



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



18th July 2025

Message from the Head Teacher

Attendance

This week the reports have gone home and contain the attendance figure for your child for the year. Please do take note of your child's percentage – especially if it does not meet the target for the school and county of 97%, which represents less than 5 days absent across the year.

Congratulations to those children who have achieved 100% attendance for the whole academic year:

Hedgehog – William Squirrel – Amelia and Wilf Fox – Alessandra

There were a few on 99% who are also worthy of recognition.

Squirrel – Phoebe, Airlie, Leon, Harry and Reuben Fox – Rory, Max S, Millie and Esme

Visit from Local MP

We were delighted to welcome Freddie van Mierlo, the MP for Henley and Thame, to talk to Owl Class on Friday about their Courageous Advocacy project concerning the right to education for children in Palestine. Mr van Mierlo submitted our petition to Parliament online this morning and will work with us to ensure that some children can also visit 10 Downing Street with it.

Summer Doodle Challenge



We are running two exciting Summer Challenges — the DoodleMaths Challenge and the DoodleEnglish Challenge – for children to complete. Both Challenges are designed to encourage a few minutes of daily Doodling, promoting healthy learning habits and boosting your child's maths and English skills. The challenge is to earn 750 stars (or 600 for under 8's) by using DoodleMaths and/or DoodleEnglish for 14 days before the 31st of August. If they reach their goal, a pin badge will be sent to school and we will present it in September.

Working Party

The ground works for outside Hedgehog Class will start on Monday 28th July. We then want to develop this area so that it is a dynamic space which encourages exploration, creativity, and social interaction. We need your help – even if you are not a Hedgehog parent! If you can come and donate some time and manual labour and maybe creativity there will be a working party on Wednesday 20th August from 10am. There will be plenty of refreshments and children are welcome to come with you.

Sports Enrichment Week

We have reached the end of another amazing PE Enrichment Week. It has been a great opportunity to encourage all pupils to be enthusiastic about sports, even the non-athletically inclined. We have ensured that we have had a diverse range of activities across the week so that that even children who aren't competitive and don't enjoy traditional school sports, can get involved and take part in physical activity, which promotes both physical and mental wellbeing as well as enjoyment of being active.

The week started with circus skills – a fun day which involved juggling (with scarves and balls), plate spinning, diabolos, flower sticks, and balancing on stilts. It was such a fun and engaging way for our children to develop physical and cognitive skills while boosting their confidence and creativity.

On Tuesday we were Sumo wrestling and Zorbing. Both are funny and honestly a bit ridiculous but that's what makes them so enjoyable!

On Wednesday the sun shone and we had an exceptional Sport's Day, with a carousel of activities in the morning and races in the afternoon. School sports days are ideal for highlighting the importance of teamwork and taking part, even if the activities are outside of some pupils' comfort zones. In the run-up to sports day, we used our P.E. lessons to become familiar with each event and encourage children to set personal targets for the events that they were participating in.

On Thursday we had our colour run - a brilliant afternoon where the children completed a carousel of challenges with different painting colours floating down before a final run where we were all completely showered with a multitude of colours.

Finally, on Friday each class had a ballet workshop where the children learnt key ballet terms and danced with scarves as well as creating their own routines.

It has been a fabulous week. Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make it happen, and particularly Mrs Healy as PE Lead for planning, organising and implementing the week so brilliantly.

There are only two more days to go! Do join us for our Leavers' Service in church on Tuesday when we will bid an emotional and fond farewell to our incredible Year 6 children. I am both looking forward to it and dreading it in equal measure!

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

This week in Hedgehog Class we have been getting very active. We have enjoyed a range of super activities put on by the wonderful Mrs Healy. The children particularly enjoyed sports day and came back with lots of enthusiasm and gusto. They were covered head to toe in stickers because they had worked so well together with others demonstrating our school values in every way possible. We are so proud of them and how far they have come over the year. We have also been working as a team to prepare the Hedgehog garden for the upcoming work over the summer. We've planted out all of the summer vegetables ready for harvest in September and been courageous advocates by litter picking and making the area super tidy! The children did some wonderful writing about their sports day using three well-constructed sentences and using connectives like 'because' to extend their sentence writing ready for year one. Finally, we enjoyed some water fun on Friday.



Squirrel Class

What a fun-filled penultimate week we have had! A huge thank you to Mrs Healy for organising a fantastically full and diverse PE Enrichment week. We started off Monday with a circus skills workshop and the children learned how to tricks with circus flower sticks. We also had the chance to try out plate spinning, which proved to be quite tricky, but we persevered! Monday also saw the Squirrels create their own sandwiches as part of our DT unit on cooking and nutrition. We had bagels, wraps, rolls and sandwiches and lots of very full bellies! On Tuesday we loved the Sumo wrestling and the Zorb balls as part of PE. We also continued our learning in Maths, with the Y1 children looking at money, in particular notes and value of notes. Mrs Surman even kindly brought in an old £1 note for us to look at! The children noticed lots of differences between the old note and the notes we have in circulation today. The Y2 children continued their learning on statistics, with a focus on pictograms. Sports Day on Wednesday was a great success, and the Squirrels made me feel very proud with how they all took part and tried their best on the day. Alongside the Colour Run and ballet, it has been a great last week of term. See you on Monday for the last few days of the year!



Fox Class

Even though we're near the end of term, we're still working hard! In Maths, the Orange Group have been understanding the use of pictograms to illustrate data as well as starting to look at bar charts. In the Green Group, children have been working with coordinates and translating points and shapes. In our English, we have thought about the character's decision making and used a conscious alley to demonstrate choices for a character to make before writing a persuasive letter with their thoughts. In Geography, the class used the 8-point directions made last week by their classmates to move around the school. A lot was learnt in how to be clear and precise in our directions – we left feedback in our partners book to help them for next week. In our DT lesson, we looked at the benefits of eating a range of seasonal fruit and vegetables before making a mock-up of a seasonal savoury tart using card, wool, felt and paper. What an inventive bunch they were! Cheese and tomato featured heavily but also asparagus, beans, spinach, carrots and basil made appearances! In our French, we continued looking at using ne pas around the verb to show not. We wrote sentences to demonstrate our understanding. We also had our last chess session of the year, and I know just how much they have loved learning or furthering their understanding of this brilliant game. It really is a joy to see them so engrossed!



Owl Class

As term's end draws near, Owl Class found themselves finishing up their Courageous Advocacy project, polishing their creative writing skills, and planning their contributions to the leavers service, as well as having the most wonderful time in PE Enrichment Week. We had a visit from MP for Thame and Chinnor Freddie van Mierlo on Friday, after he had been invited by the children to speak about their Courageous Advocacy project about the right to education for children in Palestine as they are affected by the war there. He spent a long time speaking with the children about how impressed he was with their passion for the project, and their sense of outrage at the conditions in which Palestinian children are being forced to live in currently. The children asked for assistance in getting their message heard in Parliament, and for publicity for our petition, which has now gone live: the link is [here](#); the children have created this message and text with the aim of asking the government to explain just what they are doing to support children's right to education in Palestine, in accordance with the UN Rights of a Child. The Bucks Herald will also be publishing the story soon; do keep your eyes open for this! Elsewhere, the children have been using their evocative writing skills to respond to images in English: creative writing about floating houses, mysterious suited men in hotel lobbies, and other striking writing prompts have kept their English skills fresh and exciting. In Maths, Year 5 have been exploring the lines of symmetry in various 2D shapes, as well as translating these shapes across positive and negative axes, whilst Year 6 explored a range of investigations that stretched their problem-solving and reasoning skills. In Art the children completed their 3D topographical maps of fictional places, using their own typography to illustrate place names to striking effect. We hope you also enjoyed the chance to view some of the artwork on Wednesday in the pop-up gallery!



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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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Sports Enrichment Week



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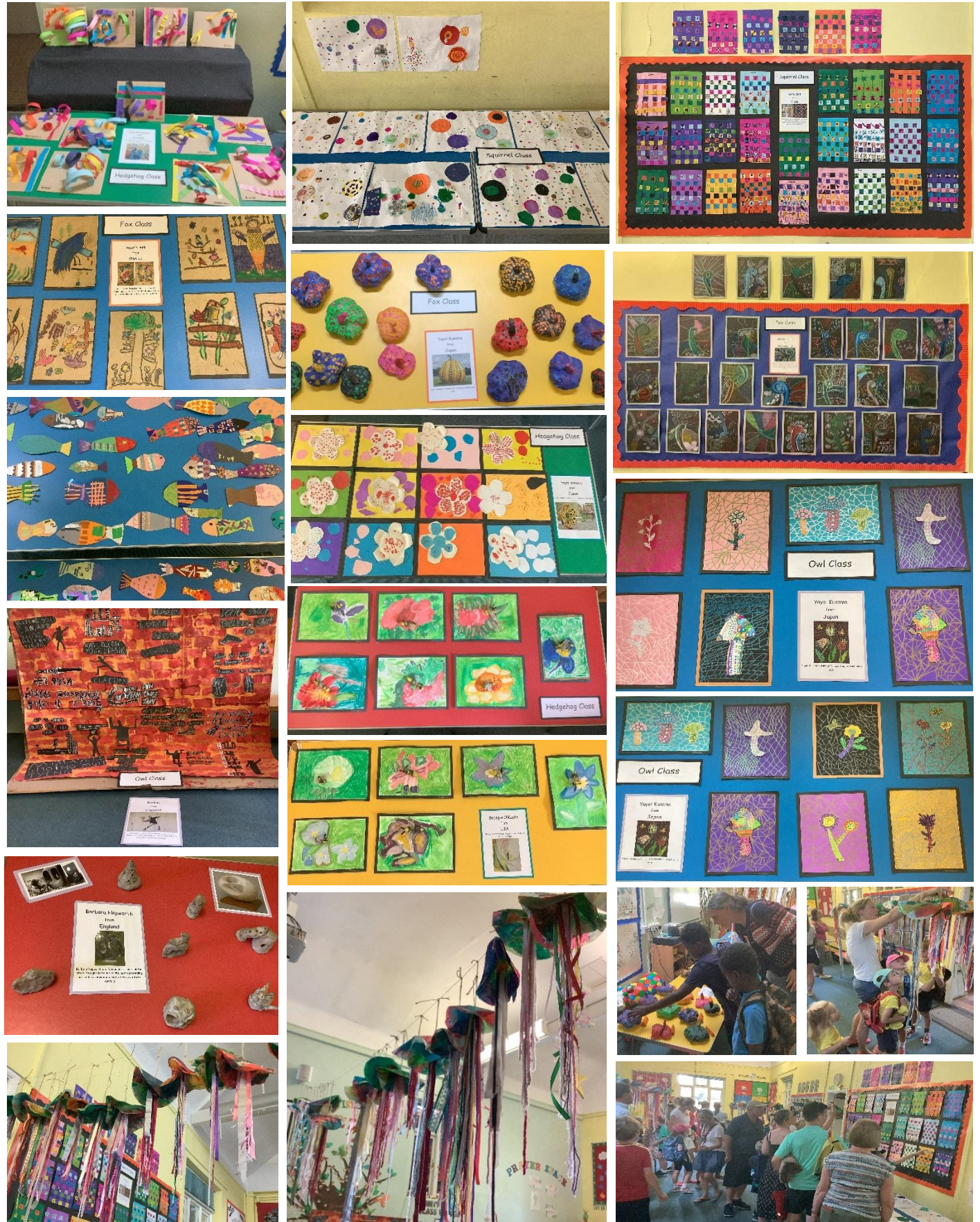
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Art Enrichment Week Gallery



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Whole School Topic - Autumn Term: Signs & Symbols

Values: Resilience

This week has been Sports Enrichment Week. It reminded us of how life can also feel like a race. We reflected on how resilience might be needed for the race of life. Christians believe that Jesus is with them in every challenge that they face in their lives. Just like a good trainer, or parents at sports day, standing at the finishing line of a race encouraging the runners to keep going.

'Let us run with perseverance the race that lies before us. Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from beginning to end' Hebrews 12:1-2

Climate Warriors' Challenge

Patterns in nature are awe-inspiring, but we need to look for them - to find the 'sacred' amidst the 'common'. Spirals, hexagons, fractals, hearts, teardrops, tessellations, circles ... when you start looking they are everywhere!

Patterns in rainforest 'music' are alerting authorities to illegal deforestation – before it happens! 'Hear the rainforest' in real-time and learn more about this fascinating ['Rainforest Connection' project](#). Or check out ['What Antarctic ice cores tell us about climate change'](#).

Links:

[Patterns in Nature checklist!](#)

[Andy Goldsworthy, a British sculptor.](#)

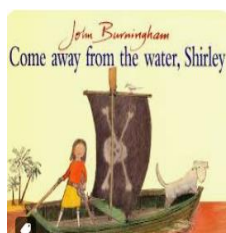
[Patterns in nature - BBC Bitesize Andy Goldsworthy video](#)

[Patterns helping scientists - British Antarctic Ice Core Scientist](#)

[Patterns helping nature - The Rainforest Connection project](#)

['Rainforest Connection' app](#)

Book Review **Come Away from the Water, Shirley by John Burningham**



Come Away from the Water, Shirley is a joyful book about a family visit to the seaside. Mum and Dad settle down in their deck chairs to snooze the day away, while for Shirley, it's a chance to set sail for uncharted seas. "Come away from the water, Shirley," caution her parents. But Shirley has already set out on an adventure, where she encounters danger, pirates, and buried treasure!

Mikey's review: I loved the story, especially the part where the naughty dog bit the pirate's leg!

Callie's review: It was a good story; my favourite bit was when Shirley found the buried treasure on the island.

Happiness Calendar: Jump Back Up July

Let's find ways to bounce back. You can find this month's happiness calendar [here](#)

Attendance - This Year

School target 97%	97% - 100%	90% -96%	Below 90%
Hedgehog Class (13)	69%	23%	8%
Squirrel Class (32)	72%	25%	3%
Fox Class (27)	56%	41%	3%
Owl Class (20)	20%	50%	30%

Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	59	272
Eden	65	288
Galilee	67	290
Jerusalem	61	271

Congratulations to **Galilee** for winning the housepoint challenge this half term. They have chosen tea with Mrs France as a reward.

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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
18.07.25	Email	Squirrel	Mrs Biggin	Board games
18.07.25	Email	Dance Club	Office	Primary Dance Show Video
18.07.25	Letter	Owl	Office	Transition advice for Year 6
15.07.25	Email	Individuals	Office	JR Zorb waivers for new students

July	
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
September	
Monday 1 st	INSET Day – teachers only
Tuesday 2 nd	INSET Day – all staff
Wednesday 3 rd	Children in school Whole school book project

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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