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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



**23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026**

## *From the Headteacher*

### *Reading Missions Calendar*

As part of the National Year of Reading 2026, we're looking forward to another year of finding joy in stories. To help the children join in the fun, Book Trust have put together a calendar of suggested book missions to try, with a different prompt for each month. There's also a box to write down all your favourite books of the year. It is attached to the newsletter and we will include the theme for the month in the newsletters. The calendar is also on the Book Trust's website along with book suggestions. How many ideas will you manage to complete? January's challenge is: Read a book that makes you laugh! [Find our lists of funny books here.](#)

We wanted to share a lovely opportunity for book loving families. 66 Books is a well-established UK book wholesaler that opens its doors to the public two weekends each month. With thousands of children's and adult titles available, it's a lovely chance to browse, discover new favourites and enjoy time around books, whether you go on your own or take the family along. There's no need to book, and membership can be taken up on the day for £2 per year, covering your whole household. All books are heavily discounted, making it an easy and enjoyable way to build a home library and encourage reading. Check it out here [66 Books](#)

### *Climate Warriors Challenge*

We also have our Climate Warriors Challenge section at the end of the newsletter. This is for all of our children, not just our in-school Climate Warriors team, and it's a great way for everyone to get involved in looking after our planet. Each week, we share simple challenges, fascinating websites and links to activities that help children learn more about climate change, sustainability and how small actions can add up to big change. We encourage every family to take part, talk about the ideas together, and try a challenge at home. Together, we really can make a difference.

### *Maths Parent Workshop*

If you have ever felt unsure about how maths is taught today or wondered how best to support your child at home, our Maths Parent Workshop next Tuesday evening is for you. This welcoming and practical session is designed to boost your confidence, whatever your child's age or your own experience of maths. We will share clear, easy-to-use teaching techniques and strategies used in school so you can feel confident helping at home. For KS1, we will explore number sense, place value, addition and subtraction, explaining the different calculation methods children use for addition and subtraction. For KS2, we will look at multiplication and division, alongside fractions, decimals and percentages, including a helpful breakdown of SATS expectations and practical tips. Each section will end with a 30minute Maths Surgery, giving you the chance to ask questions, tackle worries, and get personalised advice. Whether you want reassurance, practical tools, or a better understanding of modern maths methods, this session will leave you feeling informed, supported, and empowered.

### *Height and Weight Measurements (EYFS & Year 6)*

As part of a national programme, children in Reception (EYFS) and Year 6 will take part in routine height and weight measurements at school next Thursday. These measurements help the NHS build a picture of children's health and growth across the country and support the planning of services that help families stay healthy. The process is quick, done sensitively and respectfully, and children are measured individually. No individual results are shared publicly, but parents receive feedback directly from the NHS. Taking part helps us understand how children are growing over time and highlights where extra support may be needed. This programme plays an important role in promoting healthy development and wellbeing for all children.

### *National Bird Watch*

National Bird Watch is a wonderful opportunity for us all to pause, look around, and appreciate the amazing wildlife we share our grounds with. On Friday 13th February, we'll be taking part by observing and recording the birds we see, helping to raise awareness of the species that live locally and how vital our green spaces are for their survival. Joining in is a simple but meaningful way to support conservation, encourage curiosity, and enjoy the wellbeing benefits of spending time in nature. To help attract as many feathered visitors as possible, we would be very grateful for any donations of bird seed (nut free please), which will be used to stock our feeders in the leadup to the bird watch. Thank you for helping us make the day a success for everyone – especially the birds!

### *Finally... Promise Box*

As part of Collective Worship this week, we have been thinking about how God promises to listen to us when we pray, and how prayer can give us strength when we are facing difficult times. The children created a Promise Box, where they were able to share worries or think about people they know who may be going through hard times. This box will be given to the Open the Book team, who will pray generally for these concerns. It has been a lovely opportunity for the children to reflect and care for others.

### *Kind regards*

*Mrs France*

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## *Teaching and Learning in the Classrooms this week:*



### *Hedgehog Class*

This week we've been very busy following exciting communications from the Royal Palace and Queen Wobblebottom! Her Majesty asked us to create models to show the scale of our castle blueprints, so we've been practising our cutting and joining skills, including using hinges. She also needed help weighing her pet dragon, Zog, which gave us a great opportunity to learn about weight. We've been using appropriate vocabulary, lever balance scales, and standard units of measurement to find out just how heavy a dragon can be! In Art, we've been exploring colour mixing to create beautiful pictures of a castle at sunset. Our sentence writing has also come on in leaps and bounds as we apply everything we've learned in phonics to structure sentences carefully and accurately. We are incredibly proud of the children's progress. We would really appreciate continued donations of cardboard tubes and small boxes to support our castle-building projects. If you'd like to learn more about how to support your child's writing at home, please do come and ask—we're happy to run a short writing workshop to show how you can help now that the children are working confidently at sentence level.



### *Squirrel Class*

The children have started to plan their own Traction Man mission this week and there has been much excitement in the class! In anticipation of our wonderful stories, we have completed lots of SPaG work to remind ourselves of what makes a great sentence. In Maths this week the Y1 children ordered and compared numbers to twenty, reviewing the greater than, less than and equal to symbols. We also began work on addition within twenty using the First, Then, Now models. The Y2 children have been finding change and calculating with money, including problem solving. We have made a focus on securing the number line method to aid subtraction (counting up/on method) within numbers up to one hundred. We continue to enjoy our Science lessons and our plants topic with lots of labelling of plant parts and identifying the jobs of each part. The children showed great knowledge and had lots of facts to share about plants. We have also been taking care of our beans as part of our growth investigation, watering them and ensuring they have access to lots of sunlight in order to thrive. Lastly, in Art this week the children were tasked with a mini challenge. They were asked to make a sculpture that was small enough to sit in the palm of their hand...and to complete it in 15 minutes! It was a challenge, to say the least, but the children did fantastically and crafted some curiously quirky creations!



### *Fox Class*

This week has been a very hands-on week! We've studied muscles and how they work trying out different tricks on our body to see what they can and can't do! We then made a hand using straws, string and a great amount of resilience! In our Art lesson this week, we practised our sewing skills in preparation of our combined painting and sewing project. The children were so focussed and some children, who had previously not enjoyed sewing, really embraced the challenge and found a new favourite hobby! In RE last week we designed our own churches and this week we looked at mosques. In our Maths, Y3 worked on their division skills and on scaling (3 times as many) whereas Y4 embraced the challenge of working on short division which they all loved! In our English, we worked on writing persuasively (something I am sure they can speak quite well at home!) with the aim of convincing the 'gods' in Owl Class to either let the Maya people have a chocolate tree or not allow it. We looked at the rule of 3, rhetorical questions and using emotive language. The whole class enjoyed having the opportunity to put their writing into practise – well done Foxes! In our History, we also learnt about the importance of chocolate to the Maya people and how it was used. We also managed to squeeze in the odd chunk of chocolate into the week too!



### *Owl Class*

In English, the children explored persuasive testimonials, inspired by real crew members from Shackleton's expedition. They wrote their own convincing testimonials from the viewpoints of Frank Wild (Second-in-Command), Ernest Holness (sailor and stoker) or Charles Green (the ship's cook). The children carefully selected a mix of formal and informal language to make their writing sound personal, realistic and engaging. In Maths, we focused on BIDMAS (the order of operations), helping the children understand which parts of a calculation should be solved first. We then began our units on multiplying and dividing fractions, recapping how to switch between improper fractions and mixed numbers. This learning was supported by a very catchy song to help everyone remember the process! Science found us exploring how position can affect shadows: we used a series of observations and measures to find the effect of distance on shadows: we found that the closer the light source, the smaller the shadow, and the further away the light source, the larger the shadow! Try it out at home. In History, the children learned about our school's involvement in the lace-making industry and explored how different childhood was in the past. They were particularly interested in how children's lives and responsibilities were very different from their own today. During ICT, the children altered values within existing game code and investigated how changing variables affected gameplay. They evaluated whether these changes improved or reduced the player's experience, developing both their coding and critical-thinking skills. Another busy and engaging week for Owl Class!

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### *Photo Diary of the Week*



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## Whole School Topic - Spring Term: A Sense of Belonging

### Value: Trust

This week we looked at what it is like to standing on God's promises. We know that God's promises are true and we can always trust them. They are like a sturdy platform that we can stand on. In the Bible, God promises:

*Do not fear for I am with you Isaiah 31:41*

*I will strengthen you I will help you, I will uphold you. Isaiah 41:10*

*Give all your worries to me because I care for you I Peter 5:7*

He tells us that when we pray to him, we will be listened to and will receive strength when we are facing hard times. He promises us that absolutely nothing can sperate us from his love.

### Climate Warriors' Challenge

'It is in your hands to create a better world for all who live in it' and 'It always seems impossible until it's done'. Nelson Mandela

We're thinking problems, puzzles, solutions ... it's National Puzzle Day on 29th January. Climate Change is a 'super-wicked problem' - the solutions are many, varied and complex. Excellent leadership from governments and businesses will greatly help us address this mind-boggling puzzle. Business leaders at the World Economic Forum in Davos are celebrating those who challenge conventional thinking and provide the spark for change. In the words of a previous world leader ... 'It's in your hands'...

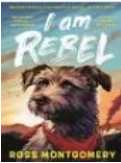
[Try our Guzzle-busting crossword](#)

And a [Climate Change Wordsearch](#)

### Reading Missions Challenge

January's challenge is: Read a book that makes you laugh! [Find our lists of funny books here.](#)

### Book Review - I am Rebel by Ross Montgomery



I think it's a really good book. There is a lot of adventure and deals with how important friendship is between a dog and his master called Tom who is 12. It's all about a dog called Rebel and his quest to find Tom who goes off to join the rebellion. Nothing went as I thought which is a good thing because it made me want to read more and more. By Matilda - Fox Class

### Happiness Calander: Happier January

**How can we start this new year happier?** This month, we're encouraging everyone to focus on small steps to try to boost happiness - for ourselves and others around us - to spread kindness and hopefully inspire others to do the same. You can find this month's happiness calendar [here](#).

### Attendance - This week

| School target 97% | 97% - 100% | 90% -97% | Below 90% |
|-------------------|------------|----------|-----------|
| Hedgehog Class    | 94%        | 6%       | 0%        |
| Squirrel Class    | 96%        | 0%       | 4%        |
| Fox Class         | 93%        | 0%       | 7%        |
| Owl Class         | 84%        | 0%       | 16%       |

### Housepoints

| House     | This Week | Total |
|-----------|-----------|-------|
| Bethlehem | 49        | 79    |
| Eden      | 52        | 80    |
| Galilee   | 34        | 72    |
| Jerusalem | 32        | 57    |

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## ***Emails and Letters Sent this Week***

| Date     | Email/Letter | For   | From      | Concerning  |
|----------|--------------|-------|-----------|---|
| 23.01.26 | Email        | Fox   | Mrs Healy | Food packaging request for Tuesday                          |
| 21.01.26 | Email        | Choir | Office    | Choir cancelled 29 <sup>th</sup> Jan & 12 <sup>th</sup> Feb |
| 20.01.26 | Email        | All   | Office    | Maths Workshop reminder                                     |
| 20.01.26 | Email        | All   | Office    | Primary School Health Newsletter                            |
| 19.01.26 | Email        | All   | Office    | JR Sports Camps   |

| <b>January</b>                              |   |
|---|---|
| Tue 27 <sup>th</sup>                        | 18:00-19:30 Maths Parent Workshop   |
| Thu 29 <sup>th</sup>                        | Height and weight measurements EYFS & Y6  |
| <b>February</b>                             |   |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup>           | World Interfaith Week   |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup>          | Children's Mental Health Week – <i>'This is my Place'</i>                                 |
| Tues 10 <sup>th</sup>                       | Internet Safety Day – <i>'Artificial Intelligence'</i>                                    |
| Fri 13 <sup>th</sup>                        | Bird Watch  |
| Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> | Half Term   |
| Fri 27 <sup>th</sup>                        | PTA Quiz Night  |
| <b>March</b>                                |   |
| Wed 4 <sup>th</sup>                         | World Book Day - Symphony of Stories  |
| Fri 6 <sup>th</sup>                         | International Women's Day of Prayer – Nigeria   |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup>          | National Science Week – <i>'Space'</i>  |
| Wed 18 <sup>th</sup>                        | Poetry Slam Competition<br>Oxfordshire Cricket Club Day                                   |
| Fri 21 <sup>st</sup>                        | Red Nose Day – wear your jumper or cardigans back to front for a donation to Comic Relief |
| Wed 25 <sup>th</sup>                        | FGB   |
| Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup>     | RE Enrichment Week  |
| Fri 27 <sup>th</sup>                        | Spring Service in Church  |

## ***Academic Year Calendar 2025-26***

| <b>Autumn 25</b>                                      |  |
|---|--|
| 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)  |
| <b>Spring 26</b>                                      |  |
| 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)  |
| <b>Summer 26</b>                                      |  |
| 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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