



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



20th June 2025

Message from the Head Teacher

Key Areas of Information about Aston Rowant School: What Enrichment Opportunities do we Offer?

Throughout the year we run Enrichment Weeks for: History; RE; Art, Sport; Music; Science and Mental Health with Enrichment Days for Reading and Maths. These school enrichment opportunities are extra-curricular activities that go beyond the standard curriculum to enhance children's learning and development. These activities aim to broaden our children's horizons, foster their interests, and develop essential life skills. Enrichment activities are key to help our children develop teamwork, communication, problem-solving, and critical thinking skills, alongside academic knowledge. They allow the children to discover talents and passions they might not otherwise encounter, potentially leading to future hobbies or career paths. Furthermore, our enrichment activities can provide a positive outlet for creativity, self-expression, and social interaction. Participating in new and challenging activities can boost students' self-esteem and ability to cope with setbacks. Enrichment activities can provide a positive outlet for creativity, self-expression, and social interaction.

A Week in the Life of Aston Rowant School

Before I started my career in education I had a whimsical idea that the summer term in primary schools must be a fun relaxing time when children and staff wound down and prepared for the summer break. How wrong I was! I thought that I would share some of what we have enjoyed this week alone...

It has been Art Enrichment Week looking at art from around the world including art from Africa, Japan, New Zealand, Mexico and the UK. The classes have done: jelly fish art; a Ghanaian Kente Cloth, Modroc pumpkins, paper weaving and made sculptures.

Wind in the Willows rehearsals are also in full swing with props being made, lines, songs and dances to learn and stage directions to master not to mention learning the Charleston!

On Tuesday it was Science Oxford's Big Science Event, an annual event to enable pupil-led scientific investigations and encourage children to effectively ask and answer scientific questions. Matilda, Archie, Bodie and Evelyn from Fox Class went to the Science Oxford Centre to share their investigation 'Are all Insects the Same?' and enjoy the STEM activities at the centre. Their presentation was so impressive that Science Oxford chose our children to be interviewed. Their work was also spotted by the editor of The Bee is not Afraid of Me, she was so impressed with their research she gave them a copy of her book.

It follows Alfie and Archie representing the school at a Thame Partnership Maths Day solving maths problems that left the adults perplexed!

On Wednesday it was the annual Dance Festival at Lord Bill's Dance studio when 24 of our children, who have been coached by Mrs Campbell in Dance Club, performed two separate dances to a packed auditorium in two separate shows.

On Thursday Hedgehog Class had a trip to the Natural History Museum at Tring with a full hands-on day learning about the natural world and exploring the variety of life on Earth.

On Friday our Year 5 children took their Cycling Proficiency theory test ahead of their cycling road test on Monday.

Then there has been the regular enrichment activities:

- On Tuesday Year 3 and 4 went swimming
- Open the Book led our Collective Worship on Wednesday
- On Friday KS2 had Chess Club
- Our free cornet lessons for UKS2 are continuing and being incredibly well received.

Next week is equally fun and rewarding:

- Garsington Opera will run a full day workshop for UKS2 on Handel's *Rodelinda* ahead of our visit to Wormsley to watch the performance
- On Wednesday Squirrel have their school trip to Iver Environmental Centre
- Wednesday is also the Thame Swimming Gala – when representatives from Year 3-6 will compete in a variety of inter-school races.
- On Friday we will be sending representatives to the Thame Partnership English Writers Workshop
- On Friday we also have a local bee keeper running an interactive workshop in Fox Class

Our focus on enrichment is part of our practical outworking of our vision of us growing together, rooted in God, enjoying fullness of life. It is also what makes each day at Aston Rowant School so much fun, if a little busy!

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

The children have been making the most of the lovely weather this week in their play. We started collecting things for our mud kitchen. If you have any old pots, pans, wooden spoons, utensils or pretty (but unbreakable) teapots or bowls/plates we would be very grateful for the donations. We have thoroughly enjoyed art week learning about Yayoi Kusama and Georgia O'Keefe, making beautiful flower pictures in a range of styles. On Thursday we had an absolute whale of a time learning about the different sea creatures at Tring Natural History Museum. It was brilliant getting to see the animals up close and consolidating our learning so far this term. The children remembered so many of the facts we have been reading as well as looking closely for similarities between the animals. Their behaviour was impeccable and we are very proud of them as representatives of Aston-Rowant School.



Squirrel Class

What a scorcher of a week! Yet it hasn't stifled our creativity, as we celebrated Art Enrichment Week here at Aston Rowant. Firstly, we looked at Kente cloth from Ghana. Traditionally they are textiles made of hand-woven strips of silk and cotton in a variety of colours and patterns, then worn for special occasions and celebrations. We created card and paper Kente cloth with paper weaving, and the children really enjoyed the challenge of the under/over pattern. We then added on the patterns to the cloth with black ink. Later in the week we had the wonderful Mrs Coughtrey visit the class to create ink jelly fish! The class loved spraying the ink all over the jellyfish heads, and lots ended up on fingers and arms too! The tentacles were created out of scraps of material and ribbon, adding to the colourful end product. We also spent some time learning about Yayoi Kusama and her unique 'polka dot' spotty artwork. The children then worked in partners to create a multi-media collage in the style of her work. Throughout the week we also managed to finish off our non-chronological reports and write a book review. See you next week, with lots to look forward to, including our class trip!



Fox Class

A very hot week in Fox Class but we haven't let the weather get in the way! Everyone embraced our Art Enrichment Week topics with gusto. It has certainly been a truly global week with art focussed on Japan, New Zealand and Mexico. We studied the work of Yayoi Kusama and noted that dots featured in all her pieces be it pictures or sculpture. We then initially used mod roc to make our own sculptures based on Kusama's design of a pumpkin. The whole class worked so hard but we found that the mod roc didn't quite stick and with true resilience we found another way to make it, leaving us all with brilliant pumpkins which we then painted later in the week using the spot motif. Koru art, from New Zealand focuses on the fern and the aura patterns found in nature. We used black paper and oil pastels to replicate and create our own designs. Using brown paper, we created amate bark art. We took time to look at the content of these pictures picking up the vibrant colours of birds and nature. Choice was given as to what medium they would like to use then once created we crinkled the paper up to replicate bark. We have also managed to squeeze in Maths this week with a focus on angles as well as lots of practise for THE play. Can I remind you that costumes are needed in on Monday 23rd June along with a named hanger. Thank you!



Owl Class

In spite of the baking heat, Owl Class have embraced a very busy schedule of play rehearsal and Art Enrichment week! We were given a fantastic range of artists such as sculptor Barbara Hepworth, graphic artists Yayoi Kusuma and iconic British street-artist Banksy to study, replicate and reproduce in our own adaptations of their work. We began using clay to create 3D shapes and carve out 'spaces' within them, and thought about how the space can be used to frame the surrounding: after all, where a statue is placed is as important as the sculpture itself. We also took photos of our finished sculptures placed around the school grounds, some of which I have included on the newsletter. Next, we also looked at the graphic dots and nature-based art of Yayoi Kasume, and made our own dotted fungi and flowers, before drawing tessellated patterns of the backing paper in metallic ink and mounted our art to it to create striking images. Lastly, the children explored the work of Banksy and his message and meaning heavy artwork that appears in urban areas, and had a go creating our own 'wall' of graffiti and meaningful messages. Some of these messages were extremely profound and quite moving. As well as all of this, we also managed to continue a range of mathematical investigations and problem-solving work for Year 6 and finished our unit on interior angles of regular and irregular polygons in Year 5. Quite the week!

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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 picked up the story of Moses and looked at God's people entering the promised land. We looked at four main characters who all demonstrated courage in distinct ways: Joshua led the Israelites in battles, relying on God and facing overwhelming odds. Benjamin, as a tribe, was willing to stand firm and face challenges. Jacob faced immense trials and conflicts, ultimately demonstrating faith and perseverance. Rahab showed bravery by hiding the spies and lying to the authorities, risking her own safety to protect those who believed in God. We reflected on those we know who have also demonstrated resilience and bravery and thought about how we could do the same.

'Be strong and courageous, do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.' Joshua 1:9

Climate Warriors' Challenge

Do we sometimes take water for granted? How much water do you reckon that you use in a week? The UK average is 140 litres a day! Yet in Mali people have to survive on 11 litres a day. A typical bath is 80 litres of water. This week we are challenging you to a 'Bathroom Water Blitz!' Can you skip a bath, or swap for a shower – but not a super long one! Choose your favourite track – and shower just until it finishes! Look at the ['Sustainable Showering Songs' playlist!](#) Our Bathroom Water Blitz is part of [Let's Go Zero's Climate Action Countdown](#) - enjoy being part of an even bigger picture of climate action this week!

We also wanted to share this excellent WaterAid video - [What has climate change got to do with water?](#)

Book Review Emma Jane's Aeroplane by Katie Haworth



This week's chosen book is titled 'Emma Jane's Aeroplane' and focuses on intrepid aviator Emma Jane who sets off one night in her aeroplane, visiting some of the world's big cities, including London, Venice, New York and Sydney. At each destination she adds a crew of animal friends, who then all work together to save the day when the little plane gets into trouble.

Harry G said, 'My favourite part was when the storm came, and they had to work together to get out'.

Happiness Calendar: Joyful June

This month, we're encouraging you to look for what is good. You can find this month's happiness calendar [here](#).

Attendance - This week

School target 97%	97% - 100%	90% -97%	Below 90%
Hedgehog Class	92%	8%	0%
Squirrel Class	81%	10%	9%
Fox Class	89%	0%	11%
Owl Class	80%	5%	15%

Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	17	66
Eden	5	72
Galilee	16	73
Jerusalem	7	55

SUPPORT
CONNECT
INFLUENCEEco-Schools
Merit | 2024 - 2025GREEN TREE SCHOOL
Bronze Award

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Growing Together

Emails and letters sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
20.06.25	Email	Breakfast club	Office	Breakfast club next week
20.06.25	Email	All	Office	Cancelled Celebration Assembly
17.06.25	Email	KS2	Mrs Healy	Costume reminder
17.06.25	Email	Year 5	Office	Cycling Proficiency tests
16.06.25	Email	KS2	Office	Timetable for play arrivals
16.06.25	Letter	Year 6	Mrs France	RSE for year 6
16.06.25	Letter	By invitation	Mrs Healy	Swimming Gala

June

Wed 18 th /25 th /2 nd	Icknield Buddy System
Sat 21 st	PTA Camp night
Wed 25 th	Opera First workshop in school for Owl Class KS2 Swimming Gala at St Andrew's School Stay and Play #2 for EYFS Sept 25 15:30-16:30
Fri 27 th	Writing workshop at St Andrews – by invitation Bee Keeper visit and workshop Fox Class
Sun 29 th	Patronal Festival with BBQ at St Peter & St Paul's Church – fundraiser for school

July

Tue 1 st / Wed 2 nd	KS2 Open Air Performance Wind in the Willows – all welcome (18:30 performances)
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 13:00-15:00 with presentation for parents at 14:30 and uniform sale
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 – 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)
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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