



SUPPORT
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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



3rd October 2025

From the Headteacher:

EmpowerHer Girls Rugby Festival

Owl Class girls spent a fantastic day today at Chinnor Rugby Club in Thame as part of EmpowerHer. The aim of the day was to help boost the confidence in girls through confidence clinics that use various methods to break down barriers, change perceptions and inspire girls to step out of their comfort zone in a safe environment. There were some amazing people there, including England Red Rose and now World cup winner, Maud Muir, Dr Rebecca Sheriff, a top clinician in the world of youth mental health and the wonderful Oxford University Women's Rugby Team. They even saw the Rugby World Cup!

Their day included:

- Rugby Skills Sessions: Inclusive and fun, led by RFU-qualified coaches.
- Meet & Inspire Session: A chance to hear from England Red Rose Maud Muir about her journey in sport.
- Legacy Benefits: A free rugby coaching session to be delivered at our school soon by RFU-qualified coaches.

Black History Month

October is Black History Month – a time to celebrate and remember the achievements and contributions of people of African and Caribbean heritage to the British economy, culture, and history. It's a chance to tell the stories of those lesser well-known Black Britons who we might not know if we don't showcase them.

The theme for Black History Month UK 2025 is 'Standing Firm in Power and Pride' a powerful tribute to the resilience, strength, and unwavering commitment to progress that defines the Black community across the globe. This year, the theme highlights the profound contributions made by Black people be they leaders, activists, or pioneers who have shaped history, while also looking towards a future of continued empowerment, unity, and growth.

Black History is remembered and woven into our curriculum all year round. However, Black History Month provides an additional opportunity to remember specific individuals and events that might not be included within the national curriculum and would be overlooked if not celebrated at moments such as these. We look forward to sharing our work with you over this next month.

YR – Yinka Shonibare (Artist) - The children will be using vertical lines, zigzags and circles to create pieces of art with oil pastels

Y1/2 – Oti Mabuse (Dancer) The children will be learning a dance and designing an outfit for Oti

Y3/4 – Marcus Rashford (Footballer) The children will be researching his life and writing a biography

Y5/6 – Grace Nichols (Poet) The class will create poems in the style of Grace or re-write one of hers

National Poetry Day

Thursday marked National Poetry Day – an event established to celebrate the richness and diversity of poetry and to promote its importance in different cultures. Poetry is used all around the world as an important way to express how people are feeling and it is a great way of storytelling. Each year has a different theme, and this year's theme is 'Play'. Each class has celebrated in their own way and shared these in Collective Worship today

YR – learnt and recited (with actions!) an autumnal poem 'Leaves are Falling'

Y1/2 – looked at Performance Poetry and learned a poem by Brian Moses about taking a pet iguana for a walk on a leash at the beach!

Y3/4 – looked at playing with compound words and had fun turning them into short verses. We also shared the poem Kieran by Berlie Doherty which deals with a child facing difficulties when in the playground.

Y5/6 – read, memorised and performed Mike Birds 'Before I was Yo-Yo Champion of the World', a poem about resilience in play, before creating their own versions of repeated word poems: 'Nan bought me a yo-yo, and first my skills were so-so,'

Finally... In the Words of a Pupil

We work hard to ensure that our vision and values are integral to everything we do at school. We are grateful to Elsie, Year3, for the poem she has written for us based on our values:

*I trust all my friends and teachers too
 We work as a team in perfect harmony
 We show outreach to anyone in need
 All of us are resilient in our work and play
 We wonder in our lessons to imagine what we can see and do
 I am grateful to be at this school.*

*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 in Hedgehog class we have been comparing measures. We read the story of 'Where's my Teddy?' by Jez Alborough. We compared different size bears using the language of smaller, bigger, smallest and biggest. We went on a nature hunt to find 3 different sized objects and put them in the correct order. In Phonics we have been building on our sounds and now know s,a,t,p,i and n. This equips us with enough phonemes to begin reading and writing simple words and sentences which the children have really been enjoying. For National Poetry Day we have learnt the poem 'Leaves are Falling' and had actions to show how and where they were falling. In our play we are becoming increasingly independent and have been doing lots of making and coming up with our own ideas for projects.



Squirrel Class

This week in English we have been continuing our work around our key text Dogger. We also celebrated National Poetry Day and the class learned a funny poem by Brian Moses titled 'Walking with my Iguana'. In Maths lessons the Y1 children have been looking at the language of fewer, more and same, alongside greater than, less than and equal to. The Y2 children have learned about number lines and the differing scales, starting points and intervals to look out for. In R.E. we read the Bible story of Jonah and the Whale, unpicking what the story (and others) tells us what God is like. In our Science lesson this week we discussed the difference in daylight hours in each season, looking at the reasons for this and how it affects our lives (going to bed when the sun is still out in the summer was the biggest complaint! 😊). Art this week saw the children create their Christmas card designs – we hope you like them and don't forget to order online and return the form back to school. Have a great weekend!



Fox Class

Descriptions is a word I would use to sum up this week! In our Maths, children have been using number line, estimating and comparing and ordering numbers; describing how they know this. It is important children can explain their answers rather than 'because my brain says so!' Year 4 have learnt about Roman numerals and started to round numbers. In our English, children used a range of conjunctions to explain their reasoning before spending time planning then writing a setting description ensuring they used a wide range of exciting verbs and expanded noun phrases. For National Poetry Day, we used the theme of 'Play' to play with words! We took compound words or phrases and turned them around putting them into questions: Is a bouncy ball a posh party where you jump around a lot? We also listened to a poem by Berlie Doherty about a child called Kieran and spent time unpicking it. In our Geography, children learnt to describe where something is on a map by using 4 figure grid references with a brief foray into 6 figure too! They enjoyed playing a game on a very large map describing where different symbols they had made were placed. In our Science, children carried out an investigation into how shadows change throughout the day. They needed to describe what happened to shadows from sunrise through to sunset Using The Tin Forest from our English, children used charcoal, rubbers, white chalk and brushes to recreate the setting from the book. The whole class were able to demonstrate a wide range of skills showing texture, contrast and shade. If I could describe the week in one word, it would be jam-packed!



Owl Class

We have been busy and creative here in Owl Class this week as we edited and recrafted descriptive settings of the Viking village Kaupang to create an atmosphere of our choice; the children used a good range of descriptive language, similes and linked their clauses using commas. In Maths, we have been quickly recapping our essential addition and subtraction skills, using a wide range of one, two, three or even four step word problems, as well as focusing on good and clear presentation skills; so vital for our later school career. In History we looked at differing versions of the saga of Erik the Red and wondered why the stories had changed over time - one child explained it as 'like a remake of an old film from the nineties, so they can make it better for what we like now'. Apart from making Mr Manning feel extremely old, this was exactly the concept as the audience changed over generations. Science found us making a working model of our blood, using such high-tech materials as vegetable oil, marsh-mallows and scraps of paper to represent the component parts of our blood, and the children had to evaluate the benefits and drawbacks of our model through a scientific perspective. We didn't even spill a drop on the tables! We also learnt to perform 'Before I was the Yo-Yo Champion of the World' as part of National Poetry day, and even crafted our own version, adding in our own repeated words at the end of each phrase On Friday, the girls from Owl Class had the amazing chance to attend the EmpowerHer rugby workshop, play games of tag rugby and meet England Rose player Muad Muir. What a great week in Owl Class!

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Photo Diary of the Week



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

Values: Wonder

Have you ever found yourself saying, 'Wow! Look at that!' Whether it's the simplicity of a raindrop, the wonder of a spider weaving a web or the way a horse gallops across a field. Sometimes there are moments in our everyday lives that gives us a sense of 'wow', or awe and wonder. It's hard to describe this feeling, and people often say that it leaves them feeling lost for words. This week in Collective Worship we have been reflecting upon the benefits of experiencing and enjoying 'wow' moments. Feeling awe and wonder is not a new thing. The Bible is full of passages that express wonder at God's creation and the natural world, and at how God acts in the world. The Book of Psalms includes many lines that express awe at God's creation.

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Psalm 19:1

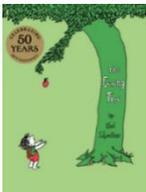
Climate Warriors Challenge

Our dry summer of 2025 was looking to produce a crop of smaller apples, but thanks to the rains of the last month many of the apples have swollen nicely, producing a bumper crop of British apples this year. However, the weather this year has led to the cereal crops harvest being brought forward by a fortnight ... and did you notice blackberries and plums ripening much earlier than you would expect? Whilst climate change and changing weather patterns impact our UK harvests, in many African countries, harvests suffer far more acutely at the hands of extreme and unpredictable weather due to climate change.

Our children are challenged this week to choose local fruits over imported ones – how many varieties of British-grown apples can they eat this week? Becoming more aware of our homegrown produce and how the climate is impacting our own harvests, draws our attention to those who are really struggling. You are challenged to see how many different varieties of British-grown apples they can find ... and eat! Is it red, green, brown, stripy ... crisp, crunchy, sweet, tangy? Use this webpage to find out more about [different types of British apples](#).

This World Food Programme project is an uplifting example of how it's possible to bring degraded land back to life
[UN Food Programme: Greening the Sahel](#)

Book Review The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein. Reviewed by Mrs Healy



I was recommended this book by my daughter's boyfriend who said it was the most memorable book of his childhood. I shared the book with the school during our Collective Worship on Tuesday and it was so well received. You could have heard a pin drop. The Giving Tree is a tender, bittersweet tale of unconditional love and sacrifice. It's simple prose and illustrations carry profound meaning, evoking reflection on generosity, selfishness, and the passage of time. A great book to share with your child and spark interesting conversations.

Happiness Calendar: Optimistic October

October is a great time to focus on the positive and set yourself goals. 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	87%	3%	10%
Owl Class	88%	0%	12%

Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	69	200
Eden	55	170
Galilee	50	182
Jerusalem	65	203

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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
03.10.25	Email	Fox	Office	Cardboard request
01.10.25	Letter	All	Office	PTA Meeting minutes
01.10.25	Letter	Owl girls	Mr Manning	Rugby trip
29.09.25	Letter	All	Office	PTA Christmas cards

October	
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
Friday 10 th	Deadline to order Christmas cards and return order sheets to school
Monday 13 th	Deadline to order earlybird school photographs
Monday 20 th	14:00-15:00 Open Afternoon #2 for Reception 2026
Monday 20 th	Owl Class – Viking dress up day
Tuesday 21 st	9:00 Bags2School collection
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 5 th 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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