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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



**7<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

## *From the Headteacher: Celebrating Our SIAMS Success*

We are delighted to share the outcomes of our recent SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) report, which praises Aston Rowant CoFE Primary School for truly living up to its foundation as a Church school.

### **Key strengths highlighted include:**

- **A deeply rooted Christian vision** that guides every aspect of school life, nurturing and helping pupils grow into courageous, lifelong learners.
- **Strong, respectful relationships** across the school, where every individual is known, valued, and supported.
- **Collective worship** that is inspirational, inclusive, reflective, and central to daily life, helping children and adults explore faith meaningfully.
- **A nurturing environment** that supports wellbeing and enables all pupils—including the most vulnerable—to flourish.
- **Empowered pupils** who actively lead projects on justice, environmental care, and social responsibility, making a real difference locally and beyond.
- **A rich and inclusive curriculum**, including outdoor learning, creative RE lessons, and opportunities that build confidence and self-worth.

There are notable correlations with our Ofsted report, and together they provide a comprehensive insight into who we are as a school.

*Aston Rowant is a small school with a big heart which strives to care deeply for all. (SIAMS)  
It may be a small school, but everyone here has big ideas. (Ofsted)*

*Leaders have high aspirations for their community. They know and cherish each individual member. (SIAMS)  
Every child is known and believed in at Aston Rowant. The headteacher cultivates an ambition for every child to achieve well with no limits placed. (Ofsted)*

*Pupils are thoroughly prepared and well equipped to leave Aston Rowant as confident individuals who have strong self-belief. They have a true sense of self-worth. (SIAMS)  
It is easy to spot as Aston Rowant pupil. The way they convey themselves is impressive. (Ofsted)*

*Extra-curricular opportunities are chosen carefully to broaden and inspire. (SIAMS)  
The school's curriculum is well thought out and aspirational. (Ofsted)*

*There is a strong culture of encouragement and support. This enables pupils and adults to thrive, including those who may be vulnerable. (SIAMS)*

*Communication between the school and families to support pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) is excellent. Efficient systems are in place to quickly pick up a child's learning needs. (Ofsted)*

*A sense of wellbeing and nurture emerges from strong leadership, community support and a shared vision. This means that pupils and adults live well together, including in difficult times. (SIAMS)*

*An exceptional culture exists where adults care and look out for every child. Leaders ensure safeguarding is threaded through every aspect of school life. (Ofsted)*

We have been set the challenge to continue to develop our assessment system – which we know is strong but needs bedding in. We have already made a start on this. We will also continue to look at the meaning and impact of spirituality across the curriculum.

We are proud of our staff, pupils, and wider community for their commitment to living out our vision and values every day. Thank you for your continued support in helping our school thrive.

*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 fantastic week we've had in Hedgehog Class! In Maths, we've been exploring the properties of triangles and circles. The children went on an exciting shape hunt around the classroom and outdoor area, spotting all sorts of shapes in everyday objects. They also used 3D shape faces to create stunning fireworks pictures—perfect for this time of year! We've also begun our brand-new topic, 'Tis the Season'. We met Sita, who has come all the way from India to learn about our weather and celebrations. The children made beautiful seasonal tree pictures, showing the changing colours and features of the four seasons—they look wonderful on our display! Another big highlight this week was starting our woodwork play provision. The children have learnt how to safely use screwdrivers, sanding blocks, and spanners. They've been incredibly careful and responsible—well done Hedgehogs! It's been a busy and creative week full of learning and fun. We can't wait to see what next week brings! ✨



### *Squirrel Class*

A strong start to Autumn Term 2 for Squirrel Class and back to our learning with a bang! We took the time this week to explore Bonfire Night, learning about the history behind the day and why it is celebrated each November. We created artwork, poems and safety instructions for fireworks. In Maths the Y1 children have been working on addition number sentences and systematic number bonds within 10. We have used ten frames and counters to explore the concept with concrete resources, before moving on to write the bonds out on paper. The Y2 children have been learning about bonds to 100, adding and subtracting ones and finally how to use number bonds to 10 to support mental calculations. In RE this week, we learned a little about the Jewish faith and what some Jewish people believe in. We looked at Jewish places of worship (Synagogues), their holy book (Torah) and learned that the spiritual leaders are called Rabbis. In Science we learned about animal groups, identifying differences and similarities between the groups and looked closely at the human life cycle. A busy first week with lots to be proud of, well done Squirrels.



### *Fox Class*

Fox Class have come back ready to learn and grow and are excited with our new topics this half term. In Maths, Year 3 are continuing their learning of addition and subtraction but now exchanging and they have grasped this new concept brilliantly! Year 4 have had fun and games with area and have linked their knowledge of multiplication and arrays to help them work out area quickly and efficiently. In our SPaG this week we recapped our understanding of apostrophes; both contraction and possessive as the odd apostrophe seems to be appearing in their writing and not in the right place! Hopefully this has been sorted! In our writing lessons, we have started our text Stone Age Boy and the children had great understanding of inference and prediction just from looking at the front cover. We have also used drama to help us understand how the two key characters may be feeling. Working as authors, we had a go at rewriting some of the text to show repetition and short sentences to give a dramatic effect. In our History, we discussed different terms used to explain time in history such as century, period, Age, BC/AD then placed some notable events they knew on our class timeline. Using toilet paper (!), children were tasked in telling how many sheets they would need to unroll if each sheet was a thousand years. We did this outside but the wind didn't help when their loo roll timelines broke! Hey ho! In our Science, children had great fun investigating different rocks and finding ways to describe them. We had a wide range to choose from and they loved some of the special rocks with crystals. In our DT lesson, children learnt about wearable technologies and how and why some inventions were made and who would have benefited from them. Some had never seen a Sony Walkman and the idea of it being a new way of listening to music 'on the go' was a surprise to many! In our Computing lessons, we looked at flipchart books and how to make a picture move. They loved making their own – maybe they tried it at home too? What a busy first week back!



### *Owl Class*

Welcome back to the second part of the Autumn Term: we have plenty to do! The children have made a good start on their fractions unit, which relies heavily on their solid understanding of multiplication and division, as such, I have added some additional multiplication challenge sheets to the Class Page, if your Owl feels that some extra top up skills are useful. On the subject of the Class Page, I have also updated it to include a link to the short film The Piano that we are using in our English for the first few weeks of term - please do have a watch with your child if you are able, and talk about the ideas it shows to help build their discussive skills. They have already been creating character descriptions and editing them to hone their writing skills to focus in on a particular aspect of the pianist, and how we can 'show, don't tell' the audience a deeper story through observation. In Science we began our unit on the Life Cycles of Plants and Mammals with a retrieval quiz from a similar, related unit last year, and in Geography we began to research the Alpine regions and ask 'I Wonder' questions about living in this challenging environment. In PSHE, as part of our Citizenship unit, we learned about what happens if a person breaks the law in the UK and our court system, which has been described as 'fair, if not beautiful'. What did that mean? We spoke about this idea and learnt that a person is considered innocent until proven guilty and will always receive representation to ensure their rights are protected. We then held a gripping mock trial, using characters we were familiar with from last terms Viking Boy. The children argued for each side so well, getting into character as witnesses, defence lawyers and members of the jury. Well done on a busy first week back!

**GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY**

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



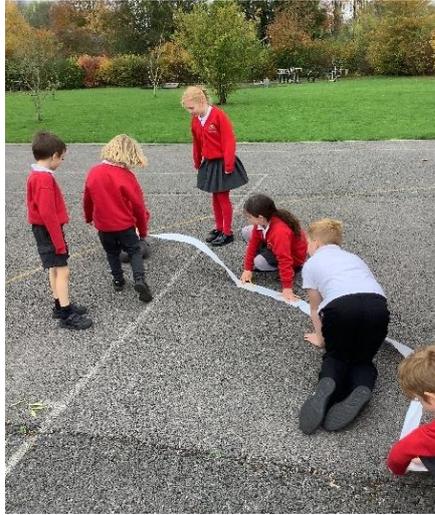
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## Photo Diary of the Week



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

### Values: Gratitude

This week we have been thinking about all the good things in our lives—our families, our friends, our school, and the people who care for us. We reflected that we should always remember to thank God for the many blessings He gives us every day. Sometimes we might forget to say thank you—to God or to others. But when we stop and think, we realise how much we've been given. God gives us love, forgiveness, strength when we're tired, and help when we're worried. So, this week we have tried to be thankful. To remember to say thank you—to God, to our teachers, to our friends, and to our families. A thankful heart helps us see the good in every day.

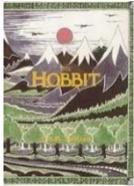
'Let all that I am praise the LORD; may I never forget the good things he does for me.' Psalm 103:2

### Climate Warriors Challenge

World Leaders are meeting this weekend in Belém, Brazil, in advance of COP30 which starts on Monday. Getting everyone, or even the majority, to take climate action is definitely not easy ... ingenuity and determination are a prerequisite. A global renewable energy transition is however well underway, and unstoppable: and the 1992 Earth Summit goal still stands. They are all working towards 'preventing dangerous climate change' ... and we all have a part to play.

What can we do back at home? As individuals our role is also crucial. Given that agriculture and food systems contribute 1/3 of global greenhouse gas emissions, our eating choices can make a big difference. Our school families are challenged to eat as many plant-based meals as possible over the course of COP30 – between 10th – 21st November.

### Book Review The Hobbit, by J R Tolkein. Reviewed by Bodie in Owl Class



The Hobbit is a very good book. I very much enjoyed it because of its incredible adventure and amazing characters, like Thorin (the King of the Dwarves) because he seems like a strong-hearted warrior. I definitely would recommend it to people who are fans of adventure books, magical world, and those who like a jolly good battle - like the Battle of Five Armies. There are some old-fashioned words, because it's nearly 100 years old, but these are quite easy to understand. I give it 10 hobbits out of 5!

### Happiness Calendar: New Ways November

**This month, we're encouraging you to try something new!** We are focusing on problem solving and having a growth mindset in school. Being adventurous and trying new things is important, as is remembering that it's okay not to get it right first time - turning "I can't do it", into "I can't do it...yet!". This month's happiness calendar [here](#) has lots of ideas and challenges.

### Attendance - This week

School target 97%	97% - 100%	90% -97%	Below 90%
Hedgehog Class	94%	6%	0%
Squirrel Class	93%	4%	3%
Fox Class	90%	0%	10%
Owl Class	76%	0%	24%

### Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	45	45
Eden	49	49
Galilee	44	44
Jerusalem	55	55

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Award | 2024 - 2025Green Tree School  
Bronze Award

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Growing Together

### *Emails and letters sent this week*

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
07.11.25	Letter	Selected	Mrs Healy	Y3-4 Boys Football Tournament at ASM
05.11.25	Email	All	Office	Class Group Photographs
05.11.25	Email	All	Office	SIAMS Success
04.11.25	Letter	All	Mrs France	Parent Consultations

#### November

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
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Reading and Writing Workshop for parents
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	Christmas jumper day (with uniform) – please bring in a hamper donation for PTA
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> Dec	PTA: Wreath making workshop
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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