



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



12th December 2025

From the Headteacher:

Times Table Rockstars Update

Times Table Rockstars is a fantastic programme that helps children strengthen their times table knowledge in a fun and engaging way. Recently, we've noticed that some pupils are using the platform under a friend's name to boost their scores. While teamwork is great, we encourage every child to focus on improving their own scores so that their progress truly reflects their hard work. Supporting others is wonderful, but the system works best when each child's achievements are based on their individual effort. We really don't want to stop using this resource. Thank you for helping us keep the challenge fair and meaningful for everyone!

Nativity

We are incredibly grateful to Hedgehog Class for their three wonderful performances of 'Little Star's Story' this week, one to the whole school and two to family and friends. It is hard to believe that the majority of children in the class are only 4 years old. They remembered their lines and the words for the songs and performed with such confidence that it was a privilege and joy to watch. I am so proud of each and every one of them. I am also grateful to Mrs Olsen, Mrs Hall, and Mrs Surman for all of their hard work in encouraging and inspiring the children to perform. Also, thank you to the parents and carers for supporting the children and helping with the costumes and learning their lines.

Rock Steady Concert

On Wednesday, we proudly hosted our very first Rock Steady Concert—and what an incredible event it was! Children from every year group, from Reception through to Year 6, who have been enjoying their rock lessons this term took to the stage to showcase their musical talents and share everything they've learned. From confident performances to enthusiastic teamwork, the concert was a true celebration of creativity and hard work. Well done to all our budding rock stars—your performances were unforgettable!

Santa Fun Run

Our Santa Fun Run today saw children dashing around in their bright red hats, full of energy and excitement. It wasn't about winning—it was all about having fun, staying active, working with our buddies and enjoying the holiday spirit together. It was the perfect warm-up before our delicious Christmas lunch. A big thank you to everyone who joined in and made the run so special!

Pantomime

We are looking forward to watching Dick Whittington on Wednesday 17th December. Oh yes we are! It will be for all of the children in our school hall from 9:30am. Thank you to the PTA organising this treat. It is a fabulous way to end the term with the whole school family coming together to enjoy an experience that is educational as well as entertaining and unforgettable. Hosting this event costs over £800, so we kindly ask for donations to help keep these experiences possible. [Panto donations](#)

Christingle Service

Our Christingle service is on Wednesday 17th December at 6:00pm in the church. As a church school it is important that we maintain our strong links with our local church, and therefore I ask that all children attend, in full school uniform, unless they have a prior commitment. The service will be led by Owl Class and all children, including the choir, will be joining in various parts of the service. It is a wonderful opportunity to join together to sing carols, hear the Christmas message and end by lighting our Christingles. The PTA will be serving mince pies and mulled wine before the service, donations are welcome.

Christmas Party

We are looking forward to our Christmas party and a visit from Father Christmas in school on Friday 19th December. The children can come to school in their smart party clothes (not jeans or hoodies), however, please note that the children will still have outdoor break and lunchtime so will need a warm coat and sensible footwear.

Finally... Last Day of Term

The last day of term is Friday 19th December. It is deemed a full day of school as the children are present for morning and afternoon registration. Please ensure that your children are in school on this day.

The PTA hamper raffle draw will take place on Friday – they look spectacular again this year so do make sure you have tickets. Parents and carers are warmly welcome to join us from 1pm in the playground for the hamper draw and also to enjoy carols with the children and a local brass band. You can then collect your children from the school gate at 1:30pm. Alternatively, the children can enjoy an end of term Film & Craft Afternoon after school, complete with treats and creative activities. [Book Film/Craft Night](#)

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

What a magical week it has been in Hedgehog Class! We began by decorating the Christmas tree with Nico, using lots of sparkle and imagination to make our classroom feel wonderfully festive. The children also created beautiful snowflakes, practising their cutting skills with great care and growing confidence. In Understanding the World, we explored where we live and even drew our own maps, using simple symbols to show familiar places—super work, Hedgehogs! We've also been busy rehearsing songs for the upcoming Christingle service, filling the room with lovely singing. A real highlight of the week was our stunning Nativity play. The children spoke clearly, remembered all their lines, and performed with such enthusiasm—what stars they are! In Maths, we continued developing our subitising skills to 5 and looked for number patterns to help us recognise amounts quickly. Well done, Hedgehog Class—another fantastic week of learning and fun!



Squirrel Class

The penultimate week of the autumn term has seen the Squirrel Class as busy as ever. This week in English lessons the class told the story of Mog's Christmas in their own words and pictures. They did brilliantly and are rightly very proud of their stories. We move on to read a final Mog story next week, Mog's Christmas Calamity. In Maths the children are now learning about shape, focusing on 2D shapes. The Y1 children have been reviewing the names and features of the shapes whilst the Y2 children have been looking more at the properties of each 2D shape in detail. We move onto a focus on 3D shapes next week. In our R.E. lesson this week we looked at rules in Judaism and why the 10 commandments are so important for guiding how some Jewish people live their lives and follow their faith. Lastly, our DT unit on puppets has come to a spectacular finish, with the children completing their wonderful puppets! Hopefully they will bring much joy over the coming weeks. Have a great weekend and see you next week for the final hurrah!



Fox Class

Fox Class have had a wonderfully busy week, full of curiosity and creativity! In English we tackled the rather unusual challenge of writing instructions on how to wash a woolly mammoth – complete with numbered steps and plenty of carefully chosen adverbs to make sure our directions were crystal clear. We even made our own woolly mammoths in Art. Maths assessments kept us on our toes, but everyone showed fantastic resilience and determination. Science was a real hands-on adventure as we explored sandy, clay, peat and chalky soils, peering through hand lenses, sketching what we saw, sieving to separate particles, and even testing which bits floated or sank in water. In History we compared Stone Age and Iron Age homes, debating which era we would prefer to live in (and why!). RE gave us food for thought as we discussed how Muslims view the end of time and the idea of judgement, while PSHE reminded us of our own unique superpowers and what makes each of us special. To top it all off, we enjoyed the lively Rocksteady concert and the delightful Hedgehog nativity play. Finally, today we ran with our buddies in the Santa Fun Run – a perfect way to round off the week!



Owl Class

This week Owl Class has been full of excitement and hard work. We enjoyed the brilliant Rocksteady session, with our own Aava and Florence impressing everyone with their synchronicity on the drums and lead vocals! In English, we focused on writing dialogue that moves the story forward and shows what a character is like through their speech—a tricky challenge, but the children tackled it with enthusiasm, using our brilliant, but wordless short film resource Broken: Rock, Paper Scissors as an influence as well as some freeze frame and roleplay drama to get into character. We also completed our spelling and grammar assessments, and absolutely everyone tried their very best, showing fantastic resilience. In Science, we explored how some plants reproduce asexually, creating exact genetic copies, or clones, of themselves, and learning about the advantages and potential disadvantages of this life cycle. Finally, in Geography, we planned a survey to carry out in Thame to help us compare the tourism industry here with that of Zell am See in Austria: we know there certainly won't be as much snow, but what similarities can we find, and what do the citizens of Thame want to see built? As the end of the week arrived, we buddied up and Year 6 acted as marshals for the whole school Santa Fun Run, which was the perfect and fun end to such a busy 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



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



Rock Steady Concert



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



F&F Nativity



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

This week in Collective Worship we asked if the children had heard the phrase 'count your blessings'. We discussed how when we remember all of the things that we have to be thankful for our days seem brighter and even when we face tricky times we can have hope. The children have started a list – which is beautiful and inspiring to read.

Even when the way goes through difficulty, I'm not afraid when you walk at my side. Your trusty shepherd's crook makes me feel secure. Psalm 23 (The Message)

Climate Warriors' Challenge

'Nothing in the world is quite as adorably lovely as a robin when he shows off, and they are nearly always doing it.' Mary Lennox in 'The Secret Garden' by Frances Hodgson Burnett.

At this time of year, we are encouraging children to pause and take time to support and enjoy our wild birds – watching the robins 'showing off' and listening to their birdsong. Our challenges over the next few weeks will involve getting outside and exploring our natural world. Connecting with nature as a child is considered an essential building block in valuing nature into adulthood and then choosing to strive to protect it.

With lots of bird related holiday activities:

[WWT bird spotter sheet](#)

[Have a go at drawing a robin?](#)

[Listen and learn - RSPB audio clip of a robin's song](#)

[Create a simple Christmas wreath for birds?](#)

[Feeding the birds - check out which foods are safe for garden birds.](#)

Book Review – a glimpse into Owl Class Reading Journal



We thought we would share a glimpse of our Whole Class Reading Journal; each week a child takes it home and creates a single page all about the book they are currently reading for pleasure - it can take any form and gives us a snapshot of what the child is enjoying at this time. This is Maxwell's (Y6) entry: he tells us all about the characters he is reading about, the words that the author uses that struck him as especially good, predictions, favourite word, includes a sketch of the main character and so much more. I love opening this up each week, to see what the children are enjoying.

Happiness Calander: 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%	6%	6%
Squirrel Class	79%	0%	21%
Fox Class	83%	0%	17%
Owl Class	84%	0%	16%

Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	52	310
Eden	37	310
Galilee	48	288
Jerusalem	48	260

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
10.12.25	Email	All	Office	Wraparound club collection today
09.12.25	Email	All	Office	Oranges for Christingle
08.12.25	Letter	Selection	Mrs France	Private music lessons
08.12.25	Email	Fox	Office	Jam jars and milk bottles

December	
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 Carols, brass band and raffle draw 13:00 School ends 13:30
Fri 19 th	PTA: Film/craft afternoon 13:30 – 15:15
January	
Mon 5 th	INSET day
Tue 6 th	TERM STARTS
Mon 12 th	Student teachers start – Miss Adams (Owl) and Miss Hand (Fox)
Tue 27 th	18:00-19:30 Maths Parent Workshop
Thu 29 th	Height and weight measurements EYFS & Y6

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 th 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)