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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



13th February 2026

From the Headteacher

Bird Watch

Thank you to Mr and Mrs Turton for leading our school bird watch again this morning as part of the National Big Bird Watch. Each class took turns to observe from the Rainbow Room or the Pavilion, enjoying the chance to quietly watch and identify the birds visiting our school grounds. We were delighted to spot 14 different species, including wrens, rooks, long-tailed tits, goldfinches, chaffinches, blue tits, robins, redwings and jackdaws. The children loved learning facts such as robins are one of the few UK birds that sing all year round, often heard in winter as they defend their territory and that both male and female robins have red breasts! It was a fantastic opportunity to develop observation skills, learn fascinating facts and connect with nature right in our own grounds.

Children's Mental Health Week

This has been Children's Mental Health Week and we have explored this year's national theme, 'This Is My Place', which focuses on helping children feel a true sense of belonging in their school, friendships, and wider community. Across the week, pupils took part in activities such as reflection tasks on where they feel they belong, kindness focused sessions, and creative projects designed to celebrate the places and people that help them feel connected. This work matters greatly - research shows that feeling included and valued has a powerful impact on young people's wellbeing, confidence, and ability to thrive both academically and socially. We have already seen the positive impact in school, with children expressing pride in their community, showing increased empathy toward others, and strengthening supportive relationships across year groups.

Internet Safety Day

On Tuesday's Safer Internet Day, our whole school took the opportunity to explore this year's global focus on Artificial Intelligence (AI), a theme highlighted internationally as central to helping children make safe, smart, and responsible choices online. Each class engaged in age-appropriate activities to understand what AI is, how it is already shaping everyday digital life, and the advantages it can offer - from supporting learning to creative problem-solving - as well as the potential risks, such as misinformation, privacy concerns, and AI-generated content that may be misleading. Our aim is to build pupils' digital awareness and critical thinking, empowering them to navigate technology confidently and safely as they grow into responsible digital citizens.

Poetry Slam

We are delighted to be joining with other Thame Partnership schools in the Poetry Slam competition again this year, celebrating creativity, confidence and performance as part of the UK National Year of Reading. Children wowed us with the poems they had written, learned by heart and performed to the whole school. The standard was exceptional, and pupils voted for our winners who are in KS1 Amelia and Flo C and for KS2 it is Hendrix. They will go on to represent Aston Rowant School at the competition later this term - we are incredibly proud of them!

British Values Day - Wednesday 25 February

On Wednesday 25 February, we will be taking part in a whole-school British Values Day, providing all children from Reception to Year 6 with meaningful opportunities to develop their understanding of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. These values are central to children's personal development and support them in becoming respectful, responsible and active members of modern British society.

Children will work in mixed-age House teams, promoting leadership, cooperation and positive relationships. The whole-school assembly will focus on mutual respect and tolerance, exploring kindness, empathy and understanding different viewpoints and supporting the children's ability to reflect on values, beliefs and behaviour. Everyone will take part in an outdoor democracy activity, where they will vote, make group decisions and experience pupil voice in action, helping them understand fairness, choice and the importance of listening to others. Classroom carousel activities will further develop British Values through: creative arts (individual liberty and self-expression), games and challenges (the rule of law, fairness and teamwork), stories and short films (understanding right and wrong and taking responsibility), and team-building (inclusion, cooperation and respect). Activities will be carefully adapted so all children can access learning, with older pupils deepening understanding through discussion and leadership roles.

British Values Day strongly supports children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development, helping them build confidence, resilience and positive attitudes towards others. Most importantly, it reinforces that British Values are not taught in isolation but are embedded in everyday life at our school. We are looking forward to a joyful, purposeful day of learning together and know the children will gain a great deal from the experience. Please can the children come dressed in red, white and blue. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Kind regards

Mrs France

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Teaching and Learning in the Classrooms this week:



Hedgehog Class

We finished our topic in truly royal style with a special visit from Queen Wobble Bottom! The children gave a wonderful recital of all their kings and queens poems and songs, and they were very excited to impress Her Majesty with the thoughtful questions they had written to ask her. We also proudly showed her the castles we had been building. The children included lots of fantastic defensive features such as portcullises, moats, arrow slits, drawbridges, and even dungeons. Some castles even had magnificent banquet halls complete with grand tables fit for a royal feast. In Maths, we explored pictograms and created our own to show our favourite Chinese foods after our Chinese New Year tasting session. It was interesting to see which foods were the most popular! We also learned about height and the vocabulary used to compare objects. The children took part in a fun beanstalk competition to see who could build the tallest one - it was great fun for everyone.

Next term, we will be starting an exciting new topic all about *Food and Farming*. The children will have lots of hands-on experiences, learning about where our food comes from, how it is grown, and how to care for plants and animals. If any parents or family members have experience in farming, animal care, or growing vegetables and would be willing to share their knowledge with us, we would love to hear from you. We are also looking for donations of vegetable plants to help us get growing. Please let us know if you are able to support in any way. We are very much looking forward to another busy and exciting term!



Squirrel Class

Another half term is complete, and we have kept up the hard work right to the end! In English we have been perfecting our performance poetry, learning the poem 'On the Ning Nang Nong' by Spike Milligan. It's the perfect mix of fun and rhyme, and we loved talking about and sharing our favourite lines. In Maths the Y1 children have finished their addition and subtraction unit and will move onto Place Value to 50 after the half term break. The Y2 children are still working solidly on their multiplication and division unit, this week delving more into arrays and the 2x table. In Science we wrapped up our bean investigations and the class got to take a look and see if their pinto beans had germinated! There was much excitement...but also some disappointment as some beans did fail to thrive. But that is representative of life and science experiments! This week saw the culmination of our sculptures where the children had time over the past two weeks to explore materials, tools and their ideas, with plenty of freedom to play and invent, take creative risks and share, without working towards a predefined outcome. Well-done Squirrels! Enjoy the half term break.



Fox Class

What an ending to a fabulous half term! In Maths, both year groups finished their Perimeter topic and have just embarked on the wonderful world of fractions! More of this next half term! In English, children wrote their own ending of what would happen to Pik as he played Chac at a game of Pok a Tok. I was impressed by both their choice of vocabulary, their sentence structure and use of speech. All things covered this half term. What a way to show off their new-found skills! In History, we completed our ancient Maya topic by trying to get to the bottom of what actually happened to cause the decline but as we found out, there seems to be no one reason. The whole class have thoroughly enjoyed this topic and linking their writing to it too has proved to be a good choice too! In our Science, we spent time understanding what constitutes a balanced diet taking on board that we all may have different tastes and needs. The class created a plate (in their books!) with half demonstrating a healthy meal and the other half an unbalanced meal. They also needed to label the nutrient groups we learnt about last week. In our Art, the children focused on their sewing skills by adding detail to their picture they painted last week. They really tried hard not only at threading and knotting (!), but at selecting a suitable colour choice thread and the size/style of stitches. I am very impressed with all of them and the resilience they demonstrated! Thank you also for supporting your children in their half term projects. What a treat to see such a variety of work! From recipes to fitness routines and wordsearches to videos - we were spoilt for entertainment! I feel they all need a week off to relax and recharge and I'm sure they will come back excited to grow their learning next half term!



Owl Class

What a wonderful final week of term in Owl Class! In English, the children grouped information and created engaging fact files (non-chronological reports) all about *The Endurance*, the ship that spearheaded the Antarctic expedition. They resisted the temptation to focus solely on the 69 dogs on board and instead wrote informatively about the ship's supplies, crew, origins and purpose. They showcased excellent use of information-writing features, including relative clauses, subheadings, bullet points and numbered lists - entertaining *and* informative! In Maths, we recapped decimal place value up to three decimal places, practising comparing, ordering, adding and subtracting decimals, before linking this learning to our upcoming work on percentages. In Science, the children designed their own investigations into light. We explored fascinating ideas about infinite reflections and whether magnified images can be reflected - an inspiring and thought-provoking lesson full of creativity and curiosity. In Art, the children completed their *Painting with Light* topic, creating acetate light frames which we illuminated using torches to produce beautiful rippling light effects. We ended the week with our birdwatch, spotting a wide variety of British birds and appreciating the rich wildlife in our local environment - a wonderful reminder of the natural world around us. Well-done on a busy and brilliant half term, Owl Class - enjoy your break, and we'll see you in a week!

GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY

Growing together, rooted in God, enjoying fullness of life. (Colossians 2:1-7)



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Photo Diary of the Week



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Whole School Topic - Spring Term: A Sense of Belonging

Value: Trust

We read a story from the Bible this week where Jesus' friends found themselves in a scary situation when a storm rose up and they were in a small fishing boat. Jesus asked the disciples two questions: *Where was your faith? Why didn't you trust me?* We talked about how it can be difficult to trust when we are worried or frightened but that we can trust in God in every situation because he is always with us.

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

Climate Warriors' Challenge

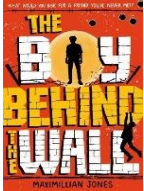
'X' marks the spot. Treasure that has been buried underground since last spring is beginning to emerge. Dainty dancing snowdrops, amethyst crocuses, bluebell shoots, and maybe even the odd daffodil trumpet in bloom. Young Climate Warriors' half-term and holiday challenge always involve getting outside, opportunities to explore our extraordinary natural world, reinforcing the link between man and nature.

If you love what you've found, join the [#ShowTheLove2026](#) campaign – support your child to create a 'green heart' ❤️❤️ from leaves, fabric, paper, or a photo of their 'treasure' ❤️❤️ ... and send it to a leader/decision-maker in your community: your MP, or your Town Council, or your Head teacher? #ShowTheLove2026 is organised by The Climate Coalition - the UK's largest group of people dedicated to action against climate change. Representing over 100 organisations and over 22 million individuals, we are proud to be a member!

Reading Missions Challenge

February's challenge is: Tell someone about a book you love. Why do you love it so much?

Book Review – The Boy Behind the Wall by Maximilian Jones



The Boy Behind the Wall is a moving story that introduces young readers to an important moment in history. Set beside the wall that divided East and West Germany, the book shows how a huge concrete barrier separated families, friends, and ways of life. When a curious child discovers a boy living on the other side, an unexpected friendship begins. It's a thoughtful story about courage and kindness. A great read for children in Owl Class.

Happiness Calendar: Friendly February

This month let's focus on reaching out to connect with others and doing our best to be a good friend. Our acts of kindness and connection ripple out and impact so many more people than we realise. In stressful times people around us may be feeling the strain, so let's try to keep calm, take time to listen and show compassion. You can find this month's happiness calendar [here](#).

Attendance – This week

School target 97%	97% - 100%	90% -97%	Below 90%
Hedgehog Class	76%	6%	18%
Squirrel Class	89%	0%	11%
Fox Class	83%	3%	14%
Owl Class	72%	0%	28%

Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	74	256
Eden	62	244
Galilee	58	239
Jerusalem	73	224

This term's housepoint winner is **Bethlehem**.

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Emails and Letters Sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
13.02.26	Email	All	Office	World Book Day
13.02.26	Letter	Year 5	Mrs France	Cycle training
13.02.26	Email	All	Office	Wrap around care booking form - Spring
11.02.26	Email	All	Office	Bags2School
11.02.26	Email	All	Office	Dance Club
11.02.26	Email	All	Office	Thursday 12 th February – Office unstaffed
11.02.26	Email	KS2	Office	Birdwatch

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 24 th	Auditions for Garsington Opera Youth Company Years 4-6
Fri 27 th	PTA Quiz Night
March	
Wed 4 th	World Book Day – What's your passion?
Fri 6 th	International Women's Day of Prayer – Nigeria Bags2School collection
9 th – 13 th	National Science Week – 'Space'
Fri 13 th	Children wear spring coloured top and make an Easter raffle donation to PTA
Wed 18th	Poetry Slam Competition Oxfordshire Cricket Club Day Hedgehog trip – Discovery Lookout Centre
Fri 20 th	Red Nose Day – wear your jumper or cardigans back to front for a donation to Comic Relief PTA Easter raffle draw
Wed 25 th	FGB
Mon 23 rd – 27 th	RE Enrichment Week
Fri 27 th	Spring Service in Church PTA Film/Craft afternoon 13:30-15:15

Academic Year Calendar 2026-27

Autumn 26	
Tue 1 st Sept – Fri 23 rd Oct	Autumn Term (1) INSET DAYS: Tue 1 st Sep, Wed 2 nd Sept and Fri 23 rd Oct
Mon 26 th Oct – Fri 30 th Oct	HALF TERM
Mon 2 nd Nov – Fri 18 th Dec	Autumn Term (2)
Spring 27	
Mon 4 th Jan – Fri 12 th Feb	Spring Term (1) INSET Mon 4 th Jan
Mon 15 th – Fri 19 th Feb	HALF TERM
Mon 22 nd Feb – Thu 25 th Mar	Spring Term (2)
Summer 27	
Mon 12 th April – Fri 28 th May	Summer Term (1)
Mon 31 st May – Fri 4 th Jun	HALF TERM
Mon 7 th June – Wed 21 st July	Summer Term (2) INSET Mon 7 th Jun

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