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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



30th January 2026

From the Headteacher

Maths Workshop

Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended our Maths Parent Workshop this week — it was lovely to see so many of you there. We hope the session helped build confidence and gave you useful ideas for supporting maths at home. For anyone who couldn't make it, or would like to revisit the information, the full presentation is now available on our school website. The workshop covered key KS1 and KS2 methods, from number sense and calculations to multiplication, division, fractions, decimals and percentages, along with a clear overview of SATs expectations. Families also had the chance to ask questions during our 'Maths Surgery.' Thank you again for your enthusiasm and engagement.

For all parents we want to encourage developing mental maths skills with your children. Mental maths is a really valuable skill that parents can easily support at home in simple, everyday ways. Quick recall of number facts helps children feel more confident in maths lessons, frees up working memory for problem-solving, and builds a life skill they'll use daily – from handling money to telling the time or estimating costs. For KS1 children, this might look like counting steps, spotting numbers on doors, playing simple games with dice or cards, or practising number bonds while setting the table. In KS2, children can benefit from quick-fire times tables, mental addition and subtraction on car journeys, estimating totals while shopping, or talking through different ways to work out an answer without pencil and paper. These short, regular moments don't need to feel like 'extra work' - they help children see maths as useful, manageable and part of everyday life, while strongly supporting the progress they make in school.

Adaptive Teaching at Our School

At our school, teachers work incredibly hard to make sure every child can access learning in a way that suits them best. We know that children learn differently, and there is no single approach that works for everyone. Through adaptive teaching, teachers creatively adjust lessons by offering varied resources, breaking tasks into manageable steps, using different ways for children to record their learning, or providing additional modelling and scaffolding when needed. These thoughtful adaptations are woven into everyday classroom practice, supporting all pupils to feel confident, successful, and fully engaged in their learning.

Understanding SEN and How PEP's Support Learning

Some children have Special Educational Needs (SEN), which means they may need targeted support to help them access the curriculum. For some of these pupils, a Personal Education Plan (PEP) is used to set out clear, specific steps that guide their teaching and learning. A PEP does not provide one-to-one support, and it does not give access to resources that other children could not normally receive. Instead, its purpose is to create a focused plan that helps everyone understand the child's priorities. Our PEPs run from half term to half term to ensure smooth continuity—especially when a new academic year starts. For example, a PEP created in May supports a seamless transition into September, enabling the teacher to build on the existing plan straight away. We are now shaping plans that run from February to May, these will be developed for May to October, and so on. Each PEP is developed collaboratively between teacher, parent, and child to ensure a shared understanding of how best to support progress.

World Interfaith Harmony Week 2026

Next week, communities around the world will celebrate *World Interfaith Harmony Week*, a United Nations initiative promoting peace, understanding and cooperation among people of all beliefs. This special week reminds us of the compassion, kindness and shared values that unite us, and encourages all of us to listen, learn and celebrate what we have in common. In school, we will be marking the week with a range of simple, meaningful activities, including a 'Shared Values' Kindness Chain, where each child adds a link expressing kindness or respect to create a whole-school display. Children will also take part in 'What We Share' circle-time discussions, exploring what helps us feel part of a community and how people can get along even when they are different. In addition, classes will enjoy Storytime From Around the World, sharing books that highlight friendship, understanding and celebrating differences. Together, these activities will help our children reflect on empathy, unity and the importance of welcoming others which are the values that lie at the heart of this global celebration.

Finally...Headteacher's Awards

Headteacher's Awards are a special way of recognising children who have shown outstanding achievement, effort or behaviour, or who have gone above and beyond in their learning and in living out our school values. These awards celebrate successes such as excellent homework, overcoming challenges and showing true school spirit, helping children to feel proud of their achievements and motivated to continue striving for their best. The visible sticker worn on their uniform allows the whole school community to share in and celebrate these special moments. This week, we are delighted to congratulate Zoe for a superb poem written in English and Flo C for producing a wonderful poster for her homework. Watch out for future worthy recipients.

Kind regards

Mrs France

GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY

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Teaching and Learning in the Classrooms this week:



Hedgehog Class

This week has been full of curiosity, creativity, and fantastic engagement! We were thrilled to hear back from Queen Wobblebottom, who will be visiting us very soon. She kindly answered all of the thoughtful questions the children had written, helping us learn what it's really like to be a queen — from where she lives to what she eats! The children were absolutely delighted and have been buzzing with ideas ever since. In their play, the children have shown impressive learning skills, demonstrating perseverance, willingness to take on challenges, and resourcefulness as they explored and developed their ideas. It has been wonderful to see such focus and enthusiasm. In Maths, we explored capacity, filling different containers, measuring carefully, and comparing amounts using the correct vocabulary. The children worked thoughtfully and confidently with this hands-on learning. We have also completed our castle models, taking great care to cover them fully in colour and adding beautiful fine details such as portcullises, drawbridges, arrow slots, and even flags. The finished castles are truly impressive and reflect the children's creativity and attention to detail. What a fantastic week of learning.



Squirrel Class

This week the Squirrel children have finished their Traction Man stories in a comic style, and they worked very hard to produce wonderful writing. We move onto learning poetry next week in preparation for the upcoming Thame Partnership Poetry Slam 2026! In Maths this week the Y1 children learned about number bonds to 20 and doubles. Please practise making doubles at home or talking about doubles this weekend. The Y2 children have moved onto multiplication and division this week, with a focus on understanding and making equal groups. We talked about arrays and why they are useful when completing multiplications. Again, please practise if you can by making arrays from items in your home this weekend. The children learned about Hannukah in RE and created some lovely menorah lamps and in history topic they talked about similarities and differences between different Norman castles through the years. Lastly, in Science we went on a plant hunt, identifying wild plants and flowers within our school grounds. We observed the different parts of the plants carefully and completed some observational drawings. Another successful week of learning and growing!



Fox Class

A week full of creativity this week! In English, we wrote super explanations about how chocolate was made before launching into our poetry in preparation for the Poetry Slam competition. KS2 have to write their own poems and not recite a pre-written one so we put on our poetic hats and had a go! We started with using personification and the whole class produced super work. We then practised how to recite a poem focusing on using our bodies, voice, volume and speed. Finally, we wrote a poem about boasts and lies which they all really enjoyed! In our Maths, both year groups are now working with length and perimeter. Any opportunity for your children to measure at home would be great! In our History, we learnt about the many ancient Maya gods and what they were thought to give/protect. In our Science, we focussed on packaging of products and looked at the energy (kcal) that each food would give. We then compared it to the amount of energy needed to perform a range of activities such as running and sleeping. The class were amazed at how far they would have to run to supplement the food eaten! In our Art, we planned our painting for next week focussing on where the stitching would go the following week. Well done Fox Class for keeping the energy levels high and the learning growing!



Owl Class

It's been another busy and brilliant week in Owl Class! In English, we put the finishing touches on our persuasive leaflets and created our final, eye-catching versions, complete with images of Shackleton and the mighty *Endurance*. The children worked hard to persuade sailors to join their crew and honestly, they were so convincing that Miss Adams and I nearly signed up ourselves! In Science, the classroom was full of excitement (and laser dots!) as the children investigated the angle of reflection. Using mirrors, laser pointers and protractors, they bounced light rays, carefully measured reflected angles and searched for patterns in their results - a fantastic mix of scientific enquiry and maths skills. Our History learning took us closer to home as we explored the importance of water and rivers in our local area. The children traced canal routes leading to Birmingham, London and beyond, discovering how goods and materials travelled from Aston Rowant's cottage industries, including the lace-making we focused on last week, to the wider world. In PSHE, Owl Class talked about what to do if someone is choking: firstly how to recognise the signs, and then ways to help. Firstly, however, we agreed that their primary job is find an adult to help or call 999. The children were amazingly focused and sensible in this task - they understood the gravitas of the skills they were being taught. In Art, Miss Adams led a joyful celebration of *Brave Colour*. The children researched and mimicked artists known for their bold, decisive use of colour, producing vibrant work full of confidence and creativity. A wonderful week of curiosity, creativity and collaboration — well done, 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 explored a Bible story where Jesus' friends faced a frightening moment out on the water. A sudden storm blew up while they were in a small fishing boat, and they were terrified. After calming the storm, Jesus asked them two important questions: *Where is your faith? Why didn't you trust me?* We discussed how trusting can be hard when we feel anxious or scared, but that God is someone we can rely on in every circumstance. He promises to stay with us no matter what we face.

'Do not fear, for I am with you.' Isaiah 31:41

Climate Warriors' Challenge

The textile and clothing industry emits more carbon than international aviation and shipping combined, yet in the UK, we buy more clothes per person than any other country in Europe! Dame Ellen MacArthur sailed around the world limited by 'finite' resources on her boat and has since devoted herself to accelerating the transition to a Circular Economy – here's a simple explanatory video. [Lagos Fashion Week, Winner of the 2025 Earthshot Prize](#), shows how fashion can be sourced, produced and consumed differently. Young Climate Warriors are challenged to tidy up their clothes cupboards so they can rediscover what they already have and think about how they can swap, patch, borrow, alter, mend, re-design, dye...

Interesting links:

[TED-ed talk on 'the life cycle of a t-shirt'](#)

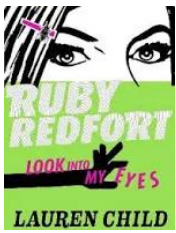
[Understanding the Circular Economy](#) - Ellen MacArthur Foundation

[Less than 1% of old clothing is made into new clothes - focus on a Clothing Circular Economy](#) - Ellen MacArthur Foundation

Reading Missions Challenge

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

Book Review Ruby Redfort: Look Into My Eyes, by Lauren Childs, reviewed by Aava.



I would recommend this book because it is exciting, funny and full of surprises. The hero, Ruby Redfort, is clever, confident and sometimes even a bit rude, which makes her really entertaining to read about. She is not a typical hero, and that is what makes the story so enjoyable. It is a thrilling adventure with lots of twists and secret-agent style moments that keep you wanting to read on. Some parts are quite sad or a little scary, so I think it is more suitable for older children. Don't worry though - everything works out in the end for Ruby, and that made the ending very satisfying. Even better, there are five more books in the series, so the adventure doesn't stop there! I give this book five stars out of five and I can't wait to read the next book in the series.

Happiness Calendar: 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	71%	0%	29%
Squirrel Class	89%	0%	11%
Fox Class	90%	3%	7%
Owl Class	84%	4%	12%

Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	54	128
Eden	39	132
Galilee	60	132
Jerusalem	23	99

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Emails and Letters Sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
29.01.26	Email	Hedgehog & Y6	Office	National Measurement Programme
30.01.26	Email	All	Office	Notification – Scarlet Fever

January	
Tue 27 th	18:00-19:30 Maths Parent Workshop
Thu 29 th	Height and weight measurements EYFS & Y6
February	
2 nd – 6 th	World Interfaith Week
9 th – 13 th	Children's Mental Health Week – 'This is my Place'
Tues 10 th	Internet Safety Day – 'Artificial Intelligence'
Fri 13 th	Bird Watch
Mon 16 th – Fri 20 th	Half Term
Tues 24th	Auditions for Garsington Opera Youth Company Years 4-6
Fri 27 th	PTA Quiz Night
March	
Wed 4 th	World Book Day - Symphony of Stories
Fri 6 th	International Women's Day of Prayer – Nigeria
Wed 11 th	Tag Rugby
9 th – 13 th	National Science Week – 'Space'
Wed 18 th	Poetry Slam Competition Oxfordshire Cricket Club Day
Fri 21 st	Red Nose Day – wear your jumper or cardigans back to front for a donation to Comic Relief
Wed 25 th	FGB
Mon 23 rd – 27 th	RE Enrichment Week
Fri 27 th	Spring Service in Church

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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