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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



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

### *From the Headteacher:*

#### *Owl Viking Day*

This week Year 5 and 6 stepped back in time to experience life as Vikings as part of their History unit. The day was filled with exciting activities that brought the Viking era to life, from crafting and storytelling to role-playing, baking and exploration. A huge congratulations to all the children for their incredible costumes and enthusiastic participation — your energy and creativity made the day truly memorable!

#### *Let's Get Reading!*

Reading for fun can spark imagination, boost confidence, and open up a world of adventure — and now there's a national campaign to help us all rediscover the joy of books! The *Get Britain Reading* initiative by The Times and The Sunday Times invites families to take a simple pledge: read for just **10 minutes a day** for six weeks. Whether it's a bedtime story, a funny comic, or a fascinating fact book, every minute counts. Sign up to the challenge and receive book recommendations, reading tips, and inspiration from famous authors. Let's help our children fall in love with reading and make it a joyful part of everyday life. [Get Britain reading signup](#)

### *From the PJA: The Library Project*

#### **A New Chapter**

Around 12 months ago, the school recognised the need for a dedicated library building and, together with the PTA and parent volunteers, began turning that vision into reality. Each class currently enjoys its own reading corner, but the current library - a corridor outside the headteacher's office - is a thoroughfare, often noisy and distracting, and cannot accommodate a full class. While it is the best the school can provide with the space available, it is not fit for purpose. The school aims to give the children a dedicated area that inspires curiosity, imagination, and confidence in reading.

From these early discussions, a shared vision has taken shape: a purpose-built, inspiring, and multifunctional library designed to encourage every child to explore, discover, and enjoy reading, while also providing a flexible space for learning, creativity, and wellbeing.

#### **Our Proposed Library Building**

Designed with sustainability and flexibility in mind, the space will feature energy-efficient lighting, natural ventilation, perimeter shelving to maximise floor space, and a calming, nature-inspired theme that provides a distinctive environment for reading and learning, reflecting the school's ethos of "growing together." The project is currently progressing through the planning permission process, and the school is working through the final internal library designs. While the overall layout is largely agreed, a few details remain to be finalised, and project costs may therefore adjust slightly.

#### **Fundraising Progress**

To date, thanks to the generosity of parents, donors, grant providers, and the school itself, we have raised **£42,308.60** of the estimated £54,574.10 target - approximately **78%** of the total cost.

A special thank you goes to Martin Lamaison, a valued member of the local community who, despite not having direct family connections to the school, has generously supported the project to benefit current and future pupils.

The school is also grateful to children who have shown enthusiasm in helping to raise funds, including Sienna Shepherd, whose initiative highlights the collaboration and shared effort at the heart of this project.

Fundraising continues, with grant applications under review and upcoming events, including a Quiz Night in February 2026. If funding permits, the school hopes to see the library installed in **April 2026**.

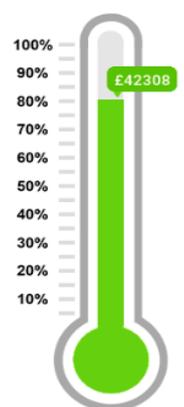
#### **Looking Ahead**

With a clear vision and near-final designs, the school is excited to share the concept of the proposed library and take the children and wider parent community with them on this journey. We look forward to keeping everyone updated as the project progresses and thank you all for your continued support in bringing the new library to life. Your contributions and generosity have been key in helping the project progress so far. Please see the design reveal on the next page!

*Kind regards*

*Mrs France*

Goal: £54574



**GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY**

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



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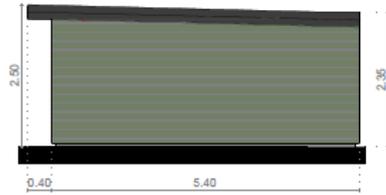
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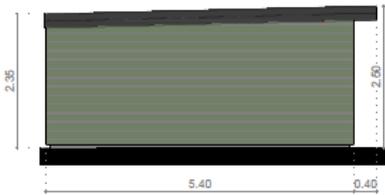
## The Library Design !



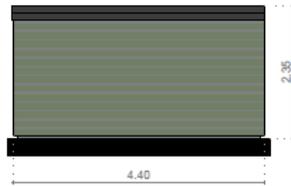
FRONT ELEVATION



SIDE ELEVATION (1)



SIDE ELEVATION (2)



REAR ELEVATION

The proposed library is a 5.4m x 4.4m timber-frame structure, clad in olive-green panels with wood-effect flooring and double doors opening onto a proposed outdoor reading area - creating a free-flowing indoor-outdoor space. The building will be located behind the Hedgehogs classroom, with access via the outdoor area between the Hedgehogs and Squirrels classrooms.



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## *Teaching and Learning in the Classrooms this week:*



### *Hedgehog Class*

What a magical week we've had in Hedgehog Class! This week we met *Cinderella*, who needed our help to escape her evil step mum. Using our fantastic dexterity skills, we searched carefully for the correct key to unlock the padlock and set her free! We then used those same skills to cut fabric for a brand-new dress and even managed to get into the pumpkin she left behind! In *Drawing Club*, we let our imaginations run wild as we thought about what might happen if the fairy godmother's wand ended up in the wrong hands – there were some very creative ideas! During *Independent Writing*, we helped Cinderella once again by designing her a brand-new invitation to the royal ball after she lost hers. In *Maths*, we explored simple repeated patterns, practising how to copy, continue, and even create our own colourful sequences. It's been a wonderful, imaginative week full of creativity, problem-solving, and teamwork – well done, Hedgehogs! 🦔🌟



### *Squirrel Class*

The last week of the half term is done and dusted, and what a week we've had! In English we looked at poetry and identified features of poems, as well as listening to and reading a variety of different works from famous poets. We then attempted our own poems with the challenge of using an adjective and alliteration. The children worked so hard and produced some wonderful work. In Maths we looked at addition this week, with the Y1 children completing simple addition number sentences to 10 or 20 and the Y2 children completing number bond work to 50 and identifying fact families. In P.E. the children practised ball skills and in R.E. we looked at how prayers reveal what God is like. Our Science lesson this week saw us look at weather reports (lots of surprise about the naming of storms and Storm Benjamin!), identifying symbols and language and then having a go at completing our own weather reports in pairs! It was lots of fun! Have a great week and see you in November for the second half of the term.



### *Fox Class*

Well done Fox Class! You've successfully completed your first mission of this school year! Getting through to half term! We've still been busy this week with Y3 working on starting their journey into column addition and Y4 fine tuning their subtraction skills with multiple exchanges. In addition, learning some efficient skills to make subtracting easier. In English, children learnt about when to use the determiner a or an. Then wrote some super escape plans to help the misfits in The Barnabus Project. Along with a contrasting poem and a book review we have been very busy writing! In our last Geography lesson, children looked for similarities and differences between New Delhi and Chinnor (!) - again I was impressed with their use of geographic vocabulary in their discussions. We used DigiMaps to also research our local area - a new subscription which I think we will enjoy over the years to aid our geographical and historical knowledge. In our Science, children enjoyed using mirrors, writing backwards, looking for symmetrical shapes and trying to negotiate a maze by only using a mirror image. In our last Art lesson, children chose items found on our field and then cut them in half and used charcoal to sketch the opposite side. This was an opportunity for them to showcase their skills learnt this half term. The whole class loved meeting Hannah Gold (an author) on Zoom where she spoke about her new book and her previous books which some of the class have already read. It was even better when she gave our class a shout out! It has also been a pleasure enjoying the half term projects and 500-word stories that they have brought in. They have all spoken clearly and effectively when presenting to the class. Thank you for supporting them in their learning. I wish you all a restful half term break and look forward to greeting them all refreshed and ready to grow their learning!



### *Owl Class*

Well, we made it Owl Class! It's the end of the first half term of being a Year 5 or Year 6, and what a ride it's been so far: this week you travelled back in time and spent the day crafting and learning as Vikings did, although we were light on the pillaging to be fair. Your costumes were amazing, with so many standout details and storytelling packed into the outfits. Your first wave of Big Homework Project arrived in class, and I was blown away by the creativity on show: so many longships we could set sail together: runes carved into dough, even delicious hot stews. Even after all of this, you didn't stop learning: you talked about Karma in Hinduism in our RE, and really thought about how this might help guide people through the trials and tribulations of everyday life, you plotted precise line graphs in Science to try to establish the link between fitness levels and heart rates, looking at two case-studies to help you analyse the data you found. In Art, you took your 2d drawing skills and transferred them onto clay, as part of our 2d drawing to 3d shading unit, as you sculpted Viking features into tiny clay busts, and once they had dried, glazed them with diluted PVA and then photographed them to experiment with torchlight and shade: could you replicate the shading effects from our charcoal shading work earlier this term? English saw us take part in a live assembly with author Hannah Gold (and get a shout out!), and as if that wasn't enough, you also edited your Big Writes and selected sections to polish and rewrite; using vital editing skills to make informed decisions, and in Maths you got to grips with understanding the *why* of multiplication by using grid method, and solving a range of reasoning and multi-step problems, showing your working out along the way. Well done on a very busy and successful half term, and I hope you all return rested.

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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 looked at the importance of having fun! We looked at enjoying life and savouring the wonderful things that we have been given. Throughout this half term we have been looking at spirituality and the acrostic SPIRITUAL written by the children and adults to help us understand what can be a tricky concept. The school community came up with **Senses heightened Personal response Inside and outside of us Relationship with God Imagine something bigger than us Think about what each situation reveals Understand how we see God in this moment Appreciate the moment Life in its fullness.** We have set the children a challenge about how they can enjoy creation over the half term using all of their senses, think about and appreciate each moment, how they can 'wonder' and how they will respond and live life in its fullness.

*'The heavens declare the glory of God.'* Psalm 19:1

### Climate Warriors Challenge

As part of our challenge to 'wonder' and live life in its fullness this half term our children are encouraged to have fun exploring in the woods – and challenged to find and identify some fascinating fungi (without touching them!), to find a tree to hug, and to find the biggest, brightest orange leaf. If they're feeling arty, they can collect leaves and seeds to create 'leaf fireworks' or 'woodland emojis'.

Did you know that hidden, underground networks of fungi are silently helping plants and trees to lock away carbon and combat climate change? Recent research suggests fungal networks beneath our feet may store over 13 gigatons of carbon, roughly equivalent to 1/3 of our global annual carbon emissions! Maybe fungi are a powerful and underappreciated ally in the fight against climate change? We can help to protect fungal networks and healthier soils, by supporting organic and sustainable farming practices.

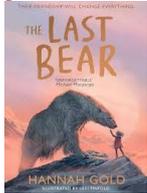
To help you here are some Woodland Trust Nature Detective links of potential interest:

[Fungi identification guide](#)

[Leaf fireworks](#)

[Woodland emojis](#)

### Book Review 'The Last Bear' by Hannah Gold reviewed by Millie and Evelyn, Year 5.



This book is about a girl called April, and her father tells her the family is moving to the Arctic for six months. She is devastated to leave home, but she meets a new friend in the shape of an injured, hungry Polar Bear who loves peanut butter. We recommend this book to people who love adventure and animals, and because we loved the way Hannah Gold writes how April connects with animals. You can tell the writer loves animals too!

### Happiness Calander: 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	75%	11%	14%
Fox Class	100%	0%	0%
Owl Class	80%	0%	20%

### Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	67	363
Eden	64	330
Galilee	63	343
Jerusalem	63	374

Congratulations to **Jerusalem** for winning the housepoint challenge for this half term.

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Went | 2024 - 2025Green Tree School  
Bronze Award

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Growing Together

***Emails and letters sent this week***

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
24.10.25	Email	All	Office	Lunch orders next term
21.10.25	Email	KS2	Office	Instrumental Music Lessons – Ali Andrews
21.10.25	Letter	All	Office	PTA Treasurer Role
20.10.25	Letter	All	Office	PTA Wreath Making Workshop
20.10.25	Letter	All	Office	PTA Autumn Events

November	
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup>	09:30-10:30 Open Morning #3 for Reception 2026
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Deadline to submit 500 Words competition - <a href="#">Submit BBC 500 Words here</a>
w/c 10 <sup>th</sup>	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
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Reading and Writing Workshop for parents
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Full Governing Body Meeting
December	
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Fox: Pre-Historic Workshop with British Museum
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup>	PTA: Wreath making workshop
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup>	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>th</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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