrs Boddy's swimming commitments mean that she will no longer be able to work with us as a TA but she will continue to take our swimming lessons and has agreed to be a supply TA. We are sad to lose her.

Key Areas of Information about Aston Rowant School: How does the school give the children a voice?

Last week I mentioned that in addition to conducting a parental survey and speaking to the staff about the strengths and weaknesses of the school we had also spoken to the children. This was not a one off – we regularly seek the 'pupil voice' – which is important to us at Aston Rowant. Pupil voice refers to the participation of children in the decision-making processes in our school. Through pupil voice we can find out more about what the children think about school and the ideas they have for improving things.

We use a variety of methods to gather our pupils' voices which include establishing school council, appointing house captains, having worship leaders, running school newspapers written by students, giving out pupil questionnaires, holding eco committees, and Governors and teachers regularly speaking to children about their lessons and learning.

There are many benefits for including pupil voice in every level of school life. Primarily, it increases pupil engagement. By putting measures into place to consider the opinions of our children we are rewarded with them becoming more involved in both their lessons and the wider school community. Children can also learn to confidently express their thoughts, opinions and ideas. They feel respected and valued, as their ideas and comments are given time and consideration. This is also part of our commitment to upholding the British Value of democracy which emphasizes the importance of participation and representation. Giving children a voice in school matters, such as through school councils or surveys, allows them to actively participate in decisions that affect them. And that is part of how our children grow and enjoy fullness of life.

By providing platforms for pupil voice, we also encourage our children to become active and responsible citizens who are aware of their rights and responsibilities and demonstrate courageous advocacy. We empower our children to become agents of change, fostering empathy, critical thinking, and active participation in addressing societal issues. It equips them with the skills to identify injustices, understand root causes, and develop creative solutions, ultimately contributing to a more just and equitable world. Their projects so far include: Sobell House, Wycombe Homeless Connection, Max's Muncher, Turn it Off, Walk to School, Sharing Life Food Bank and The Olive Tree project in Palestine.

By actively seeking and valuing the children's input, we create a more inclusive, engaging, and effective learning environment, the children know that their opinions matter and we foster a sense of community and inclusion. Which I think makes Aston Rowant School the unique and special place that it is.

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 hot week it has been but we have had a fabulous time in the great outdoors. This week some of the boys were set a challenge to save a beached whale in the water play. This is a game we play in Maths that matches number pairs to ten to ensure the pipe is long enough to reach the sea. It was a pleasure to watch as they negotiated ideas, used trial and error to move the pipes around and persevered as they spotted different problems. They let out a fantastic cheer when the whale finally reached the ocean! We then read "The snail and the whale" by Julia Donaldson which tells the story of a Whale who was beached but then got saved by the most unlikely friend. We talked about how even when we are small, we can make a BIG difference to important issues. We then read other books by Julia Donaldson set Under the sea. See our review of 'Tiddler' below. We also looked at ordering numbers using the 1 more rule. We practiced quick subitising using our rekenreks ready for mental maths work in Year 1. We really enjoyed our 'move up' day and the children are super excited about coming in at the big gate on Monday!



Squirrel Class

Another warm week but the Squirrels have continued to work hard, despite the heat. In English we read a new text by a known author (Andrea Beaty) titled Ada Twist, Scientist. The class loved the main character and her zany ways, including her investigations into what is causing THAT stink...! We then used the story as inspiration to write questions and thought bubbles in character. Our Maths lessons saw the Y1 children learn about money, identifying and sorting coins up to £2. They then added up denominations of coins in a money jar. The Y2 children learned about tally charts, collecting their own data from the class about their favourite fruit, colour and sport. In our History lesson, the culmination of our learning on the History of Flight saw us learning about the Moon Landing of 1969. The children were fascinated to watch actual footage of the moon walk and then thought of questions that they would have asked Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin upon their return to earth. Enjoy the weekend and don't forget it's sandwich making on Monday!



Fox Class

We're back in the swing of learning in Fox Class. In Maths, the Orange group have focussed on polygons and improving their ruler and pencil skills when drawing them. In addition, they have been introduced to parallel, perpendicular and faces and vertices – lots to remember! The Green group have focussed on symmetry and symmetrical shapes before moving onto statistics. In English, children have worked on their performance skills re-enacting a scene from Fox before writing some super character poems. They also rewrote a scene using a range of adverbial phrases both at the beginning (fronted) and within a sentence. They also wrote some dialogue for the characters enabling them to retrieve knowledge of inverted commas - I think the song they love may have helped some! In Geography, children learnt how to use compasses before creating their own map of the school and writing direction using the eight compass points. The intention is for another class member to use them next week! In Science, the class learnt about natural changes to habitats such as wildfires, earthquakes and floods, Children acted out how an animal, river or mountain would be affected by an earthquake. This enabled them to write in character how an animal would be affected by one of these natural disasters. It was a pleasure to meet my new Foxes on Wednesday afternoon and using 'After the fall' as a stimulus, we talked and wrote inspirational phrases that will be on display in September and hopefully inspire them to keep trying – just like Humpty! We also took our mini Humpties and made them into eggstronauts (!), working together in small teams to help them fly! It was a delight to see how well they worked together.



Owl Class

It's been all change here in Owl Class, as we embarked on our 'Off-Timetable' week for 2025 - instead of an overnight residential. This year we created all kinds of fun activities for the children to take part in 'at school' (the overnight residential returns for 2026). Firstly, the children took up the challenge of a STEM focused engineering day, creating the most efficient paper aeroplane (did they choose the Head-hunter design, or the Nakamura Lock?, or use their own design?) then scale them up to a huge A1 scale model: how did this affect the distance they could fly? Then we built lollypop catapults using rubberbands to create torque and tension, and competed how far we could fling a stone (3.2m by the way!). After that, we used bicarbonate of soda and vinegar to power our own bottle-rockets, and shared the launch with the rest of the school. Another day saw the children tasked with creating their own memory pennants: using fabric paints and cloth to make a memento that they can keep forever to remind them of their time here at Aston Rowant school: the flag designs were finished with hand-stitching them to doweling rods using a running stitch, and hand-tying house colour string to hang the flag from. These really looked quite special when completed! Tuesday afternoon saw a break from the crafting activities as the children were transported to Garsington Opera House for the amazing, adapted performance of Handel's 'Rosalinda'. This was a real treat for children and grown-ups alike. Back in the classroom, another activity was 'Found Fashion'; in response to the fact that a staggering 2.9 tonnes of clothes are wasted globally each second, the children had to create haute couture fashion, from binbags and newspaper! The children were so creative in this activity, creating stylish beachwear, glamorous party dresses, power suits and even a muscle vest! We put on a catwalk parade for Squirrel Class who were very supportive as Owl described each outfit's unique features and fashions. On Friday, despite the heat, we were visited by the fabulous Mr Wodzynski and his ferrets for a petting zoo, Q&A and much more!

GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY

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



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Photo Diary of the Week



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Whole School Topic - Autumn Term: Signs & Symbols

Values: Resilience

This week we discussed overcoming our fears. We discussed things that we might be afraid of but that we tackle anyway. We reflected on the verse; 'Perfect love casts out all fear' from 1 John 4:18. We looked at how this verse means that when we truly understand and experience God's love for us, it helps us overcome our fears. When we feel really loved by God, we don't have to be scared of things like being alone, making mistakes, or not being good enough, because God's love is bigger and stronger than those fears. And that is pretty amazing!

Climate Warriors' Challenge

The UK has an ambitious target to reduce emissions by 68% on 1990 levels by 2030, in 2024 we reached 50%. Progress to date has been primarily driven by decarbonisation of our electricity system. Future progress will require a broader range of actions – related to transport, heating, industry and nature-based solutions like tree-planting ... these are all contingent on decisions and choices made by government, businesses, communities and individuals.

This week's challenge is about making 'informed choices'. Sometimes it's more difficult to think about the environment when out in the sunshine and having fun. You are challenged this summer to move beyond the 'cheapest', 'easiest', 'peer-led' choices to making carbon-cutting choices that can help benefit our planet.

Related links:

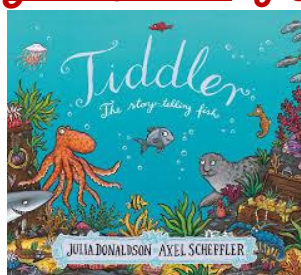
[Tackling beach plastics](#) - an inspiring video by a Beach Guardian + Odyssey Innovation

[Europe's largest Nurdle clean-up - Chessel Bay](#)

[What is a Nurdle?](#)

If you find yourself talking about Wimbledon, you might like to share this lovely story of [upcycling Wimbledon tennis balls](#) to make homes for harvest mice!

Book Review by Hedgehog Class



We have been enjoying books by Julia Donaldson in class this week. We read the story of Tiddler and his ocean antics. This is what the children said:

'Amazing' – Jemma

'Clever' – Otis

'Cool' – Rocco

'Beautiful' – Benjamin

"I like the pictures of the boats because I like boats." – Leo

"The fisherman caught Tiddler, it was funny." – Otis

"I liked when the teacher called the register because they've got funny names." – Sienna

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	84%	3%	13%
Fox Class	85%	4%	11%
Owl Class	95%	0%	5%

Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	51	213
Eden	55	223
Galilee	55	223
Jerusalem	59	210

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Emails and letters sent this week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
11.07.25	Email	Squirrel	Office	Sandwich ingredients reminder

July	
w/c 14 th July	PE Enrichment Week including: Mon 14 th Circus Skills Tue 15 th Zorb Balls and Sumo wrestling Wed 16 th Sports Day with PTA BBQ 12:00-13:00 – all welcome Thu 17 th Colour Run Fri 18 th Dance
Wed 16 th	Art Exhibition of children's work from Art Enrichment Week (on sport's day)
Fri 18 th	Freddie van Mierlo, PM, visiting Owl Class for Courageous Advocacy project
Tues 22 nd	Leavers Service 9:15 @ church 13:30 End of term 13:30 – 15:15 PTA Games Afternoon 15:15 – 15:45 PTA Summer Raffle

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	
Wed 3 rd Sept – Fri 24 th 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) (INSET Mon 5 th)
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 – Thu 21 st May	Summer Term (1) (INSET Fri 22 nd)
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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