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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



26th September 2025

From the Headteacher:

Harvest

Thank you to everyone who brought food items in today for Harvest. We will be taking the items to the Sharing Life foodbank this weekend. The Thame foodbank provides emergency supplies of essential food items to those in our community who are struggling financially. It will make such a difference to those who receive your donations. Well done to each class for their beautiful reflections on the meaning of harvest shared in our special collective worship.

Open Days

We will be hosting three 'open days' for Early Years for those families looking for a place for September 2026. These will be on Tuesday 30th September 9:30-10:30, Monday 20th October 14:00-15:00 and Friday 7th November 9:30- 10:30. If you know anyone who might be interested then please do let them know. Please do let us know if you have anywhere to advertise these days or can put up some posters for us. Thank you.

School Photographer

Don't forget that the school photographer will be in on Monday 29th September to take class, individual and sibling photographs.

PE Lessons

We have seen a rise in parents informing us that their child will not be doing PE on a particular day or children telling us that their parents have said that they don't have to join in. Please note that parents cannot withdraw their child from PE lessons in school as it is part of the National Curriculum and therefore mandatory for all children to attend, unless there is a documented medical reason which is supported by a doctor's note. We will always be supportive of a child who is poorly or struggling with a physical complaint, however, they will be expected to join in as much as they can, even if it is just the warmups and stretches, and will observe the rest of the PE lesson so that they continue to learn.

Parking

We have received a number of complaints from the school's neighbours regarding the speed at which parents are driving through the village and inconsiderate parking by parents accessing the school in the mornings and afternoons, including parking in the turning circle outside school and parking across private driveways. We are still trialling the rolling drop off scheme where Plowden Park is available for a brief drop off and not for parking in the mornings. I appreciate that it can be very difficult to park near the school, however, please remember that the school is located in a residential area and we need to respect our neighbours and their properties. The School Council and other children have also raised the issue of parents leaving cars idling and the smell of fumes that this generates in the playground. We are continuing to find ways to implement the most effective and efficient system for everyone and appreciate your support as we do this.

Chinnor Chess Club

We are very lucky to have Mr & Mrs Turton host a weekly lunchtime chess club for KS2 children as well as lessons in Fox Class. This year, there has been a particular buzz with our newcomers. Mr & Mrs Turton also run an evening chess club at Chinnor Scout hut on Wednesdays during term time from 6-8pm. The drop-in sessions are £2 per player and all proceeds go to the Scout club. All are welcome to attend, even if only for an hour or why not challenge your child to a game!

Finally... Mental Health

More and more people are now focusing on their own mental health and that of their families. Action for Happiness is a charity founded to create a movement of people committed to building a happier and more caring society. Each month the organisation publishes a happiness calendar, September is 'Self-Care September'! Whether you do the activities suggested on the right day or not; there are some really useful prompts. You can download the happiness calendar at <https://www.actionforhappiness.org/calendars>. A summary of the focus for each month is always included on the final page of the newsletter.

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

What a creative and collaborative week we've had! We kicked off our Drawing Club with the classic tale The Three Billy Goats Gruff. The children used their imaginations brilliantly - wondering where the troll might have come from and dreaming up their own ideas to add to the story. Taking our ideas further, we became engineers and built brand-new bridges for the troll! The children thought carefully about which materials would be strongest and safest, showing fantastic teamwork and problem-solving skills. We also spent time exploring the beauty of autumn, studying colourful leaves in detail and creating stunning leaf prints. It's been a joyful mix of storytelling, creativity, and hands-on discovery!



Squirrel Class

Another week completed and we're halfway through the first half term! The Squirrels are beginning to get into the flow of the classroom and are working well together. In English we have been focusing on our sentence work in Y1 and using adjectives to add detail to our simple sentences. In Y2 the children have the challenge of re-telling the story of Dogger but substituting their own favourite toy instead of Dogger! I'm excited to see how the stories turn out. In Maths lessons, we have been looking at 1 more, 1 less and counting backwards with Y1 children. They are beginning to grasp the language of this and have been using rekenreks to show me their understanding. The Y2 children have been working on partitioning numbers flexibly, writing numbers in words and writing in expanded form. We have used dienes to aid understanding, and this has helped greatly. Please practise this further at home if you have access to dienes. In Science we learned more about the weather in the four seasons, and what activities might be more suited to particular seasons and the reasons why. In History we talked about holiday memories and how holidays differ between families. Lastly in R.E. we talked about all the different names for God and created a fun spinning wheel for all the names we identified.



Fox Class

What a week! We've covered such a lot and everyone has shown great enthusiasm and resilience at the pace of what we've covered. In Maths, we have been honing our skills in identifying the value of digits in both 3 and 4 digit numbers and understanding what happens when adding or subtracting numbers across the 10/100/1,000 boundary. In our English, we focussed on how to write instructions after making our own foil flower based on our text. We also revisited our SPaG knowledge of what exactly expanded noun phrases are. In our Geography, the OS maps were out again and this time we were identifying the different symbols and abbreviations found on them. They were able to spot a range of symbols on our local maps and also enjoyed looking at maps from around the country such as the Brecon Beacons for mountainous features and the Scilly Isles for the sea. In our Science, we learnt about shadows and what materials show the best shadows. Lots of vocabulary used such as opaque, translucent and transparent were apparent as they carried out their investigation. Christmas also hit our class as they all spent a lovely time listening to Christmas music whilst designing their cards which I hope you love. If you wish to order them then please return it to school once the form is completed. Well done Fox Class – another great week!



Owl Class

It's been a fast-paced and especially action-packed week in Owl, as we were able to travel back in time to the invasion of the Vikings in 960AD, as the ferocious Vikings, led by King Bagsec, prepared to attempt to seize Wessex, as part of our class trip to Ufton Court. The children were able to experience a unique range of activities, from hand-to-hand combat training that each young Viking was expected to learn and be proficient at (including the girls), to building wattle and daub walls, spinning raw sheep's wool into tread, or weaving hay into string, using authentically reproduced working replicas. Lastly, after a lunchtime feast in the sun fit for any chieftain, the children boarded a magnificent longship, hoisted the oars and rowed across the trade and raid routes, collecting treasures and good from around the world. This tied in so well with the lesson they learnt on Monday, and the children dazzled our Viking guide with their knowledge of the Volga trade route that led to the Land of Rus - Russia to us 21st century folk. Follow the link [here](#) to view photographs from the trip. Elsewhere in the week, we completed our units of Place Value, including rounding to the nearest 10 million, and moved onto our Four Operations unit, which lays the bedrock for so much of our later learning, this term. In PSHE, we thought about what a healthy, helpful relationship should be and thought about questions we could ask ourselves if we ever felt unsure about whether we should listen to a friend who has an idea that may not be the best. In Art, we continued to look at shading as we used charcoal to dramatically change a character's appearance, whilst in English, the children tackled their first proper Big Write about a setting description of a Valkyrie arrival from Viking Boy. We have also begun to design our Christmas cards. These will be coming home with the children soon, so please could you complete the form and return it to the class when the design is complete.

GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY

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Photo Diary of the Week



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Whole School Topic - Autumn Term: What Makes Me Me?

Values: Wonder

This week we have celebrated our Harvest festival. We have thanked God for his provision of our daily bread, for the rain, the soil, the sun and the farmers who grow our crops. We have also spent time reflecting on how God provides for us abundantly in other ways too. Building on our last two weeks themes of us being God's good soil and then how he makes us grow, we have thought about how we use the gifts that He has nurtured and grown in us to bless others too. It is quite a challenge! We looked at how we nurture and inspire one another so that we 'grow together'. The children's ideas were thoughtful, mature and encouraging.

'This most generous God who gives seed to the farmer that becomes bread for your meals is more than extravagant with you. He gives you something you can then give away, which grows into full-formed lives, robust in God, wealthy in every way, so that you can be generous in every way, producing with us great praise to God.' 2 Corinthians 9:10-11

Climate Warriors Challenge

Being a Young Climate Warrior is about asking questions and showing wonder ... about being curious ... why do we recycle things ... and how does it help with climate change? Check out the challenge with your pupils to delve into this question... and encourage them to 'rescue' a few items that are lurking hidden in a 'drawer of doom' - like old cables ... or maybe found their way into the bin when they could have been recycled.

Links:

[National Recycling Week](#)

[Recycling glass](#)

[Recycling cans](#)

[Recycling copper - the Great Cable Challenge](#)

Book Review Far from Home by Berlie Doherty reviewed by Matilda – Fox Class



After reading Street Child last year in class, I wanted to learn more about the girls in the family. This carries on the story of Jim's sisters Emily and Lizzie. They have many adventures and the story really makes you realise how hard life in Victorian times was. The sisters had to work in a mill from when they were 9 years old until they were 16 and stick together at all costs. I loved the whole book especially when they lived with Rosie who was in the first book. A favourite character was Miss Sarah who was kind, fun and resilient. I highly recommend this book!

Happiness Calendar: Self Care September

Self-care isn't selfish. It's essential. It is an investment in you. You can find this month's happiness calendar [here](#).

Attendance – This week

School target 97%	97% - 100%	90% -97%	Below 90%
Hedgehog Class	94%	0%	6%
Squirrel Class	92%	4%	4%
Fox Class	86%	4%	10%
Owl Class	88%	0%	12%

Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	63	131
Eden	63	127
Galilee	70	132
Jerusalem	66	138

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Growing Together

Emails and letters sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
26.09.25	Letter	All	Office	ACTION REQUIRED – FLU CONSENT
24.09.25	Email	Year 6	Office	Secondary school applications

September

Monday 29 th	Individual, sibling and class school photos Please contact the office for sibling photos
Tuesday 30 th	09:30-10:30 Open Morning #1 for Reception 2026

October

Friday 3 rd	PTA: Christmas card artwork due home for parents to order
Tuesday 7 th	Open Evening at LWS for Year 7 intake 2026 – letter sent with booking details
Thursday 9 th	Open Morning at LWS for Year 7 intake 2026
Monday 20 th	14:00-15:00 Open Afternoon #2 for Reception 2026
Wednesday 22 nd	Flu immunisations
Friday 24 th	Be Bright Be Seen Day (wear bright clothes for Road Safety Day)

November

Friday 7 th	09:30-10:30 Open Morning #3 for Reception 2026
w/c 10 th November	Anti-Bullying Week Power for Good
Mon 10 th and Tue 11 th	Parents' Evenings (Mon O, F, S) (Tues O, F, S, H)
Friday 14 th	Children in Need (wear spots and dots and make a donation to this charity)
Friday 14 th	Annual Health and Safety Inspection
Wednesday 26 th	Full Governing Body Meeting

December

Friday 5 th Dec	Fox: Pre-Historic Workshop with British Museum
Friday 5 th Dec	PTA: Wreath making workshop
Friday 5th Dec	Christmas jumper day (with uniform) – please bring in a hamper donation for PTA
Tue 9 th 14:00 & Wed 10 th 17:30	EYFS Nativity in school hall
Wednesday 17 th	09:30 Panto in school – donations welcome and supported by PTA
Wednesday 17 th	18:00 Christingle in church
Friday 19 th	Christmas Party - am School ends 13:30
Friday 19 th	PTA: Film/craft afternoon 13:30 – 15:15

Academic Year Calendar 2025-26

Autumn 25

Mon 1 st Sept – Fri 24 th Oct	Autumn Term (1) INSET 1 st and 2 nd Sept
Mon 27 th – Fri 31 st Oct	HALF TERM
Mon 3 rd Nov – Fri 19 th Dec	Autumn Term (2)

Spring 26

Mon 5 th Jan – Fri 13 ^h Feb	Spring Term (1) INSET Mon 5 th Jan
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 – Fri 22 nd May	Summer Term (1) INSET Fri 22 nd May
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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