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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



**5<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

### *From the Headteacher:*

#### *Christmas Jumper Day*

A big thank you to all the children for looking absolutely fantastic in their Christmas jumpers and festive outfits! We are so grateful for the generous donations received for our Christmas raffle – your support makes a huge difference. Don't forget to buy your raffle tickets if you haven't already; the draw will take place at the end of term, and there are some amazing prizes to be won!

#### *Thame Festival of Music*

On Wednesday, we were delighted to take part in the Thame Festival of Music—a truly special event that marks the beginning of the festive season in the most magical way. Owl Class sang beautifully, filling the venue with joy and Christmas spirit, and we are also proud of Chloe for her excellent reading and Aava and Florence for joining the soloists. It was a wonderful occasion that showcased the talent and enthusiasm of our pupils, and we are grateful to everyone who helped make it such a memorable celebration.

The evening raised money for Thame Youth Project which does incredible work supporting young people aged 11–18 in Thame and the surrounding area. They provide a safe, welcoming space and run free programmes of social, educational, and physical activities that help young people build confidence, develop skills, and grow into independent, responsible individuals. They rely entirely on volunteers, donations, and grants to make these opportunities accessible to all.

#### *Pre-Historic Visit from The British Museum*

Today, Fox Class embarked on an exciting virtual workshop with The British Museum, diving deep into the fascinating world of prehistory! The children explored incredible artefacts and learned how these objects help us understand life in the Stone Age, Bronze Age, and Iron Age. They discovered how tools evolved over time and even discussed what daily life might have been like thousands of years ago. The session sparked lots of thoughtful questions and curiosity—what an amazing way to bring history to life without leaving the classroom!

#### *Christmas Tree Festival*

We are delighted to have once again decorated a tree for St Andrew's Tree Festival in Chinnor, which runs from Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December to Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2-5pm each day. The theme for our tree this year is *Santa's Little Helper*. Every child has created their own festive helper and shared thoughtful ideas about how they plan to help others this Christmas season. It's a wonderful way to celebrate kindness and community at this special time of year—do pop along to the festival and see our beautiful tree!

#### *Santa Fun Run*

Next Friday we will be holding our Santa Fun Run! Children should come in their normal school uniform but are welcome to add a festive touch by wearing a Santa hat. This is a fun event for everyone to enjoy together and is not a fundraising activity – just a great way to celebrate the season and keep active. We can't wait to see lots of smiling faces and Santa hats on the day!

#### *Finally...*

It is with great sadness that we announce we will be saying goodbye to the wonderful Miss Williams on Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> December. Miss Williams has been an integral part of our school community for over 20 years, and we want to recognise the incredible contribution she has made to Aston Rowant School and the positive impact she has had on us all. As she retires, she begins an exciting new chapter—moving to Somerset and dedicating more time to her passion for art. Her influence on the school and the lives of both children and adults will remain for many years to come. We are already exploring thoughtful ways to honour her and ensure that her legacy lives on in a meaningful way in school, which we will share with you soon. She will be deeply missed.

*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 busy and exciting week we've had in Hedgehog Class! In Maths, we explored the number zero and practised our 1:1 counting skills up to five. We enjoyed a fun beanbag game to help us count in order and record our scores. In Topic, we learned more about where we live and even had a go at drawing our own maps. We also spent time talking about Advent, Christmas traditions, and have begun our festive preparations in class. We've had a cheeky visitor this week—Nico the naughty elf! He's been learning all about good behaviour and how to be a kind friend by watching the Hedgehogs... although he still manages to get up to a bit of mischief when we're not looking! We are putting the finishing touches on our Nativity play and are so excited to share it with you soon. A huge thank you to Mr Jones for helping us build a beautiful set with his wonderful handiwork—our whole class is very appreciative. Please could children continue to practise their lines at home so they feel confident for our big performance next week?



### *Squirrel Class*

Another busy week in Squirrel Class! We have been writing about Mog and learning lots about her character and personality. Next week the children will begin to write the story in their own words as a recount. The class have really enjoyed reading and listening to the collection of classic stories. In Maths the Y1 children have been consolidating their learning on addition and subtraction, playing board games and tackling some word problems too. Y2 children have worked hard on 2-digit addition across ten, using dienes to support understanding of exchanging 10 ones for a ten stick. We will move onto 2-digit subtraction next week. In R.E. this week we learned about God's covenant with the Jewish people and explored themes of trust, love and faithfulness. Lastly, we have started to sew our own puppets for our DT learning. Watch this space for them to come home at the end of the term!



### *Fox Class*

Another busy and exciting week in Fox Class! In English, we continued exploring *How to Wash Your Woolly Mammoth* and discovered just how tricky that task would be by researching fascinating facts about mammoths to add to our growing list of challenges. Did you know mammoths could weigh up to 6 tonnes and were covered in thick fur? No wonder washing one would be a mammoth task! In Maths, Year 4 rose to the challenge of multiplying three numbers together, while Year 3 tackled problem-solving using multiples of 3 – lots of great reasoning skills were on display! In Science, we investigated how soil is formed, examining drainage rates and the size of sediment to understand its composition. We discovered that sandy soil drains water much faster than clay because its particles are much larger. Our RE lessons focused on the role of Prophets in Islam, sparking thoughtful discussions. Did you know there are 25 named Prophets in the Qur'an, including figures like Noah, Moses, and Jesus? In PSHE, we practised relaxation techniques – very useful after such a full week! Finally, we said a fond farewell to Miss Shinn, who has completed her placement with us. She will be greatly missed by everyone in Fox Class and we wish her well for her future teaching career.



### *Owl Class*

Hello, Aston Rowant parents and careers, my name is Miss Turner, and I am the student teacher that has been in Owl for the last 4 weeks. As today is my last day, I decided I would take the opportunity to write this week's newsletter. This week in Owl Class has been incredibly busy and festive! Alongside practising for our Festival of Music concert, we have also been writing to Santa Claus to persuade him that we belong on his good list this year—the children had to use persuasive language and devices, like flattery, hyperbole and modal verbs to convince Santa that they deserve all their amazing presents. In Science, we looked at the lifecycle of bugs, using our secondary sources we researched facts about 8 different kinds of bugs. Did you know that there are up to 160,000 species of moths? Not only have the children worked extremely hard in the concert, but they have also shown great resilience in the classroom with their reading and maths assessments. Our PSHE lessons have been revolved around our community, such as our village, our class and our school communities, and how we can play our part to help these communities; organising inter-school sports events, asking for a mobile library and keeping our classroom tidy. It has been a fantastic 4 weeks and although I am sad to leave, I am forever grateful to have had the opportunity to work with 25 amazing children.

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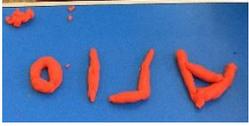
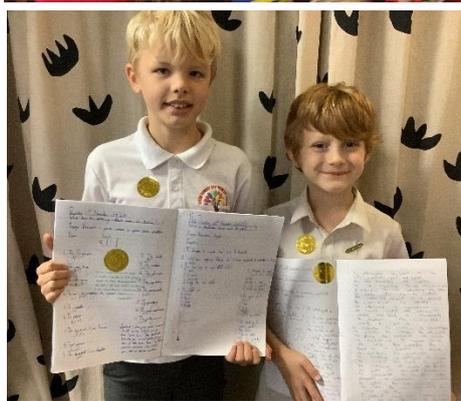
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## Photo Diary of the Week



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

### Values: Gratitude

This week in Collective Worship we looked at the challenge of giving thanks when times are difficult. We looked at the story of Paul and Silas in jail, even though times were tough they still sang! They trusted God even when facing difficulties and were thankful for everything that he had done for them. We looked at challenges we may face but also reflected on all of the things that we can be thankful for.

*'Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.'* 1 Thessalonians 5:16

### Climate Warriors Challenge

Approximately half of packaged supermarket products contain palm oil, including many bathroom products – shampoo, soap, shower gel, shaving foam, make-up, deodorant, toothpaste... Whether as part of our routine shop, or as Christmas gifts, we all have many opportunities to 'cast our votes' when buying bathroom products. This week's challenge encourages children to become detectives in their bathroom – to see how many products contain palm oil. It is not always easy to spot – so some clues are provided! Find out which producers are supporting Sustainable Palm Oil – simply zap your supermarket product barcode via this WWF-supported Palm Oil App. [Palm Oil app](#). 'Sustainable' palm oil production substantially reduces its impact on climate change. It avoids deforestation, avoids drainage of peatlands, and avoids use of fires to clear the land.

[How palm oil is threatening orangutans](#)

[Alternative names for 'palm oil' here](#) (to help with the detective work) – it's a very long list!

### Book Review – Leah's Star by Karin Littlewood & Margaret Bateson-Hill, recommended by Mrs France



I love this tender retelling of the Nativity story through the eyes of Leah, the innkeeper's daughter. The streets of Bethlehem are bustling with people and Leah's family are rushed off their feet, housing travellers at her father's inn. When a woman who is just about to have her baby arrives, Leah's father finds them a place to rest in his stable. Wide-eyed with wonder, Leah witnesses a series of extraordinary events, including some rather unusual visitors from afar. The story is full of humanity and at its heart it depicts a young girl's personal encounter with the very special baby at the centre of the nativity story.

### Happiness Calendar: Do Good December

This month, we're encouraging you to carry out small acts of kindness. Kindness is contagious, and helping others has been proven to make us feel better too! Focusing on being generous with our time and attention rather than money - is free and better for everyone, as well as our planet! This month's happiness calendar is [here](#).

### Attendance – This week

School target 97%	97% - 100%	90% -97%	Below 90%
Hedgehog Class	88%	0%	12%
Squirrel Class	79%	3%	18%
Fox Class	93%	0%	7%
Owl Class	88%	0%	12%

### Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	41	258
Eden	42	273
Galilee	34	240
Jerusalem	37	212

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### *E-mails and letters Sent this Week*

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
03/12/25	Letter	Hedgehog	Office	Nativity performance
02/12/25	Email	All	Office	St Andrew's Christmas Tree Festival
01/12/25	Email	Owl	Office	Spare tickets for Festival of Christmas Music

December	
Fri 5 <sup>th</sup> Dec	PTA: Wreath making workshop
Sat 6 <sup>th</sup> – Sun 14 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Tree Festival at St Andrew's Church, Chinnor
Tue 9 <sup>th</sup> 14:00 & Wed 10 <sup>th</sup> 17:30	EYFS Nativity in school hall
Weds 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Rock Steady concert – 9:00am/school hall
Fri 12 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Lunch
Fri 12 <sup>th</sup>	Santa Fun Run
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup>	09:30 Panto in school – donations welcome and supported by PTA
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup>	18:00 Christingle in church
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Party - am School ends 13:30
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup>	PTA: Film/craft afternoon 13:30 – 15:15
January	
Mon 5 <sup>th</sup>	INSET day
Tue 6 <sup>th</sup>	TERM STARTS
Mon 12 <sup>th</sup>	Student teachers start – Miss Adams (Owl) and Miss Hand (Fox)
Tue 27 <sup>th</sup>	18:00-19:30 Maths Parent Workshop
Thu 29 <sup>th</sup>	Height and weight measurements EYFS & Y6

### *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>h</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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