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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



17th October 2025

From the Headteacher:

Open Days

We had the first of our three 'open days' last month for those families looking for an Early Years place for September 2026. There was so much positive feedback about our fabulous school and facilities. The next ones will be on Monday 20th October 14:00-15:00 and Friday 7th November 09:30-10:30. We have tried to give a variety of days and times to be as flexible as possible. If you know anyone who might be interested, then please do let them know. If you could help by advertising these on social media, put up posters at home or in local shops or drop off flyers at suitable locations then please let us know.

Be Bright Be Seen Day

If you are a motorist then you will know how difficult it is to sometimes see pedestrians wearing dark clothes at night or when visibility is poor. Last year, most road related accidents for children happened between 7-9am or 3-5pm on a weekday - the exact times pupils travel back and forth to school. The clocks will change during half-term and the nights are growing darker earlier. We want to raise awareness of this issue with the children. On Friday 24th October we will be having a 'Be Bright Be Seen Day', raising awareness of the importance of being safe on the streets. We will be asking children to come to school NOT in uniform but dressed in bright clothes. We will be reminding them how important it is to wear bright clothes and fluorescent strips so that drivers can see them more easily.

Reading Levels

At Aston Rowant Primary we use a variety of books to ensure that your children are able to grow into confident and able readers. So that there is parity between the different books that your children read, they are put into 'bands' which have colour names and books become progressively more difficult as the children move through the school. The difference between each colour band is gradual so that children do not experience great difficulty in moving up through the scheme.

In KS1, the focus for reading is on word reading and fluency and children may progress through more than one colour band in a year. In KS2 however, the focus is still on word reading and fluency but a greater importance is placed upon comprehension skills (predicting, summarising, questioning, inferring, evaluating and clarifying) whilst making links to other texts and the wider world and therefore, children may progress through the bands at a slower rate than in KS1, because there is now simply more to reading than just reading!

The progression through the book bands is not automatic and it is not based on whether the children have read through each book in that band. It is important to ensure that children working at all levels have a secure understanding of what they are reading so that they remain in control of their reading and are motivated to move on to more challenging texts. It is not a race to get to the end of the reading bands. If children are rushed through books, they will not achieve the learning and understanding necessary or develop the skills that each band is designed to elicit. The class teacher is the best judge of when a child is ready to move on. We regularly get 'requests' to move children up a level but ask that you respect the teachers' professional judgement of what a child's learning needs are and which book band will best meet these.

Parents can best support children with their reading by reading little and often. The amount of reading time shouldn't exceed children's attention spans. As a rough guide the attention span of a child is approximately the child's age x 2-3 minutes. Time the reading carefully – it's best not to embark on school reading books when children are tired but a bedtime story which you read instead is great. Remember all reading is valid! Lists, recipes, instructions, poetry and stories are all great sources of reading material. The greater variety of things that a child reads, the more fluent they will be. Try not to compare your child's progress to other children or siblings. Every child is an individual and they will achieve more if they feel successful. Enjoy reading with your child and help them to become lifelong readers.

If you want to explore this further then do come to the Reading and Writing Workshop on Tuesday 18th November 6:00-7:30pm.

Finally...medicines

We have seen an increase in expectation that school will give medicine during the school day, particularly for minor ailments. Please note that medication should only be administered during school hours if it would be detrimental to a child's health not to do so. We will always support children with specific medical needs or in an exceptional circumstance when children need to follow a course of medication. We can then administer medication if parents provide written consent and providing that the medicine is in its original packaging with clear instructions. Parents are responsible for providing the medication and should inform the school of their child's health needs. Thank you.

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 an exciting and busy week we've had in Hedgehog Class! The giant has *finally* climbed down from the ceiling - thanks to the brilliant ladder the children designed and built together. His visit caused quite a mess in our classroom, so the children put their phonics to good use and wrote letters to him saying, "I am mad and sad," using the sounds and spelling patterns we've been learning this term. Our creativity didn't stop there. The children practiced their cutting skills by making giant friends complete with wonderfully spikey hair - fantastic fine motor work and imagination on display! In Maths, we helped the Three Bears get ready for their picnic. The children used the language of size and comparison to lay everything out just right, thinking carefully about big, small, shorter, longer, and everything in between. It's been a very productive week where we've seen the children confidently apply their learning from the past few weeks. It has been wonderful to watch it all come together so beautifully.



Squirrel Class

The penultimate week of term and the Squirrels are as busy as ever! We have been writing our own versions of Leaf Man in our English lessons, describing where he goes on his journey using prepositions and local landmarks. In Maths the Y1 children have been learning about part whole models and number sentences (addition only) and the Y2 children have been finishing off their place value work by looking at the 2x, 5x, 10x and 3x tables. This week we completed some learning linked to Black History Month and studied the South African born dancer, Oti Mabuse. We had a great time learning a dance from her repertoire and designing Oti an outfit for a dance show! In R.E. we looked at parables and studied what they tell us about God - the class loved the story of the Lost Sheep and The Prodigal Son. Lastly, in Art we created some natural material drawings using charcoal.



Fox Class

The class have been beavering away in growing their learning this week. In Maths, both year groups have been focusing on addition and subtraction. Year 3 have been understanding what happens to numbers when they cross the 0 boundary and how useful the knowledge of their number binds to 10 are. Year 4 have been working on their column addition and subtraction but now with 4-digits more than last year. In English, our SPaG covered the present perfect tense, and we used this new knowledge to write how Barnabus would be feeling before writing a diary entry in this new tense. Can your child tell you the secret words that demonstrates that it is present perfect? In Geography, we had an interesting discussion about how settlements have changed around our area, and I was so impressed by the vocabulary used such as residential, businesses and nucleated. Children could also understand why settlements changed. Moving on from that we spent time looking at a very different settlement: New Delhi! We used Google Earth to look at the city and spot human and physical features. In our Science, we took our understanding of shadows and in small groups made shadow puppets (thank you for the cardboard (!) and used them to tell stories about different scientists who had investigated light in history such as Euclid and Sir Isaac Newton. In our Art, we took all of the techniques we have covered this half term and used them to sketch our own portraits. The results are amazing! It's been a fabulous week, and the children have all given 100%! Well done Foxes!



Owl Class

This week in Owl Class we have been preparing for our Big Write in English, getting to know the character of Rurik inside and out so we can write as him as he faces the possibility of an untimely end - don't worry; he makes a daring escape! We spent a lot of time plotting our recount, including switching between present, past perfect and future tense to dart about in Rurik's story. Having just finished marking these, I must say the writing standard was very high. In Maths, as we draw to the end of our first unit of multiplicative and divisible numbers, we used a wide range of practical resources including connect-cubes and arrays to help us visualise 3D cubed numbers, with Year 5 investigating patterns to be able to predict the next three cubed numbers after 5, before Year 6 set off on problem and reasoning questions involving both square, prime and cubed numbers. In Science, we performed a series of tests to explore a link between heart rate and exercise, using our data loggers to record our pulses after different physical activities, including skipping, running and sitting very, very still... In French we used bilingual dictionaries to help us to form descriptive sentences about animals, whilst in History we looked at the wonderful poet Grace Nichols, born in Guyana, but moved to London in the 1970's aged 12, and who writes about the impact of everyday life in Britain on a young girl from the Caribbean. We looked closely at her poem 'Madame Winters Rap' and adapted our own version to be about 'Young Master Autumn.' What a busy week!

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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 marvelled that we are God's creation. That we were all designed and created by him. We are works of art! That we are all unique. We are wonderful. We looked at how the Bible describes us as being fearfully and wonderfully made – He loved creating us and He put his spirit into us. We don't always see ourselves as wonderful. But Psalm 139 expresses awe at the intricate and marvellous way God has created a person, recognising their value as a result of divine craftsmanship rather than human merit. It emphasizes the wonder of creation and can serve as a reminder of self-worth. Our challenge this week was to think about what makes us wonderful? What do we see in the world that is wonderful, that makes us pause for a moment and just wonder?

'I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well'. Psalm 139:14

Climate Warriors Challenge

'Little by little, a little can become a lot' Tanzanian proverb

'Vampire power' can account for over 10% of total home electricity use! The average UK household leaves 10 items plugged in 'on standby' at any time. The challenge this week is after dark to go on a hunt around your home for the 'little glowing eyes' - the 'energy sucking vampires' - how many do you have? Children must check with a parent/carer before touching anything electrical and to see if that item needs to be left on stand-by or not (beware of not turning off any fridge/freezers!)

Book Review Leaf Man by Lois Elhert recommended by Squirrel Class



Leaf Man is a picture book by an American author about a Leaf Man who is on the move, destination unknown! But one thing we do know is...a Leaf Man's got to go where the wind blows. This gorgeously illustrated book captured the hearts of Squirrel Class these past few weeks, particularly supporting our noticing and wonder of the changing seasons.

"I loved the part where he flies over the chickens and the bit at the end when he meets his Leaf Lady! I'd love to read this book to my little twin sisters because I think they'd like the pictures" – Billie

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	89%	0%	11%
Fox Class	93%	0%	7%
Owl Class	88%	0%	12%

Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	44	296
Eden	56	266
Galilee	57	280
Jerusalem	58	311

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Growing Together

Emails and letters sent this week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
17.10.25	Email	All	Office	Reminder – Flu Consent Form
17.10.25	Email	All	Office	PE Kits
15.10.25	Letter	All	Office	Full Governing Body letter to parents
13.10.25	Email	All	Office	Earlybird deadline – school photographs

October	
Monday 20 th	14:00-15:00 Open Afternoon #2 for Reception 2026
Monday 20 th	Owl Class – Viking Day
Tuesday 21 st	09:00 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
Friday 7 th	Deadline to submit 500 Words competition - Submit BBC 500 Words here
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
Tuesday 18 th	Reading and Writing Workshop for parents
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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