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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



28th November 2025

From the Headteacher:

UK Parliament Week

This week we have been celebrating UK Parliament Week 2025, a national event that helps children learn about democracy and how decisions are made in our country. It's important for us to include this in our curriculum because it gives our children the chance to understand the role of Parliament, explore British Values, and develop skills such as debating, voting, and having their voices heard on issues that matter to them. By engaging with these activities, we help our children become informed, active citizens who can shape the future. We have also had a lot of fun thinking about what we want our country to look like both now and in the future. Do ask your children about their ideas....

Disability History Month

This week sees the start of Disability History month, which is an important opportunity to celebrate diversity and promote understanding of the experiences of people with disabilities. At our school, inclusion is at the heart of everything we do. It reflects our vision of **Growing Together**, where every child feels valued, supported, and able to thrive. We believe that learning is enriched when everyone is included, and we work hard to create an environment where differences are embraced and respected. Our aim is to help our children grow into compassionate, inclusive individuals who make a positive difference in the world.

K&1 Multi-Skills Sports Afternoon

On Thursday, some of our K&1 children took part in an exciting multi-skills sports afternoon alongside pupils from other schools in the Thame Partnership. We are so proud of their fantastic competitiveness, impressive skills, and brilliant teamwork throughout the event. They represented Aston Rowant School beautifully—not only through their sporting ability but also through their excellent manners and the values that make our school so special. Well done to all involved for showing what it truly means to grow together and shine as part of our community!

Christmas Jumper Day

Next Friday 5th December, the children are invited to wear a Christmas jumper or festive hat along with their usual school uniform. In return, we kindly ask for a donation towards our Christmas raffle, which will be drawn at the end of term. The raffle is a fantastic way for our PTA to raise funds for key projects in school, including our exciting new library. Your generosity makes a real difference, so please give generously and help us make this event a success!

A Huge Thank You to Our Amazing PTA!

We are fortunate to have a dedicated and creative PTA helping to bring festive cheer to our school! This December is packed with exciting events for everyone to enjoy. Our ever-popular Wreath Making returns on Friday 5th December - a wonderful way to kick off the season (see the separate PTA letter for details). Then, on 17th December, the magic of theatre comes alive in our school hall with the Christmas Panto, *Dick Whittington*, promising laughter and fun for all the children. Hosting this event costs over £800, so we kindly ask for donations to help keep these experiences possible. On Friday 19th December, the children can enjoy an end of term Film & Craft Night after school, complete with treats and creative activities. All of the PTA's hard work and every contribution you make supports much-needed school resources and helps us create unforgettable moments – including the gifts that the children will receive from Father Christmas. Thank you for making these events magical - book your various events and buy raffle tickets today!

[Buy raffle tickets here](#) / [Panto donations](#) / [Book Film/Craft Night](#) / [Book Wreath Making Workshop](#)

Finally... The Start of Advent

This Sunday marks the beginning of the Advent season, a special time of reflection and anticipation as we count down to Christmas. Advent is a wonderful opportunity for us to do things in school that bring meaning and togetherness. We have been doing small things including making an Advent wreath, creating a paper chain with a positive message for each day, or setting aside a few minutes daily to share something we're grateful for. These small acts can help children understand the joy of giving and the importance of kindness during this festive season.

Kind regards

Mrs France

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Teaching and Learning in the Classrooms this week:



Hedgehog Class

What a wonderful week we've had in Hedgehog Class! In Maths, we've been learning all about time, practising how to sequence events in our day and use special time words to explain what happens first, next and last. We've also been *super busy* rehearsing for our Nativity play, and the children are doing brilliantly. A little reminder: please could every child bring in a named torch or small light for our grand finale? The frosty weather has given us the perfect opportunity for some exciting seasonal investigations—the children loved exploring ice, noticing how it forms, melts and changes in the colder season. What a busy and magical week!



Squirrel Class

Squirrel Class have worked hard this week and have enjoyed a new story unit based around the much-loved classic stories from author Judith Kerr featuring Mog the cat. We have met Mog and learned lots about her character and personality. The children have enjoyed reading the stories and we will use these as a platform to inspire some story writing of our own over the coming weeks. Maths this week and the Y2 children have been adding and subtracting 10s (within 100) and the Y1 children have been consolidating their subtraction and addition skills using part-whole models and ten frames. The class really enjoyed Science this week and we learned about what animals need to survive. We discussed how we look after our pets and that all the things they require to survive and thrive are what we also need too! The children also used the iPads to research the diet, habitat and interesting facts about a given animal. In R.E. this week we looked at the stories within Jewish scripture, and the class were surprised and excited to learn that the creation story told within the Torah is the same as that shared within the Bible. Lastly, in Geography we worked our way around a map using compass directions and key features.



Fox Class

A very creative week in Fox Class this week. In English, we embedded our knowledge of what constitutes a complex sentence (it contains a subordinate clause) and used them throughout the week. We spent time planning our own narrative based on Stone Age Boy then wrote our own, introducing new characters and excitement along the way! In our Maths, Year 3 focussed on their 2, 5, 10 and 3 times tables and understood the concept of grouping and sharing in relation to division. Year 4 also focused on times tables but using 7, 11, 12 and 1 and 0. They spent time looking for patterns and deconstructing word problems too. In our History, we moved to the Bronze Age learning about how bronze was made and compared the Stone Age to the Bronze Age in relation to how they found food. When asked which Age they would prefer to live in, the overall decision was the Bronze Age as the tools were stronger, more durable and more efficient. In our Science, children learnt about where fossils were found – they looked at the different layers of rock where fossils were found realising that the oldest fossils had all been sea creatures. We also learnt about Mary Anning too. In our DT, children thoroughly enjoyed learning how to program the micro:bit. They wrote code in MakeCode to make the array of buttons flash, then downloaded it onto their micro:bit to see their results. Everyone succeeded! In PSHE we formed our own political parties, wrote manifestos and held our own elections. The new Prime Minister is ready to go! We also decorated our decorations for the Festival of Trees. Children were asked to write how they will help at Christmas. They wrote some lovely comments. I was also impressed by the applications for Fox Class librarians this week. They really demonstrated their love of reading in their applications. Because of this, they all will be a librarian for half a term in small groups. Well done Fox Class!



Owl Class

We have had a very busy week in Owl Class, as we set out on a new writing adventure, using the most unlikely of sources: Kevin the Carrot! Using the 2020 Christmas advert, we created a range of sentence structures to build tension and suspense, and to describe the unlucky events that occur to Kevin, all the while building on our previously developed skills of past progressive tense, linking related clauses with semi colons and, for Year 6, embedding some relative clauses into our work. The children have really engaged with Kevin, and the writing this week, led by our student teacher Miss Turner has been really exciting. In Maths, we have completed our first unit on fractions and have turned our minds to a deeper delve into division and multiplication, which we will quickly link back into multiplying and dividing fraction. In PSHE, as part of Parliament Week, we created our own bills to submit to Parliament, for laws that the children think should exist: they covered a wide range of topics, including poverty, charity, animal rights and food quality! Geography found the children exploring the attractions of the Zamsall Ski resort in the Austrian Alps, and looking at the human geography there: what changes have people made to the surrounding area? Why have they located the resort there? And who are they trying to attract to visit, and why? These ideas stretched the children's understanding of why humans build in certain areas, for a particular purpose. In Science, we mapped out the life cycle of amphibians, using frogs as our base model, before zeroing in on the Amazonian Tree Frog: which shows how differing life cycles can be even within same species: the children were challenged with investigating what factors might affect how quickly frog eggs may hatch, and challenged their knowledge of the different types of enquiry that we are able to use. We have also been busy decorating our elves for the Festival of Trees and have been crafting some delightful messages onto them about who we want to help and how this Christmas.

GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY

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



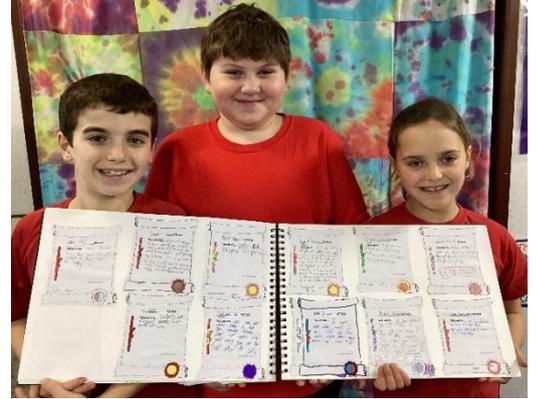
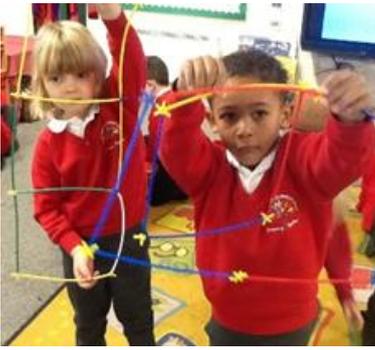
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Photo Diary of the Week



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

Values: Gratitude

We have continued with our theme of gratitude and remembering to say thank you. Sometimes we can forget to say thank you for our food, or homes, or the little things that people do all of the time which make our lives better. We looked at St Paul's letter to the Ephesians where he says:

'Always give thanks for everything to God the Father.' Ephesians 5:20

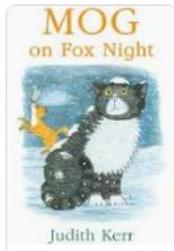
and we challenged ourselves to think about what we can show gratitude to God for. The children had quite a list!

Climate Warriors Challenge

'Turn Black Friday Green ... Friday 28th November - international 'buy nothing day'. When you hear the word 'Amazon' do you think ... books, presents ... or do you think of the South American rainforest that is one of our carbon-storing, climate change-fighting powerhouses? Our children are challenged this week to counter the 'Black Friday' trend, by thinking imaginatively – as well as 'buying nothing'. How about an 'Amazon' animals theme for homemade presents?

The battle for the Amazon is being fought on many fronts. Political leadership changes may help, as will the growing acreage covered by ARPA - Amazon Region Protected Areas – 128 million acres to date. Check out the [Rainforest Connection](#) project for an amazing insight into fighting deforestation with jungle sounds.

Book Review – Mog and the Fox Night by Judith Kerr



Squirrel Class have begun a new English unit based around the stories of Mog the cat by Judith Kerr. This week we read the story of Mog on Fox Night. Here are the reviews from some of the class:

I loved reading this story, Mog is a funny character because she is grumpy and likes to get her own way. My favourite bit was when Mr Thomas said that she couldn't have an egg because she didn't eat her supper. I also liked the part when the foxes came in the house by the cat flap! **By Flo P.**

This story is so cool because Mog is cute and fluffy and she does funny things. I want to read more of these books and would tell a friend to read them too. **By Ella C.**

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	88%	0%	12%
Squirrel Class	82%	4%	14%
Fox Class	93%	0%	7%
Owl Class	84%	0%	16%

Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	49	217
Eden	68	231
Galilee	36	206
Jerusalem	34	175

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E-mails and letters Sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
26.11.25	Letter	Owls	Office	Thame Festival of Christmas Music
25.11.25	Email	All	Office	St Andrew's Church – Christmas Market

November	
Thu 27 th	KSI Multi- Skills Festival
Fri 28 th	Last Celebration Worship this term – stage up after CW – volunteers welcomed!
December	
Weds 3 rd Dec	Thame Festival of Music - rehearsal 12.30-2.30pm Concert 7pm (rehearsal Sun 30 th Nov 2.30-3.45pm)
Fri 5 th Dec	Fox: Pre-Historic Workshop with British Museum
Fri 5 th Dec	PTA: Wreath making workshop
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
Weds 10 th Dec	Rock Steady concert – 9:00am/school hall
Fri 12 th	Christmas Lunch
Fri 12 th	Santa Fun Run
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

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