



**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**



*16<sup>th</sup> May 2025*

## *Message from the Head Teacher*

It has been a busy week here where the children have been demonstrating their hard work, perseverance and growth mindset. The Year 6 children have had their Reading, SPaG and Maths SATs – 6 papers in all. Their work ethic has been outstanding and their test skills exemplary. Congratulations to all our Year 6 children for their hard work this week and throughout the year. We are extremely proud of them all and know that they tried their best and have shown the school value of resilience throughout. They have grown in confidence and ability which will serve them well at secondary school. A special thank you to all the staff who have helped in supporting and encouraging the children to manage and excel this week.

It is also worth noting that after the KS2 SATs the next formal Government test are GCSEs, an important factor in the grades and assessments made during the recent pandemic when exams could not be taken. The key for us is always to ensure that our children are well prepared, confident and well supported during the assessments allowing them to showcase their knowledge and understanding and utilise the resilience developed throughout the year.

After half term our Year 2 children will have their internal SATs papers and we know that they will make us equally proud. Year 4 will take their multiplication checks and the Year 1 children will have their phonics screening check. It's a busy time!

Once we have completed these we will use the rest of the academic year for a multitude of activities and lessons, allowing teachers to reassess their teaching, focus on a broader curriculum, and provide additional support for students who may have struggled with the tests. We can shift our focus to other areas of the curriculum, such as Music, DT, Art and other creative subjects. This helps ensure that our children are not only strong in core subjects like English and Maths but also well-rounded in other areas of knowledge. We are also organising enrichment activities, such as trips, performances, or special projects, to reward the children for their hard work and keep them engaged in learning. For Year 6, this time is also transitioning preparation to secondary school. It always surprises me just how busy the summer term is!

## *Key Areas of Information about Aston Rowant School: Why do we have Assessments and Testing?*

Assessments and testing in primary school serve several crucial purposes, including monitoring a child's academic progress, identifying learning gaps, and ensuring that teachers and schools are accountable for student achievement. They also provide valuable data for informing teaching practices and for measuring the effectiveness of educational programs. We know that they can be challenging for some children, and add to the pressure of teachers, but they do provide tangible benefits too.

1. **Monitoring Progress and Identifying Gaps:** Regular assessment allows teachers to track the children's growth in various subjects and areas of development, identifying where they are excelling and where they might need extra support. It also provides teachers with the information needed to adjust their teaching strategies and provide targeted interventions to address specific learning gaps.
2. **Accountability and Improvement:** Assessments help measure the effectiveness of the school and teachers in ensuring that our children are learning and growing. It also supports data-driven decision-making as the results from assessments can inform decisions about resource allocation, curriculum development, and professional development for teachers.
3. **Informing Parents and Other Stakeholders:** Finally, assessments provide parents with regular updates on their child's academic progress and areas where they may need additional support.

## *Investing in Our School*

I am delighted to say that the essential work on the roof of the main school building will start on INSET day, Friday 23rd May. We anticipate the works taking 6-10 weeks. This will not affect the children's learning but may mean that the hall is not accessible on certain days. We will internally manage the day-to-day running of the school but will notify parents and carers if it impacts wrap around care or celebration worship. We are grateful that as a VA school most of this cost is being met by the Diocese. We look forward to having a safe, watertight and insulated roof ahead of the autumn term!

Between now and September we will also have the new fence installed, the ground works completed in EYFS and a modern fire alarm system installed. It is an incredible investment in our school and its future. We know that there is still work to do and continue to look to the future and new and exciting projects to complete.

In addition, the PTA are continuing their hard work planning a new library. We continue to be indebted to Laura Purse for her oversight of the project. However, we do need the support of the whole parental body to make this happen. If you know a company or organisation that may want to donate to this amazing cause then please let us know. Also, we have moved the adult sponsored walk as we only had staff members and two members of the public sign up! The new date is Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June. Please do join us if you can or sponsor a participant if you cannot join us.

*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*

This week has seen the children taking charge, getting organised and working collaboratively to plan next week's learning exhibition. We decided as a class to film a play of "Rama and Sita". The children wrote the script themselves and began to get busy making costumes, masks and props. They've had to overcome all sorts of obstacles in the form of sewing, tying, attaching and covering but we have developed some great perseverance and independence in the process. We also decided to cook up a treat for our parents next week and have been occupied with writing recipes, tasting Indian food and preparing some lovely Indian treats for you all. We look forward to sharing them with you soon. We have been excited to finish our dance sessions and will perform a short Bollywood dance next Thursday. Have a great weekend!



### *Squirrel Class*

Squirrel class have completed some fantastic writing this week on their Anthony Browne narratives, and the class were super happy to read the ending of the story! We then used the rest of our week to complete some non-fiction writing. We planned and wrote a recount of our school VE/VJ Day 80 celebrations, using time conjunctions to organise our sentences. In maths we finished up learning on volume and capacity for the Y2 children, with a focus on word problems using the four mathematical operations. The Y1 children moved on to multiplication, with a focus on counting in 2s and 10s. In Science the class took part in a minibeast hunt within the school grounds, observing their microhabitats (leaf litter or under logs) and then classifying what they had found using a simple classification key. In Geography we looked at some of the human and physical features of China and the class picked out their favourites to share in a postcard. Lastly, in Art we used techniques of crumpling/folding/twisting/cutting to take paper that was 2D and flat and transform and manipulate it into a mini 3D sculpture!



### *Fox Class*

A full week of learning – well that's a novelty this half term! Besides being ever so considerate to Y6 and ensuring we were quiet, we have moved our Maths learning on to Money and Time. Could I please ask parents to spend some time over the following week asking children the time (they should all know o'clock, half past, quarter to and quarter past) – it can be a tricky concept, so all help is gratefully received. In our English, we focused on using prepositional phrases to describe helping paint a clearer picture when we're writing. We also used a range of conjunctions when thinking about the choices Jim (Street Child) had regarding trying to escape the workhouse. We used a conscience alley to help think about a range of reasons for and against. We also wrote a list poem demonstrating Jim's emotions. In History, we learnt about the jobs Victorian children did ranging from working in the mines to being bird scarers in fields. The class were definitely left with feeling blessed with being born now! In our Science, we studied the flower life cycle and drew a diagram explaining the different processes and examined a lily looking for the different reproduction parts. Our Art involved us making a sculpture based on a bird's nest. The class were tasked in making a nest using a range of construction materials. It sounded simple but many skills were required ranging from how to join materials, how to stabilise the shape and how to not give up! I was so proud with their resilience, sense of outreach when helping others and a general harmonious buzz in the class. Finally, we have worked hard on being courageous advocates and our hard work will come into fruition next week. Check out our class website page for the 2 adverts and video about car idling all worked on by the class. Well done Fox Class!



### *Owl Class*

This week is one of the biggest milestones in a primary school child's journey: the week of the SATs! The Year 6 children have worked exceptionally hard this week in a series of exams that challenge and draw out their learning and understanding of maths, reading and comprehension and spelling and grammar. Well done for such good effort Year 6. Outside of the exam hall, Year Five have been working with Miss White to create some disgusting (ly good) Macbeth-themed poetry; thinking about how best to include alliteration, simile and metaphor to make evocative images, and understanding that to be performed, our writing must include rhythm and possibly rhyme. In History, the children examined the lives of the wives of Henry the VIII, and looking at the expectation placed on Tudor women entering a Royal marriage: was it such a risky business? What could go wrong? What could you stand to gain? Science, on a hot Wednesday afternoon, was a refreshing challenge! Using water, clay and post-exam children, Owl Class examined how shape affects water resistance: using balls of salt dough, the children shaped and reshaped their 'missiles' into streamlined and non-streamlined shapes, and timing the time it took the missiles to sink to the bottom of our 2litre water bottle. Which was the most efficient shape? And more importantly, why? The children used their data gathered in this experiment to form their own conclusions to their learning questions. Our Art lesson found us beginning to map out the landscape or area special to us: a map of our family garden, the treasure map from our favourite pirate comic, and then began to generate place names and labels using the unique typeface they had created this term. The children's art has really begun to take shape!

**GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY**

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## Whole School Topic - Autumn Term: Signs & Symbols

### Values: Harmony

This week in Collective Worship we listened to a story about two sisters, Mary and Martha. Jesus loved Martha and Mary equally and both showed him kindness and friendship. But Martha spent her time working and Mary spent her time listening and learning. Jesus taught them that whilst it is important to work and get things done, we also need to invest in spending time with people and also give time to nurturing and growing our relationship with God.

*'Mary has chosen wisely to use her time to be with me and listen to me whilst I am here with you. It is the best thing she could be doing.'* Luke 10:38-42

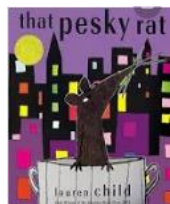
### Climate Warriors' Challenge

Next week is Walk to School Week (19th - 23rd May) Young Climate Warriors' challenges encourage families and our wider community to take small actions each week. Together, these cumulative actions can make an impact. 'Little by little, a little becomes a lot'. Avoiding the car where possible can reduce car exhaust emissions, and there's scope for fun along the way. Cloud-spotting, whistling bird song, a 'funny faces' trail, or dew-bathing – what choice will you make as a family?

[Six epic journeys to school](#) - BBC Newsround video - journeys from round the world  
[Cloud-spotting guide](#) - Met Office

Fox Class have also organised some fun Walk to School activities: On Tuesday, please wear a funny hat to school if you walk and you will receive a treat breakfast from Mrs France, on Wednesday there is a quiz to complete as you walk to school and on Thursday you can walk with a cuddly toy!

### Book Review by Squirrel Class 'That Pesky Rat' by Lauren Child



This book was shared by Reuben with our class this week and it's a heart-warming tale about a street rat who longs to be a pet and have a home. The book explores themes of homelessness and poverty, encouraging empathy in young children and to understand the struggles of those facing homelessness. Reuben and his brothers read it often and it was a hit with Squirrel Class, particularly the comical ending!

### 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	77%	8%	15%
Squirrel Class	91%	3%	6%
Fox Class	82%	7%	11%
Owl Class	80%	10%	10%

### Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	59	155
Eden	68	165
Galilee	56	146
Jerusalem	58	158

SUPPORT  
CONNECT  
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March | 2024 - 2025GREEN TREE SCHOOL  
Bronze Award

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Growing Together

## *Emails and letters sent this week*

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
14.04.25	Email	All	Office	Reminder – Smartphone free childhood meeting
12.05.25	Email	All	Mrs Hall	Tools and helpers

May	
Mon 19 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Walk to School Week – see this week's Climate Warriors' Challenge
Mon 19 <sup>th</sup>	KS2 Play auditions
Wed 21 <sup>st</sup>	Fox Victorian Day
Thu 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Hedgehog – Topic afternoon with parents 14:45 – 15:15
Fri 23 <sup>rd</sup>	INSET day (roof scaffolding up)
June	
Wed 4 <sup>th</sup>	Stay and Play #1 for EYFS Sept 25 15:30-16:30
Mon 9 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 13 <sup>th</sup>	Year 1 Phonics Screening Check
Wed 11 <sup>th</sup>	PC Ben visit KS1
Thu 12 <sup>th</sup>	Year 4/5/6 cricket at Thame Cricket Club
Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 20 <sup>th</sup>	Arts Week
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup>	Dance Festival @ Lord William's Dance Studio
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup> /25 <sup>th</sup> / 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Icknield Buddy System
Wed 25 <sup>th</sup>	Opera First workshop in school for Owl Class Stay and Play #2 for EYFS Sept 25 15:30-16:30
Fri 27 <sup>th</sup>	Bee Keeper visit and workshop Fox Class
Sun 29 <sup>th</sup>	PTA Sponsored Walk – new date
July	
Tue 1 <sup>st</sup> / Wed 2 <sup>nd</sup>	KS2 Open Air Performance
Fri 4 <sup>th</sup>	Lord William's taster day
Tue 8 <sup>th</sup>	Opera First performance @ Garsington Opera for Owl Class
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 14:30 and uniform sale
w/c 14 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports Enrichment Week inc Sports Day Wed 16 <sup>th</sup>

## *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	
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> )
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)
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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