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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



27th February 2026

From the Headteacher

British Values Day – Wednesday 25th February

On Wednesday, our whole school enjoyed a vibrant and meaningful British Values Day, giving every child from Reception to Year 6 the chance to explore and live out the values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance. These values remain central to our children's personal development and support them in becoming respectful, responsible and active members of modern British society.

Our day began with a whole school assembly based on the beautifully inclusive story 'All Are Welcome'. Through the story and discussion, the children reflected on mutual respect and tolerance, thinking about the importance of kindness, empathy and valuing different viewpoints. Together, we explored how our words and actions shape the welcoming, positive atmosphere we all help to create in our school.

Throughout the morning, children worked in mixed age House teams, strengthening cooperation and leadership skills. It was wonderful to see older pupils supporting younger children as they moved through the day's activities.

One of the highlights was our outdoor democracy activity, where every child took part in voting, group decision making and experiencing pupil voice in action. This hands on and vote with your feet approach helped children understand fairness, choice and the importance of listening to others - key principles of democracy.

The children also took part in a carousel of classroom activities in their house teams linked to each British Value:

- Creative arts – exploring **individual liberty** through self-expression
- Games and challenges – applying the **rule of law**, fairness and teamwork
- Stories and short film – deepening understanding of right and wrong, taking responsibility and understanding consequences
- Team-building tasks – promoting inclusion, cooperation and **mutual respect**

Each activity was thoughtfully adapted to ensure that all children could participate meaningfully. Older children helped guide discussions, model positive behaviours and take on leadership roles, further enhancing the learning experience.

British Values Day provided rich opportunities for children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development. Throughout the day, we saw pupils showing confidence, resilience and genuine curiosity about others. Most importantly, the day reinforced that British Values are not just taught in isolated lessons - they are lived out every day through our school community and the way we treat one another.

Thank you to everyone who came dressed in red, white and blue - it added to the sense of celebration and togetherness. We are incredibly proud of the children and all they contributed to a joyful, purposeful day of learning. Their enthusiasm and thoughtful engagement showed us once again what a special school community we have.

World Book Day

We are excited to be celebrating World Book Day on Wednesday 4th March. This year's theme encourages children to explore books that reflect their passions and interests - whether that's a sport, hobby, ambition or future career choice, an interest like animals, space, art, nature, cooking or something they simply love learning about. Children's outfits must be linked to a book, fiction or nonfiction, to keep the focus on reading. Once they have chosen a passion, pick a book that links to it — and build a simple outfit from clothes you already own. Costumes do not need to be bought; simple, homemade ideas or items you already have at home are perfect. We can't wait to see creative outfits inspired by books that celebrate each child's unique interests. We are also having our book swap at the end of the day – so do bring in some books that you want to swap...

Finally...our values board

In our school hall, we have a special values board that changes each half term to help our whole school community reflect on the value we are exploring. Every child contributes something to the display, showing their understanding of the value, a practical way they can live it out, and a personal commitment to putting it into action. This half term our focus is Outreach, and this will be linked to our 'Journeys of Hope' RE Enrichment Week before Easter. Each child decorated a footprint to represent a small step they can take to reach out to others - whether by showing kindness, offering help, welcoming someone new, or noticing when someone needs support. Together, these footsteps create a path across our values board, reminding us that outreach begins with simple, everyday actions that help us step towards others in love and compassion.

Kind regards

Mrs France

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Teaching and Learning in the Classrooms this week:



Hedgehog Class

This week we launched our brand-new topic Food and Farming, and the children have already thrown themselves into the learning with great enthusiasm! If you would like to see everything we will be exploring this term, please take a look at the topic web on our class page for more information. We have started by thinking about how plants grow. The children planted their own seeds and have been investigating what a seed needs in order to grow and stay healthy. We will be watching closely over the coming weeks to see what happens! There is even more excitement on the way... we are expecting some real-life chicks to arrive in class any day now! The children are incredibly excited, and we can't wait to watch them hatch and grow. As part of our topic, we would love to make the most of our outdoor space. If any parents or carers have green fingers and would like to help us prepare our garden, we would be so grateful. This could be on a weekly basis or just a one-off visit. We would also greatly appreciate donations of fruit or vegetable plants once they are ready to be planted. Please could you also save and send in any empty egg boxes, as these will be very useful for our activities. Thank you for your support! In Maths, we have been exploring time and thinking about different ways we can measure it. The children had lots of fun challenging themselves to see how many actions they could complete in a minute or even just 10 seconds! On Wednesday, we also enjoyed a fantastic British Values Day. The children took part in a variety of activities across the school in their house teams, and it was wonderful to see them developing their teamwork and collaborative skills. It was a brilliant day enjoyed by everyone!



Squirrel Class

This week in class we have been busy with lots of exciting learning across the curriculum! In English, we enjoyed reading *Lost and Found* and used our imaginations to write thoughtful predictions about what might happen next in the story, using clues from the text and illustrations. In Maths, Year 1 practised counting in 10s all the way to 50, building confidence with number patterns, while Year 2 explored equal groups through sharing and grouping, helping them understand the foundations of multiplication. In DT, we investigated stable structures, discussing why humans and animals build structures and why stability is so important for safety and purpose. In RE, we learned about why Christians meet together and what happens in church, exploring the importance of community and worship. Lastly, in Geography, we examined aerial photographs of our local area and challenged ourselves to spot and identify familiar landmarks and features from above. The Squirrels also had a great time on Wednesday for our British Values Day and have been very keen to talk about all they learned and the fun they had with their teammates from their houses. It has been a fantastic week of learning and discovery.



Fox Class

Hello, I am Ms Glasby and I have loved my first week with Fox Class, and I am very much looking forward to the rest of this half term. The children have been so welcoming, and it has been wonderful to join them as they dive into their new topics. In Geography and Science, Foxes have begun exploring the wonders of the rainforest and the fascinating processes of human digestion, asking great questions and showing real curiosity. In English, we have started learning about non-chronological reports, building the skills the children will need to write their own detailed report on a rainforest creature of their choice. In Maths, Year 4 have continued developing their understanding of fractions, now moving on to mixed numbers and improper fractions, while Year 3 have been working hard to compare and order non-unit fractions. Our RE learning began with an introduction to Hinduism and the Trimurti, where the children discussed the roles of Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva. On Wednesday, the class enjoyed a special off-timetable day focused on fundamental British values, taking part in thoughtful discussions and activities about respect, democracy, and community. It has been a busy, lively and inspiring week, and I'm excited for all the learning still to come.



Owl Class

This week, we jumped straight into our exciting new topics and the children have shown fantastic enthusiasm and curiosity across the curriculum. In English, we explored the cover and blurb of our new class text *The Island* by Armin Greder. Using just the striking front image, the children worked hard to decode and interpret ideas about the story. We asked questions such as: Where is the island? What might the strange building represent? Why has the author chosen a 'blood-red' font for the title? These thoughtful discussions sparked fantastic talk for writing, and really captured the children's imaginations, leaving them excited and eager for the learning ahead. For our Science unit of 'Classifying Big and Small' we began to look at how to group and classify living things. Everyone created their own methods of classification, with brilliant ideas such as carnivores and herbivores, or domesticated and wild animals. However, we quickly discovered that we had all grouped the animals in completely different ways — not a very effective system! This led us to explore why scientists use Carl Linnaeus' classification system, sorting animals into phyla, and we began by investigating vertebrates and invertebrates. This was a fascinating lesson and the children's ideas and reasoning were thoughtful and impressive. In Maths, the children recapped decimals to tenths, and then expanded that learning to include hundredths, and for Year 6, thousandths, and comparing, ordering, and rounding. Garsington Opera's Youth Company worked with our children on Tuesday and they are now looking for new recruits. They were hugely impressed - the calibre across Years 4-6 was exceptionally high, and we wait to hear the results of the auditions. We also spent a day celebrating our British Values Day, which was a fabulous day of our pupils working and learning together in their houses, as you can see from our pictures!

GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY

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



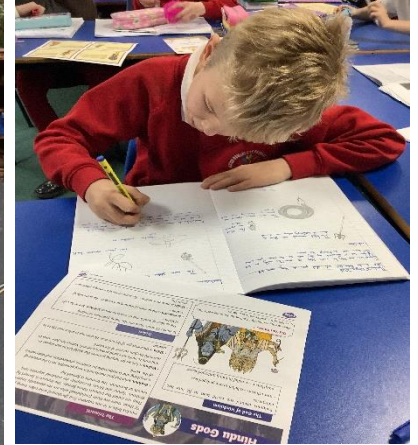
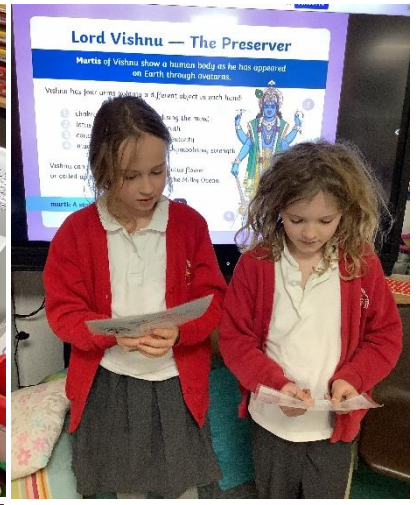
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Photo Diary of the Week



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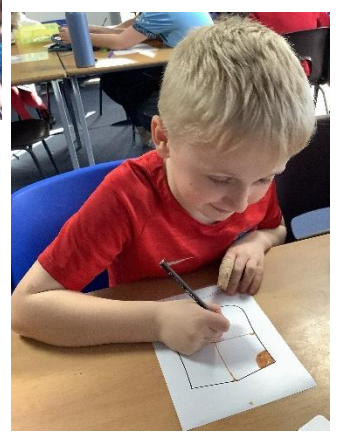
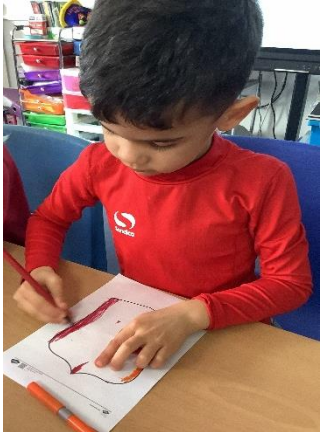
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British Values Day



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Whole School Topic - Spring Term: A Sense of Belonging

Value: Outreach

In Collective Worship this week, we began by exploring what it truly means to show compassion. We learnt that the word comes from two smaller parts: “com”, meaning with, and “passion”, which can also mean suffering. So compassion isn’t just feeling sorry for someone—it’s choosing to stand with someone who is hurting, lonely, or struggling. It’s about pausing to notice when someone needs help, and then moving towards them with kindness, rather than turning away. Compassion inspires us to listen, to understand, and to offer gentle support. As we begin our journey into Outreach, we’re thinking about how compassion can flow outwards from us into our school, our community, and our world.

“Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.” Colossians 3:12

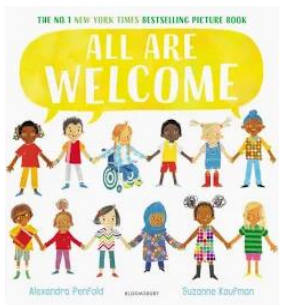
Climate Warriors’ Challenge

This week, our Young Climate Warriors are taking on a simple but powerful energy saving challenge: helping to make a parent or carer a hot drink - while only boiling the amount of water they actually need. It’s an easy habit that makes a real difference. Did you know that overfilling the kettle wastes both energy and money? In fact, many kettles use more electricity per boil than people realise, and re-boiling water adds extra cost for no benefit at all. By filling the kettle just to the level needed for one or two cups, families can cut unnecessary carbon emissions and reduce their energy bill at the same time. A small action, repeated often, becomes a brilliant climate friendly habit - and a lovely way to start the day with a shared cuppa!

Reading Missions Challenge

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

Book Review – All Are Welcome by Alexandra Penfold and Suzanne Kaufman recommended by Mrs France



We read *All Are Welcome* in our Collective Worship on British Values Day. It is a beautifully inclusive picture book that perfectly reflects the British Values we teach in school. Through its joyful illustrations and reassuring, rhythmic text, the book celebrates a community where every child - regardless of their background, culture, language or faith - feels they truly belong. Its warm illustrations and gentle rhyme celebrate a community where every child belongs. The story promotes **Mutual Respect and Tolerance**, as children from many cultures learn and play together; it highlights **Individual Liberty**, with each child free to express who they are; and it mirrors the **Rule of Law** through shared routines that help everyone feel safe. It also echoes **Democracy**, showing a school where every voice matters. This book gave us a perfect starting point for conversations about inclusion, kindness and belonging - reminding us that **everyone has a space, everyone has a place, and everyone is welcome.**

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	82%	12%	6%
Squirrel Class	89%	4%	7%
Fox Class	94%	3%	3%
Owl Class	81%	0%	19%

Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	36	36
Eden	34	34
Galilee	29	29
Jerusalem	23	23

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Emails and Letters Sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
27.02.26	Letter	All	Office	PTA Spring events
26.02.26	Letter	All	FGB	FGB letter to parents
26.02.26	Email	KS2	Office	Dance club - reminder
25.02.26	Email	Year 5	Office	Cycle training - reminder
25.02.26	Letter	All	Mrs France	PTA Chair vacancy
25.02.26	Letter	Hedgehog	Mrs Hall	Trip - The Look Out Discovery Centre
23.02.26	Email	All	Office	Wrap around care bookings - reminder

February

Fri 27 th	PTA Quiz Night
March	
Wed 4 th	World Book Day – What’s your passion?
Fri 6th	International Women’s Day of Prayer – Nigeria – Special CW children only NO Celebration Assembly 09:00 Bags2School collection
9 th – 13 th	National Science Week – ‘Space’
Mon 9th	Tennis Roadshow – workshop for each class
Wed 11 th	Tag Rugby
Fri 13 th	Spring Colour Day – bring prizes for PTA Spring raffle
Wed 18 th	Poetry Slam Competition / Oxfordshire Cricket Club Day / Hedgehog trip – Discovery Lookout Centre
Fri 20 th	Year 5 – Cycle training starts (bikes & helmets in school) Red Nose Day – wear your jumper or cardigans back to front for a donation to Comic Relief Spring raffle at the end of Collective Worship
Wed 25 th	FGB
Mon 23 rd – 27 th	RE Enrichment Week ‘Journeys of Hope’
Fri 27 th	9:15 Spring Service in Church 1:30 End of Term 1:30-3:15 PTA event
April	
Wed 22nd	14:30 Rock Steady Concert

Academic Year Calendar 2025-26

Spring 26	
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

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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