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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



19th December 2025

From the Headteacher:

What a wonderful way to finish the term! The children have embraced the festive season with joy and creativity, making Christingles, designing Christmas cards, and preparing delicious treats to share with family and friends. Throughout all of these activities, they have truly lived out our school values—working together, encouraging one another, showing resilience, and approaching everything with curiosity and enthusiasm. It has been a delight to see their excitement and teamwork shining through.

Christingle Service

Our Christingle service on Wednesday was a truly memorable occasion as a school community. Year 6 led with thoughtfulness and maturity, guiding us through the service with quiet confidence. Hedgehog Class sang Away in a Manger beautifully, while KS1 gave a delightful performance of 'I'm a Little Snowman'. Fox Class brought joy and festive spirit through their Nativity poem, and Owl Class touched us with their beautiful rendition of 'Somewhere Only We Know'. The choir's song, written and performed in tribute to Miss Williams, was especially poignant and captured what she means to us all. Perhaps the most magical moment of all was hearing the children sing Silent Night in the candlelit church—an image of peace and hope that will stay with us long after Christmas has passed. We are grateful to Mrs Hodges for her wonderful playing and to Mrs Hall for leading the choir brilliantly.

PTA

We are so grateful to our PTA volunteers who continue to give their time and energy to enrich school life. This term they have hosted a wreath-making workshop, put on a fun film night, arranged the pantomime, and served mulled wine and mince pies at our festive events. Their efforts make such a difference to the children's experiences and provide valuable resources for the school. On behalf of staff and pupils, thank you for everything you do—and thank you also to everyone who supports them with donations and time. We look forward to the exciting projects they have planned for the new year!

Attendance Matters

This week, attendance letters have gone out, showing each child's attendance for the Autumn Term. Please do take time to look at these carefully. Every day in school is important, and even a few absences can quickly add up. We keep working to the end of term—so each day counts. Missing three days in a term could mean 15 lessons lost—lessons that may not be repeated. Strong attendance helps children make the most of their learning opportunities and sets them up for success both now and in the future.

Stationery

We have noticed that some children are missing essential stationery they need for lessons. As a reminder, KS1 and KS2 pupils should have a pencil case containing: pencil, sharpener, rubber, ruler, glue stick, and coloured pens/pencils. KS2 children also need blue ink pens (no biros, please). These items make perfect stocking fillers, so it's a great time to restock ready for the new term.

Saying Farewell

We were saddened too that it was Miss Williams' final day with us. She spent time in each class, as the children shared their own special goodbye, and was showered with cards, gifts, and heartfelt well wishes from both pupils and parents. To mark her departure, the school has bought two matching fruit trees—one to be planted here and one for Miss Williams to enjoy in her new garden—symbolising the lasting connection she has with our community. In her honour, we are also introducing a new tradition: the annual Miss Williams' Art Award, presented to deserving children who show creativity, perseverance and passion in their Art and DT.

New Team Member

We are delighted to announce that from January Miss Ella Bergmeier will be joining our team. Miss Bergmeier holds a Bachelor of Music Performance from the Conservatorium of Music, University of Sydney and brings a wealth of teaching experience to our school community. She has previously taught at Summerhill Public School as an RE teacher for Years 1–4 and worked as a Reception Teaching Assistant at Wagga Wagga Christian School. With a strong background in supporting reading and mathematics for children with special needs, Miss Bergmeier also currently teaches primary school group music classes, pre-school group music sessions, and one-to-one private music lessons. We are excited to welcome her as she takes on a full-time role as a Teaching Assistant across the school and within our WAC provision.

Finally

On behalf of the whole staff team, I would like to thank you for the gifts, cards and encouraging messages that we have received this week. We are very grateful for your kindness.

All that remains for me to do is wish everybody a happy and safe Christmas and New Year. We look forward to seeing you back again on Tuesday 6th January 2026.

Happy Christmas!

Mrs France and the whole staff team

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



In Hedgehog Class we have been busy getting into the festive spirit while continuing to learn through play and creativity. Making gingerbread biscuits gave us the chance to practise important skills such as measuring, counting, following instructions and taking turns, as well as talking about changes as ingredients were mixed and baked. Creating our Christmas cards helped us develop fine motor skills, creativity and early writing, as we carefully designed, decorated and shared our ideas. We have also been practising our songs for the upcoming Christmas events, building confidence, listening skills and teamwork as we sang together. A very special part of our week was making cards and memories for Miss Williams, encouraging kindness, gratitude and reflection. It has been a joyful and meaningful time of learning for everyone in Hedgehog Class. 🎄🐿



Squirrel Class

A very busy and festive week for the end of the Autumn term. In English we watched the story of 'Mog's Christmas Calamity' told as an advert for Sainsbury's! The class loved it and we used adjectives to describe the mess that Mog had created in the family home with her unintentional mishaps and misadventures! In Maths we continued our learning on shape, with the Y1 children reviewing 3D shapes and their properties whilst the Y2 children had a try at drawing accurate 2D shapes. We learned that squared paper is a real help! As part of our R.E. Inspired visit last week from the church, the children created beautiful Advent Wreaths. We were also very busy creating cards to say goodbye to Miss Williams and our very own Otis. They will be greatly missed and we wish them well on their new adventures! A merry Christmas to you all.



Fox Class

Even though it was our last week of term, the learning didn't stop! Year 3 continued with the improving knowledge of times tables and focussed on their 8 times table and identifying the link between the 2, 4, and 8-times tables. Keep up the TTRS time as it is certainly helping! Year 4 had to help poor Santa with a range of his maths problems; from working out how many presents were delivered to identifying how many mice pies the elves had. They did this by systematically selecting the best clue and working from that rather than the first clue given. In our English, children enjoyed learning their Nativity poem and producing actions to support their learning. They also enjoyed hearing the new story by Rob Biddulph called "I follow the fox" and write some lovely descriptive poetry. We made Christmas cards for the local residents using our fantastic sewing skills and the results were amazing. We also finished off our topic of Rocks and Soil by designing a poster with all the facts and knowledge they had learnt. Using iMotion, children filmed their Stone Age story and enjoyed watching each other's results. It's been a fantastic term of learning and growth and everyone deserves a well-earned break. I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year. I look forward to sharing more great learning with you next year.



Owl Class

As our last week this term came to a close, we celebrated both the festive spirit and our wonderful Miss Williams by making our stunning Christmas cards for the village neighbours and creating songs and poems for our own Owl Class goodbye. We completed our Geography unit by analysing the results of our survey of Thame (which shows a general agreement that it needs a cinema and better parking!), and then comparing the attractions of Thame with the alpine resort of Zell am See, which actually had a surprising number of correlations, as well as a sizable difference-its industry is entirely based on tourism. We used Venn-diagrams to compare the humans and the physical geographical differences visually. In PSHE, we spoke about the ideas that the word 'community' means to them, and began to make links with our Geography unit as the children realised there is a thriving community based around supporting people in Thame and the surrounding areas. Elsewhere in the week, I was very happy to reward the classes hard work with a film-it was a joy to share Star Wars: A New Hope with them, and the children were rapt with attention. I am very lucky to be able to share something I love with the children: after all aren't they our new hope for the future? Friday morning saw us getting into the party mood with Fox Class, playing party games and getting even more festive! I'd like to thank all the parents for the support shown for Owl Class this term and take this chance to wish all of you-children and grown-ups alike - a very Merry Christmas, and the happiest of New Years.

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Photo Diary of the Week



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Pantomime and Chringle



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

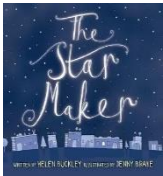
Values: Gratitude

As we approach Christmas, we have been remembering that this season is not only about lights, gifts, and celebrations, but about hope and joy breaking into the world. The birth of Jesus brings us the promise of peace and love that we can share with one another in our school community. "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given... and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6) May this Christmas be a time of blessing, reflection, and joy for all our families.

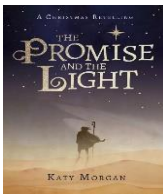
Climate Warriors' Challenge

This holiday, we encourage all our children to spend time outdoors, exploring the beauty of nature with a sense of wonder and gratitude. Whether it's noticing the changing skies, listening to birdsong, or simply enjoying fresh air, there is so much to appreciate. If you happen to spot litter that is safe to pick up, please help care for our environment by placing it in a bin—and don't forget to wash your hands afterwards. Let's all do our part to keep our community spaces clean while celebrating the joy of the natural world.

Book Reviews



Have you ever tried to count the stars? There are so many it's impossible! God made all those stars. But one day the star maker became small enough to lie under the stars... as a little baby. This beautifully illustrated little book will help children grasp the wonder and excitement that Jesus, the Son of God, became a small baby for us at Christmas, so that He might grow up to become a man, providing a way for us to be friends with Him again. Perfect for ages 3-6 years old.



What if you were visited by an angel one night who told you that you were to give birth to the Son of God? How would you feel? What might you think? Written as a series of vivid and dramatic first-person accounts, The Promise and The Light tells the stories of Mary, Joseph and Zechariah as they experience the events of the first Christmas. Written in a lively and engaging style, this imaginative yet biblically faithful book will captivate children aged 8-12.

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	96%	4%	0%
Fox Class	83%	0%	17%
Owl Class	88%	0%	12%

Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	39	297
Eden	37	310
Galilee	42	282
Jerusalem	45	257

The winners for this term are **Eden** who can enjoy their reward in the Spring term.

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Emails and letters sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
15.12.25	Letter	All	Office	Bookings for Wrap around care

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 ^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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Tribute song to Miss Williams

“For All the Days You Gave” — To the Tune of Auld Lang Syne

For all the love you gave this school,
For all the years you stayed—
Through muddy boots and forest paths,
Through every mess we made.

(Chorus)

For all the days, our friend,
For all the days you gave—
We'll raise a cheer and shed a tear
For all the days you gave.

Last-minute jobs? She did them all—
“No pressure... but by three?”
She'd nod, she'd grin, she'd save the day,
With glue up to her knee.

(Chorus)

For all the laughs you bought,
For all the laughs and fun—
You kept us sane in pouring rain
When all the rest had run.

You held our children's tender steps,
You helped their worries fade;
You showed them trees and quiet strength,
And courage gently made.

(Chorus)

For all the love you gave,
For all the love you gave—
We'll lift our hearts and sing for you,
For all the love you gave.

You stayed through nights and early dawns,
You rarely paused to rest;
And though you never would complain
We knew that we were blessed.

(Final Chorus)

For all the love you gave,
For all the love you gave—
We'll miss you more than words can hold,
For all the love you gave.
For all the love you gave.

Now Somerset is calling you,
A new life by the sea;
So walk your path with steady heart,
and think sometimes of me.

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