



SUPPORT
CONNECT
INFLUENCE



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



27th November 2025

From the Headteacher:

Welcome to Our Trainee Teachers

We are delighted to welcome two trainee teachers from Oxford Brookes University to our school community. Miss Turner has joined Owl Class and Miss Shinn is working with Fox Class. Both bring enthusiasm and a fresh perspective to our classrooms, and we are excited to support them on their journey into teaching. They will be with us until the beginning of December. As a school, we are proud to continue playing an active role in developing future educators. I also have had the opportunity to contribute to the development of Oxford Brookes University's Initial Teacher Education and Training (ITET) programme, strengthening our partnership and commitment to high-quality teacher training.

Reading and Writing Workshop

Thank you to the parents and carers who attended our Reading and Writing Workshop on Tuesday evening. It was a fantastic opportunity to share how we teach phonics, reading, and writing across the school, and to demonstrate key strategies that support children's literacy development. We're incredibly grateful to our dedicated teaching team for their enthusiasm and hard work in preparing and delivering such an informative session. The feedback from parents was really positive, with comments about the workshop being both useful and empowering. We encourage all families to continue working with their children at home to build confidence and enjoyment in reading and writing. The presentation slides are available on the school website for anyone who would like to revisit the content or catch up: [Reading and Writing Workshop](#)

Visits to Our Fabulous School

Following our successful monitoring visit from Oxfordshire County Council's EYFS team, we were delighted to welcome colleagues from Mill Lane School this week to see our fantastic Early Years provision in action. It was a wonderful opportunity to share ideas and showcase the high-quality learning environment we offer. We look forward to welcoming more schools in the future and continuing to share our best practice across our local education community.

Today we had our School Improvement Partner (SIP) visit. The SIP supports and challenges a primary school's leadership to improve student progress, teaching, and management. They act as a link between the school and local authorities, validate the school's self-evaluation, and assist with planning, leadership development, and preparation for inspections like Ofsted. On their visit to school the SIPs focus on evidence-based improvements in areas like pupil attainment, teaching quality, and curriculum. Having observed lessons, toured the school, and met with all of our leaders and some of the children, the SIP spoke positively about our journey towards outstanding, highlighting the continuous improvement and high standards he has seen across the school. Well done to the whole team for another fabulous review.

Our Year 3/4 Football Team

On Wednesday - despite the snow and the freezing cold weather - a team of 9 year 3/4 boys set off, with the help of some parents, to Thame United Football grounds to take part in the Thame Partnership Football Tournament. Our first match was against Barley Hill, which the team won comfortably. Our second match was against St Andrews. That was a very tough match. The boys had possession of the ball but just couldn't quite score the goals; we were so close. The team lost this match but put up a tremendous fight. Next up was John Hampden, another tough match, but we won. Lastly we played Tetsworth and we won that match too. So out of 4 games the team won 3. We didn't win the tournament but we will take our wins and we can honestly say that the team played their all and made us proud. What a tournament. What a team. A big thank you to Mr and Mrs Shepherd and Mr Huntley for taking our boys to and from Thame, to Mrs Boddy for cheering on and encouraging the team and to Mr Shepherd and Mr Huntley who coached and refereed the games.

Finally...parking matters

We have recently been made aware of some concerns raised by members of the village community on social media regarding parking at the start and end of the school day. We kindly ask all parents and carers to drive carefully through the village and to park considerately nearby, ensuring the safety of our children and respect for our neighbours. Where possible, please consider walking to school or using a park-and-walk approach to help reduce congestion and keep everyone safe. Thank you for your continued support in keeping our school community safe and harmonious.

Kind regards

Mrs France

GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY

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

SUPPORT
CONNECT
INFLUENCE

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



Teaching and Learning in the Classrooms this week:



Hedgehog Class

This week, Hedgehog Class turned into brilliant *party planners!* We discovered that it was Larry's birthday on Friday, and because he thought nobody would celebrate with him, the children decided to organise a surprise party. We looked at our own birthday photos and talked about how we celebrate special days. The children planned the party, wrapped presents, wrote thoughtful cards, and even made Larry his very own birthday cake! They collaborated beautifully, chatting away about their own birthdays and sharing ideas with one another. In Maths, we continued exploring the properties of 2D shapes, focusing on shapes with four sides. The children did lots of problem solving, using different construction materials to create rectangles and squares. They applied their maths skills brilliantly, counting sides carefully and checking which were longer or shorter. In other news, we are now well into practising our Nativity play. Please continue to learn lines with your child in preference to reading books - especially the chorus lines - ideally all children will know most of their lines by the end of next week. Costume letters have been sent home; please let us know if you have not received one. Finally, if anyone has any spare torches or light toys (no sound) the children can hold during the last song, please could they bring them in named and we will return them after the final performance.



Squirrel Class

We have continued our learning on animals in war and read the story of Stubby the dog this week. The class loved the story and wrote some wonderful sentences about the hero dog. The children have really enjoyed learning about all the different hero animals in war and the important part they played alongside their human companions. In Maths the Y1 children practised subtraction on a number line and the Y2 children looked at addition and subtraction across and from a 10. In our RE lesson this week we took a closer look at the Torah and the importance of the Jewish holy book. The children really enjoyed learning facts about the ancient scroll and its teachings. Lastly, in Geography we looked at how meteorologists measure weather and use that data to predict weather. We also measured our shadows at different times of the day and made wind streamers.



Fox Class

What a busy week we have had in Fox Class! In our Maths, both year groups have focussed on their times tables with Year 3 recapping their knowledge of arrays and Year 4 understanding the link between the 3, 6, and 9 times tables. In our English, children completed writing their double page spreads based on Stone Age life, write setting descriptions and then wrote instructions on how to make a cave painting. This was after the class painted their own cave paintings, although their cave was under their desks with the lights off! Torches were allowed! It really helped them embed the order of how to create cave paintings which in turn brought their instructions to life. In History, children learnt about the Amesbury Archer whilst looking at artefacts found in his grave. Children thought carefully what the artefacts were, what they were made of, what would they have been used for and what did it tell us about the man. In Science, children learnt about the process of fossilisation by making their own film describing what happens using salt dough, a toy dinosaur and a pile of books to represent sediments! In our DT, children learnt about design criteria as they will be using Micro: Bits to make a piece of wearable technology. They had to think what would the wearer needs and how would it appeal to them. In our Computing lesson, children have begun to think about creating their own iMotion movie based on Stone Age times. Some interesting stories have emerged so far. Let's see how they progress next week! In addition to all of this learning, 9 of our class represented the school in a football tournament and we are all proud of their efforts. Well done boys!



Owl Class

Another busy week gone, like the frost on my windscreen this morning! Can you see what I did there? I used a simile to make a comparison and to help you understand just how quick the week has gone. This is just what the children have been doing in English this week, as they created mountainous metaphor and simile poems, linking to our Humanities topic of the Alps. The poems were fabulous to read, painted vivid pictures and looked amazing when transferred onto a copy of a wonderful mountain scene by our amazing Miss Williams! In Maths, we closed our topic of being able to add and subtract fractions with or without a matching denominator, and created some Fraction Fact files for Fox Class to use next year. In Geography, we explored what it is like to be in the alps, looking at the relief and topographical maps of the area to get an idea of the weather and habitats there. Science found the children working with our student teacher Miss Turner to visualise and act out the life cycle of birds, hopping (flapping?) from station to station and getting to grips with what the bird would have been doing at that stage: we even had wool string worms to help bring Science to life! In RE we compared Parables from Jesus from him as a teacher and speaker, and wondered why he used these stories, with this particular content, in these ways to spread his message. What a fantastic week, well done Owls!

GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY

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



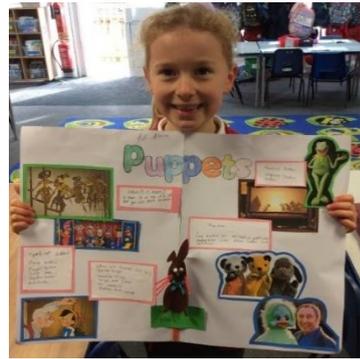
SUPPORT
CONNECT
INFLUENCE



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



Photo Diary of the Week



GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY

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



SUPPORT
CONNECT
INFLUENCE



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



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

Values: Gratitude

Following on from our Remembrance activities last week, this week in Collective Worship we have been thinking about the importance of saying "thank you." We explored Psalm 148, which reminds us to give thanks and praise for all of creation. The children reflected on ways we can show gratitude in our daily lives and shared thoughtful ideas about appreciating the world around us. We asked the children: *What are three things you are thankful for today, and how can you show your gratitude?*

"Praise the Lord from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths." (Psalm 148:7)

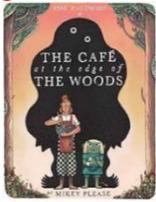
Climate Warriors Challenge

World Children's Day, held on the 20th November each year, is an opportunity to think about how we can take action to help children around the world. UNICEF says that 'it's critical for children and young people to have the information, opportunities and platforms they need to stand up for their rights and make themselves heard'. Young Climate Warriors attempts to play a small role in meeting this need.

El escondite, jeu de cache-cache, sumbaggoggil, de-av-at ascunselea, tuja, escondidas, cucumbe ...Our children are challenged this week to 'seek' the heating thermostat in their home, and then (along with their parent/carer) turn it down by 1 degree. You might need to wear an extra jumper, pop on a woolly hat, snuggle into a blanket, or even wear socks in bed – but it'll be helping children across the world.

[What does climate change mean to children around the world? UNICEF video](#)

Book Review: The Cafe at the Edge of the Woods by Mikey Please, recommended by Alfred, EYFS



Alfred brought in this book to share with the class this week. He chose it because he thought it was really funny.

In this story, Rene decides to set up a café at the edge of the woods. Unfortunately, the local creatures don't like the idea of her adventurous cuisine. They ask for all sorts of disgusting things instead. Luckily, Rene gets some help from her newfound waiter, Glumfoot.

We had lots of giggles in Hedgehog class reading this story. Thank you for sharing it with us Alfred!

Happiness Calander: 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	100%	0%	0%
Squirrel Class	96%	0%	4%
Fox Class	97%	3%	0%
Owl Class	88%	0%	12%

Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	56	168
Eden	57	163
Galilee	63	170
Jerusalem	41	141

GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY

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

SUPPORT
CONNECT
INFLUENCE

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



Emails and letters sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
21.11.25	Email	All	Office	Friday pickups for Squirrel Class
21.11.25	Email	All	Office	B4009 Road closure – 4 th Dec
21.11.25	Email	All	Mrs Hall	Calling DIY parent helpers
18.11.25	Email	All	Office	Reminder - Reading and Writing Workshop
17.11.25	Email	All	Office	Reminder – Class group photograph orders

November	
Thurs 27 th	KSI Multi- Skills Festival
Fri 28th	Last Celebration Worship this term – stage up after CW – volunteers welcomed!
December	
Weds 3rd Dec	Thame Festival of Christmas Music: Rehearsal 12.30-2.30pm / Concert 7pm (plus rehearsal Sun 30th Nov 2.30-3.45pm)
Weds 3 rd Dec	Rock Steady concert - Weds 3 rd Dec 2.30pm/school hall
Fri 5 th Dec	Fox: Pre-Historic Workshop with British Museum
Fri 5 th Dec	PTA: Wreath making workshop
Fri 5 th Dec	Christmas jumper day (with uniform) – please bring a hamper donation for the PTA
Sat 6 th – Sun 14 th	Christmas Tree Festival at St Andrew's church, Chinnor
Tue 9 th 14:00 & Wed 10 th 17:30	EYFS Nativity in school hall
Fri 12 th Dec	Christmas lunch – order with The Kids Lunch Company: Order here
Fri 12th Dec	Santa Fun Run in school – bring in a Santa hat!
Wed 17 th	09:30 Panto in school – donations welcome and supported by PTA
Wed 17 th	18:00 Christingle in church
Fri 19 th	Christmas Party - am School ends 13:30
Fri 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

GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY

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