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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



**10<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

*From the Headteacher:*

### *English and Maths Evenings for Parents*

We are delighted to announce that we will be running a Parents Reading and Writing Workshop on Tuesday 18th November, 6:00-7:30pm. There will be a main session for everyone followed by workshops for EYFS, KS1 and KS2 to provide lesson experiences for parents including: how phonics is taught, how to help children learn to read and write, how to help with comprehension exercises and how parents can support their child's learning at home.

#### Phonics Session

- Explain what phonics is, including concepts like phonemes (sounds) and graphemes (the letters that represent sounds).
- Decoding and blending: how children learn to decode (sound out) words and blend sounds to form words.
- The school's phonics program: to explain the phonics program we use and what the phonics screening check is
- Home activities: ideas and resources for activities and games to play at home to support your child's phonics learning.

#### Reading and Writing Workshops

- Decoding – strategies for all ages
- Prosody (stress, intonation and expression)
- Comprehension - retrieval, recap and recall and how to develop inference skills
- The school's reading programme: how we match books and skills so children can read fluently and independently
- Writing - How is writing taught in school? How can reading support your child's writing? What does writing look like for each year group? How can we develop and support writers?
- Home activities: ideas and resources for activities and games to play at home to support your child's learning.

On Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January we will run a Maths Workshop where we will be looking at how we teach addition, subtraction, multiplication and division as well using the mathematical skills to solve both concrete and abstract problems across KS1 and KS2.

### *500 words*

Our English homework for the next few weeks is linked to the 500 Words competition. This is to encourage children to have fun writing stories and to be as creative as they can be. Children are encouraged to write a story they would love to read themselves. They should try to make the reader laugh, or cry or just be blown away by what they are reading!

There are two age categories: 5-7 and 8-11 year-olds. Unlike at school - spelling, punctuation and grammar are not marked, it is all about the writers' brilliant creativity! There are very few rules for 500 Words just:

- **Be 500 words or less** (title is not included in the number)
- Be written by an individual and not a group
- Be a child's own original idea
- Be prose, not rap or poem

There are great prizes to be won - each winner receives a bundle of books and the gold winners also win 500 books for their school library. Imagine that in our new library! What's more 50 finalists will be invited to a star-studded grand final at Windsor Castle in February 2026, which will be hosted by Her Majesty Queen Camilla. If that's not enough, each winner will also see their story read aloud by a superstar celebrity on TV! So why not encourage your child to give it a go and get writing!

### *Finally...Soggy socks and cold children*

We are seeing a few issues with PE kits/PE uniform in recent weeks. Please note that all PE kits must have a spare pair of socks in them. As we are enjoying field based activities, even on days when there is dew on the grass or it is raining, and quite a few children are getting soggy socks which they then have to wear for the rest of the day. Children who wear tights must have socks available as they cannot wear tights for PE and will therefore have bare feet. We also have a number of children without sweatshirts or joggers who are complaining that they are cold. Whilst I'm on a roll - do also remember that PE kits need to be school Monday – Friday not just on PE days. You never know what fun things we may do on non PE days!

Please note that Health and Safety requires the removal of earrings or that they are taped for PE lessons. It is a parent's responsibility to provide the tape – we suggest a roll of micropore, or similar, remains in the PE kit or please ensure that your child does not wear earrings to school on PE days. Please bear this in mind when choosing an appropriate age for ear piercing.

Finally – please name all parts of school uniform. We seem to have a pile of un-named uniform at the end of each lesson.

*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 magical week we've had in Hedgehog Class! We've been exploring the story of *Jack and the Beanstalk*, and even had a special visit from the Giant himself! He came to make some new friends but, oh dear, he got stuck in our ceiling! The children showed such kindness by writing letters to cheer him up and even prepared a *giant lunch* using our garden resources — what wonderful imagination and teamwork! In the sand area, the children worked brilliantly together to build a *giant sandcastle*, carefully testing different ways to make their moat waterproof. After lots of experimenting, they decided that plastic bags were the perfect solution — clever thinking, Hedgehogs! In Phonics, we've been busy practising our *blending and segmenting* skills, while in Maths we've been sorting and classifying all sorts of objects (and even people!). It's been lovely to see everyone so engaged, curious, and full of ideas this week. Well done, Hedgehogs — what fantastic learning adventures we've shared!



### Squirrel Class

This week Squirrel Class moved onto a new text for English, a beautiful autumnal story by Lois Ehlert titled *Leaf Man*. The children had great fun creating their own leaf man (or woman!) and we then used these to re-tell the story in pairs. We also created Missing posters for Leaf Man. The story makes great use of prepositional language, and we hope to use this to inspire our grammar and sentence composition next week. In Maths the Y1 children have been consolidating their understanding of greater than, less than and equal to. We have also been practising how to order numbers within 20 from greatest to smallest (and vice versa). The Y2 children have also been ordering and comparing numbers (to 100) and estimating on a number line. In History we learned about holidays in the past, how they have changed over time and the reasons why. We looked at old photos and ordered them on a timeline, talking about details we could spot to give us clues. The class were super history detectives! Science saw the children recording temperature data and we discussed reasons for changes of temperature across the four seasons. Lastly in R.E. we talked about what the miracles in the bible tell us about God. The children loved reading the different bible stories and our discussions.



### Fox Class

Another busy week in Fox Class. On Monday (our problem-solving day) I gave the class a real head scratcher! They were given a grid of numbers we recognise and also numbers written in different scripts. They had to find clues to help them. They worked really well looking for patterns. In our daily Maths, Y3 spent time looking at the effect of adding ones, tens and hundreds and knowing which numbers will change when doing so. They also realised the power of their number bonds from KS1: knowing  $5+2=7$  so  $55+2=57$  and  $135+2=137$ . In Y4, children worked on their rounding knowledge working with 10s, 100s and 1,000s. A very useful skill especially when estimating. In our English, we have started a new book called *The Barnabus Project*. So far, we have used abstract nouns, written adverts using a range of different sentence types and finished off the week focussing on Marcus Rashford and writing a biography for Black History Month. In our Geography, the class became town planners and designed their own settlements using the OS symbols and abbreviations they have been learning. It was interesting listening to their reasoning as to why they placed things where they did. Lots of common sense was involved! In our Science, children carried out an investigation as to what happens to shadows when the light source is moved. In small groups they were able to test out for themselves and produce a results table and write up a conclusion using the data they have collected. Great budding scientists! In conjunction with our Science, in Art, children spent time studying shadows cast on fruit and were able to add shadow and texture building on their skills they have been growing over the past few weeks. In our French the whole class are now confident in asking 'How are you' and responding in kind. Why not ask them?



### Owl Class

We are well and truly in the midst of a busy term here in Owl Class, as began the week with venn diagrams to help sort the common multiples of various numbers and solve an interactive escape room with the answers, before we delved into the nitty-gritty of factors, factor-pairs, common factors and prime numbers using counters and arrays, then pictograms of factor flowers and factor bugs to help us visualise before moving onto more abstract ideas. A very good weeks work. In English, we spent a great deal of the week reading together, becoming utterly enticed by our key text *Viking Boy*. The children explored the enigmatic character of Rurik, splitting our diagrams into his gentle side, and his ruthless side. How could we reconcile these two extreme parts to make one person? What inferences could we make about his background from clues given to us by the author? There were some magic moments when the penny dropped and we confirmed some of our predictions, or were utterly taken aback by a development! In Science, the children explored the links between body mass and heartrate in a variety of animals, using the internet and responsible search engine Kiddle. The work was independent as they searched out data and quickly spied the patterns within. Our Class Collective Worship was also worth sharing with you - the children suggested the idea to me earlier, linking the bible passage to the senses, and they created a montage of small things that create a sense of wonder and remind us that each day is a gift. The leaders were excellent, and the ideas shared around the class inspirational. Well done Owl Class.

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*Growing together, rooted in God, enjoying fullness of life. (Colossians 2:1-7)*



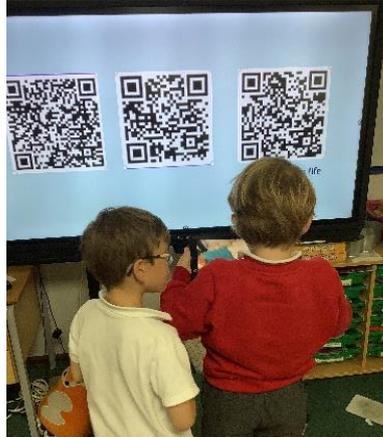
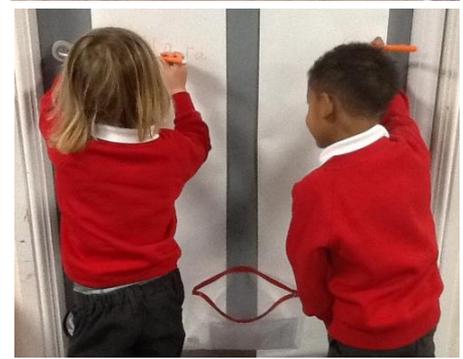
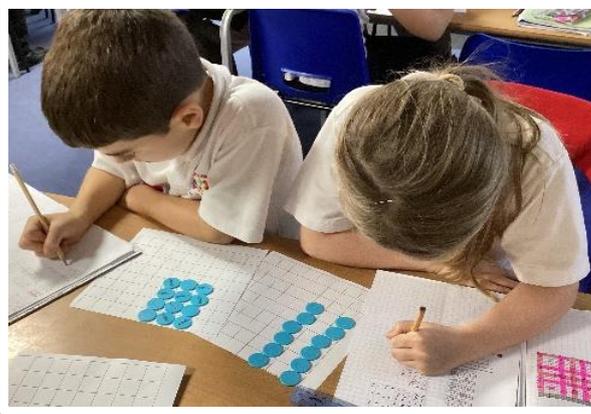
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# Photo Diary of the Week



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

### Values: Wonder

This week our theme has been 'What a Wonderful World'. We have discussed the current weather, the surrounding area and what the children enjoy most about the outdoors and nature. We reflected that we are all part of God's creation, just like the trees, hills, fruit and vegetables. Christians believe that God loves us to enjoy all that he has given us. He wants us to make the most of the fresh air and the outdoors, to use our bodies and to look after each other and take time just to 'wonder'. God loves to see us, his children, running around, enjoying creation and having fun. We also reflected on how special our senses are and how we can use all of them regularly: listening to others laughing and playing or the birds singing; smelling the fragrant flowers and trees; feeling the cool breeze on our faces tasting the falling rain or snow.

*'This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.'* Psalm 118:24

### Climate Warriors Challenge

You may know of Dame Jane Goodall, from her work studying chimpanzees in the 1960s in Tanzania; she discovered that chimpanzees make and use tools and has been the inspiration for over 40 films. Sadly, Jane died last week, aged 91. Despite her age she was still out on the campaign trail ... speaking in the United States about the need to do everything we can to protect our earth. She was full of hope, she believed that the solutions are here ... in us.

This week Young Climate Warriors are encouraged to be part of that solution by talking about climate change ... talking about the need to do all we can to protect our planet ... just like Dame Jane Goodall. We are facing one of the greatest challenges that humanity has ever faced – and yet many people never talk about it. Here's a simple 'net zero' explainer which might be useful in discussions with children. If you're looking for further inspiration you might like to check out the Jane Goodall Institute website. Related links:

['Talk climate change' map](#) - to see conversations happening across the globe.

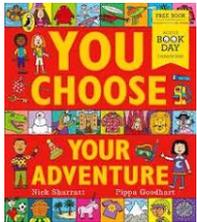
[Jane Goodall Institute](#) - a global movement protecting wildlife, inspiring youth, and healing our planet.

[Net Zero explainer: excellent Cafod video](#)

[What exactly is climate change? by ClimateScience](#)

[Imagine for one minute, what a better future looks like by Conservation International.](#)

### Book Review You Choose: Your Adventure by Pippa Goodheart. Reviewed by Hedgehog Class



We have enjoyed the book "You Choose: Your Adventure" by Pippa Goodheart this week. This is a great book for stimulating children's imagination and encouraging lots of new vocabulary.

The children said:

- ❖ I liked it because you get to choose your own story – Harrison.
- ❖ I liked it because it has good pictures – Olivia
- ❖ I liked it because I liked the characters – Leo

### 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	82%	6%	12%
Squirrel Class	82%	0%	18%
Fox Class	93%	0%	7%
Owl Class	80%	0%	20%

### Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	52	252
Eden	38	210
Galilee	41	223
Jerusalem	50	253

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### *Emails and letters sent this week*

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
06.10.25	Email	All	Office	Christmas card orders
06.10.25	Letter	Owls	Mr Manning	Viking Day
06.10.25	Email	All	Office	Bags2School collection
06.10.25	Email	All	Office	School photograph orders

October	
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Earlybird deadline to order school photos
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup>	14:00-15:00 Open Afternoon #2 for Reception 2026
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Owl Class – Viking Day
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	09:00 Bags2School collection
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Flu immunisations
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Be Bright Be Seen Day (wear bright clothes for Road Safety Day)
November	
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup>	09:30-10:30 Open Morning #3 for Reception 2026
<b>Friday 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Deadline to submit 500 Words competition - <a href="#">Submit BBC 500 Words here</a></b>
w/c 10 <sup>th</sup> November	Anti-Bullying Week Power for Good
Mon 10 <sup>th</sup> and Tue 11 <sup>th</sup>	Parents' Evenings (Mon O, F, S) (Tues O, F, S, H)
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Children in Need (wear spots and dots and make a donation to this charity)
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Annual Health and Safety Inspection
<b>Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Reading and Writing Workshop for parents</b>
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Full Governing Body Meeting
December	
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Fox: Pre-Historic Workshop with British Museum
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> Dec	PTA: Wreath making workshop
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas jumper day (with uniform) – please bring in a hamper donation for PTA
Tue 9 <sup>th</sup> 14:00 & Wed 10 <sup>th</sup> 17:30	EYFS Nativity in school hall
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	09:30 Panto in school – donations welcome and supported by PTA
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	18:00 Christingle in church
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Party - am School ends 13:30
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup>	PTA: Film/craft afternoon 13:30 – 15:15

### *Academic Year Calendar 2025-26*

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> Sept
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	
Mon 5 <sup>th</sup> Jan – Fri 13 <sup>h</sup> Feb	Spring Term (1) INSET Mon 5 <sup>th</sup> Jan
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)
Summer 26	
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> April – Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Summer Term (1) INSET Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> May
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> May – Fri 29 <sup>th</sup> May	HALF TERM
Mon 1 <sup>st</sup> June – Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Summer Term (2) INSET Mon 20 <sup>th</sup> July

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