



**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**



**23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025**

## *Message from the Head Teacher*

### *Walk to School Week*

Thank you to Fox Class who had the initiative for our Walk to School Week and have worked incredibly hard to make it the success that it has been. They have run themed days, written quizzes, made stickers, offered prizes and even organised a breakfast. In addition, they have written and produced two adverts about walk to school week and an information video about car idling. Do check out Fox Class page on the website to celebrate and enjoy their incredible work.

Thank you also to Ted, Digby and Harry for conducting a school wide survey on our travel habits and thoughts.

- How many walk to school? 19%
- How many cycle to school? 14%
- How many drive to school? 13%
- How many drive then walk to school? 54%
- Do you know what Walk to School Week is? 72% did
- Do you know why Walk to School Week is important? 72% felt they did
- Would you be interested in Walk to School Week if there were stickers or a prize? 88% said yes
- Would you be interested in Walk to School Week if there was breakfast? 68% said yes
- Your comments on School Week: good exercise; helps the environment; rewards are good

We are committed to promoting walking to school, not just this week, but throughout the year. It is crucial for children's physical and mental health, it can provide children with a sense of independence and autonomy, as well as social development which can enhance their overall well-being. Not to mention that it promotes a healthier environment and reduces congestion!

On that note we are delighted to announce the launch of the BetterPoints Oxfordshire app. You earn BetterPoints when you walk, wheel, run, cycle or take the bus or train. You record your trips via the app to earn BetterPoints which can be swapped for high street vouchers, spent with local businesses, or even donated to charities. Getting started is easy, just download the free app at <https://oxon.betterpoints.uk/> to your mobile phone and register using your email address, then you are ready to go!

### *Key Areas of Information about Aston Rowant School: Life Beyond Assessments and Testing?*

Last week we reflected on the importance of having assessments and testing but at Aston Rowant School our vision is for the children to have 'life in all its fullness'. This means that we go beyond assessments and tests to foster holistic development, including social-emotional growth, creativity, and critical thinking skills, which are not fully captured by standardised assessments. Assessments are useful tools but alone they do not accurately reflect a child's full potential, particularly in subjects like art, music, and physical education and they don't reflect the bigger picture of all that we offer as a school.

#### 1. Holistic Development:

- Social-emotional learning: we focus on nurturing students' emotional intelligence, empathy, and social skills, which are crucial for future success and well-being.
- Creativity and innovation: we encourage imaginative thinking, problem-solving, and artistic expression allows children to develop their unique talents and develop critical thinking skills, which are not fully captured by standardized tests.
- Physical activity and well-being: we provide opportunities for physical activity, sports, and healthy habits can promote physical and mental health, which are not directly measured by assessments.

#### 2. Beyond the Curriculum:

- Subject choice and personalization: we offer a wider range of subjects and projects and allow for more individualised learning paths, catering to diverse interests and learning styles.
- Real-world connections: we integrate real-world applications and project-based learning to make learning more engaging and relevant, fostering deeper understanding and critical thinking skills.
- Collaboration and communication: we create opportunities for collaborative learning and communication through group projects, discussions, and debates can promote social skills and critical thinking.

Look out for all the fun things that we have planned next term – including an outdoor production of Wind in the Willows by KS2. In the meantime, have a wonderful half term holiday.

*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*

Well, we have gone out with a bang in Hedgehog class this term! It has been a fabulous week preparing for our exhibition. We have been learning about food hygiene and safety as we prepared an Indian curry. We can now name many of the spices used in Indian food. The children have enjoyed writing their own script of "Rama and Sita the Movie" and have been busy making all their own props and costumes. This week we filmed the scenes (despite the thunderstorms) and had a showing for parents where we entertained them with Bollywood dancing workshops, Mendhi hand tattoos, Indian cuisine tasting and much more. In phonics we practiced our tricky word spelling and looked at patterns such as words within words, cheeky 'e's and silent 'h's. If you want to test us, ask us how to spell: There, Were and When. We hope you have beautiful weather for the half term break and we look forward to welcoming you all back for our final term in Hedgehog Class!



### *Squirrel Class*

Well, the last week of this half term has been as busy as ever! This week, the class have looked at poetry and used another story by Anthony Browne (Little Beauty) as a stimulus for creating our own poems. We looked at colours and emotions and learned how to sign the colours of the rainbow in British Sign Language. The class then performed their poems to each other in groups. In Maths the Year 1 children have been looking at equal groups and arrays for multiplication and the Year 2 children have started a unit on fractions, identifying equal parts and halves in shapes. In Science lessons this week the class learned what a botanist is and identified different flowering plants by their features. In our Geography lesson we compared the human and physical features seen in China with those we have observed in our local area. Lastly, we finally completed our unit on sculpture with the children creating some beautiful clay birds. Enjoy the break and see you next month for the final half term of the year!



### *Fox Class*

What a varied week we have had this week! From writing a new chapter about Street Child, to learning how to tell the time digitally, estimating money to going back in time to Victorian times! In our History lesson, children really enjoyed looking at the contents of the history box supplied by Oxfordshire County Council kindly paid for by the PTA – thank you! It was wonderful to be able to see and touch relics from that period. Highlights included children being in awe of the sewing and handicrafts that girls produced and the copperplate handwriting in the copy book. In our Science, we learnt about seed dispersal and investigation if there was a relation between the size of a fruit and the number of seeds inside. Lots of fun using knives and digging around in fruit to locate the odd seed compared to those who were tasked with the kiwi or red pepper! Our Victorian Day was a highlight of the week. Thank you, parents, for helping make the day more realistic by providing super costumes. We had such a brilliant day and their behaviour was exemplary. We learnt about how to behave (!), deportment, we did our drill exercises, times tables by rote, practised our handwriting then made peg dolls to play with at breaktime. In the afternoon, we used watercolours for our nature study then the boys made thaumatropes and the girls sewed bookmarks. Hopefully the class left feeling they had had a real Victorian experience!



### *Owl Class*

As we come to a close of this half-term, Owl have kept our excellent learning standards in place: in History, the children identified the mystery wife of Henry the VIII from a series of clues: her necklace with a bejewelled 'B', her birthplace, a monogram of hers and Henry's initials cleverly entwined. Once identified, we then explored, through primary and secondary sources, how her relationship changed with the King leading to an untimely end... In English, we also dealt with another bloodthirsty king as we finished our Macbeth unit with instructions to assassinate his once good friends Banquo! On a lighter note, in Science the children explored a link between friction and weight using some 'chair-apults', and some trays: loading up to ten different items and establishing if there was a pattern between the two. They also had to examine the method given to them and see if it was truly a fair test; what could they improve? This was such a brilliant afternoon, and the children had incredible observations and ideas. In Maths, Year 5 finished their unit about shape, including interior angles of quadrilaterals and triangles, and plenty of practical protractor practise! We also say goodbye to our Oxford Brookes student Miss White and wish her the very best of luck on her course to be a teacher.



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***Photo Diary of the Week***



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

### Values: Harmony

In Collective Worship this week we learnt that being a good friend isn't just about sharing the good times but always being there and being reliable. Sometimes show the greatest compassion towards our friends when times are tough. That can often mean listening to them carefully when they want to talk or just being by their side when they don't want to talk.

'A friend is always loyal, and a brother is born to help in times of need.' Proverbs 17:17

### Climate Warriors' Challenge

Our half-term challenge is about wildflowers. Young Climate Warriors are encouraged to identify some of their local wildflowers, and plant a 'wildflower meadow in a pot'. Wildflowers that have grown and evolved here in the UK for hundreds of years are struggling to adapt quickly enough to the impacts of climate change. Our beautiful wildflowers have evolved alongside our native wildlife and are a particularly attractive food source for our native pollinators.

It's also [Children's Gardening Week](#) (24th May - 1st June) - how about planting some wildflower seeds?

Links:

[Summer flower spotter - Wildlife Watch](#)

[Native flower identification tool](#)

[How to grow a wildflower meadow in a pot or container](#)

### Book Review The Explorer by Katherine Rundell. Reviewed by Rory



Four children crash in the Amazon jungle on their way to Manaus. This is an exciting story of how they manage to survive and escape the jungle. Along the way they find a ruin of an abandoned city. This story shows how resilient they have to be and how important it is to work together. It works perfectly with our value of Harmony this half term and especially links to our Bible verse too about listening, really listening to others. I loved this story and give it 5 stars.

### 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	85%	0%	15%
Squirrel Class	97%	0%	3%
Fox Class	89%	0%	11%
Owl Class	70%	0%	20%

### Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	47	202
Eden	41	206
Galilee	49	195
Jerusalem	44	202

Congratulations to **Eden** for winning this half term's housepoint challenge - they will have a treat after half term. **Bethlehem** won before Easter and enjoyed their treat of afternoon tea with Mrs France this week. It was a joy to spend time with them and their manners were exemplary.

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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
23.05.25	Email	All	Office	Wraparound bookings
23.05.25	Letter	Dance Club	Office	Dance tickets
21.05.25	Letter	All	PTA	PTA Minutes
21.05.25	Email	All	Mrs Biggin	Foodbank Collection
21.05.25	Letter	All	Mrs Olsen	Art week donations
21.05.25	Letter	Squirrel	Mrs Biggin	Trip to Iver Environment Centre
21.05.25	Email	All	PTA	Aston Amble and fun games

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 KSI
Fri 13 <sup>th</sup>	Fireflies visit
Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 20 <sup>th</sup>	Arts Week
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup>	Dance Festival @ Lord William's Dance Studio 17:00 & 18:30 (11:30 day rehearsal at LWS)
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup> /25 <sup>th</sup> / 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Icknield Buddy System
Sat 21 <sup>st</sup>	PTA Camp night
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>	Writing workshop at St Andrews – by invitation Bee Keeper visit and workshop Fox Class
Sun 29 <sup>th</sup>	Sponsored Walk and Patronal Festival (with provision for children)
July	
Tue 1 <sup>st</sup> / Wed 2 <sup>nd</sup>	KS2 Open Air Performance Wind in the Willows – all welcome (evening performances)
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)

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