



Friday 15th September 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

I warmly welcome you back to the new academic year as we look forward to another fantastic year together. I would like to thank you for all the lovely messages and gifts I received at the end of the Summer, so very kind and generous of you, I am ever so grateful. It is so great to be back!

Team AK Shining Brightly:

It has been fabulous to see all classes come back to school and settling so well back into the routines and systems.



We have welcomed 6 new starters to the school: Ben and Isabelle, Ben and Jessica and Erin and Sophia who have all moved into the village. We warmly welcome them



and their families into our Team AK family. We also welcome all of our new Class R children who have joined us on a part time basis for the first two weeks. It is lovely to get to know them and assign them their Year 6 buddies who will support them through the year. The Year 6 Buddies have already shown how kind and responsible they are going to be as Buddies, we are very proud of them. I have been so pleased with how all of our children have embraced the start of the school year, it is



brilliant to all be back and raring to go!

Our first *Time to Shine* assembly of the year celebrated many varied achievements that had taken place over the school holidays. There were Summer Reading Challenges completed, cricket certificates and mud runs to name but a few. We were also immensely proud of Alexander, in Year 4, who scored so many points on Mathletics over the holidays that he earned himself a place on the UK leader board, well done! This inspired another of our pupils, Gilbert in Year 5, who challenged himself and this week was top of the UK leaderboard and 2nd in the world! This is incredible and is possible for any of our pupils Y2-6 if they want to put in the effort and try. There is a real buzz in school and the challenge is on, which is very exciting. Several other children were awarded Mathletics bronze certificates which is



excellent. We also saw many outside school success such as that of two Year 6 pupils who raised a fantastic £251.50 for the NSPCC by taking part in the *Messathon* in Bristol.

The first two weeks of the school year focused on the text 'A Seed is Sleepy'. We have thought about growth, both in nature, and ourselves. Not just our size, but how we can grow and develop as people and learners. This is a



theme or 'learning metaphor' that we will be developing as we grow throughout the year and I look forward to sharing the stunning poetry and artwork which comes from this. I have already been visited by lots of children from across the school to share their wonderful close study sketching of seeds and excellent poetry and descriptive writing. Keep an eye on the class pages on the website as some of the wonderful work will soon be appearing.

We had been looking forward to our annual visit of the Life Education Bus, and were excited to see it on the playground. Unfortunately, the bus suffered a technical problem and we were unable to go in! Every cloud has a silver lining though, and Harold the Giraffe did pop into assembly to say hello. We are now looking forward to the Life Bus returning in October.

Thank you for collecting the Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers as, through your vouchers, we have already received two den building kits, two skipping rope sets and netball match ball. Thank you for your support and please collect again when the scheme reopens.

Congratulations to our new School Council representatives for 2017-2018

We were massively impressed with the campaigns this year. Well done to everyone who took part. If they did not get elected, they should persevere as their time will come as it did for some of those who were elected this year after years of trying!

Here are our new representatives:

Year 1 Mylie and Nicole

Year 2 Edie and Jacob

Year 3 Isobel and Freddie B

Year 4 Zara and Estella

Year 5 Lucy, Jason and Enzo

Year 6 Scarlett and Teddy

Huge congratulations to all who were elected and to those who took part in the democratic election. We are very proud of them all.

Our Christian value in focus for this term is Thankfulness

We have started back thinking with our value in focus and have been thinking about Thanking God for those who help us and being thankful for creation. We have been also ensuring we take time to think about and pray for those who have been affected by Hurricane Irma. Under the 'about' section on our school website is 'Value in Focus' where you can find some resources to help you at home if you would like to explore the value further as a family.



Drama Specialist Teaching

We have been lucky enough to secure 'Superstars' who are working with all year groups throughout the year to provide specialist drama sessions. We are also delighted with the positive response to the *Glee club* invitation and look forward to children taking part in the new *AKPS Glee club* every Tuesday after school. The club will re-run to ensure that as many pupils as

possible get the chance to take part in this exciting club.



Goodbye stargazer...



Stargazer our beautiful Ashton Keynes Hare, created by Mrs Kathryn Gray for the community hare project is now on its way to auction. It has been brilliant for our school to be part of this project and I know lots of people enjoyed the weekend of activities to celebrate the end of the hare trail. One of these was selfies with the Hare. Of course, I could not resist a selfie with the hare! I look forward to our school being part of many more art and community projects in the future. Well done and thank you to Mrs Gray for helping us



be part of these wonderful projects and for creating such a beautiful hare in 'Stargazer'.

Message for new Class R parents/carers

On Wednesday 27th September, there will be an introduction to phonics for Class R parents. All class R parents are invited to a phonics information meeting in the school hall at 2.45pm - 3.15pm. We will run through how we teach phonics, reading and writing and give you lots of hints and tips of ways in which you can thoroughly support your child at home.

FoAKS Disco for parents/carers! Today is the deadline for tickets



Yes, you have heard right! FoAKS have organised a great social evening on Saturday 23rd September for parents/carers/friends. It will be an excellent way to start the school year together or to get to know others if you are new to the school. Historically, our FoAKS teams have always been brilliant at providing events for both our children and for our parents and I know this will be another of their brilliantly organised events. Tickets are on sale at £20 for 2 tickets (excellent discounted rate) to include a welcome drink, hog roast (vegetarian option) and music and dancing. Please email Suus Paris on suzyrak@hotmail.com if you would like to reserve a ticket. The deadline is today as numbers need to be known to order the right amount of food.

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Ashton Keynes Fireworks 2017!

Bradstone Playing Field
Saturday 4th November
Gates open 4.30 pm

Bar
BBQ

The AKsionals!
Glow Stalls



Advance Ticket Prices before 18:30 Sat 4th Nov:
£6 adult, £4 child, £17 family (2 adults, 3 kids), from Ashton Keynes
Primary School, Ashton Keynes Village Shop or CB Slade Property Group

ON THE GAIT Ticket Prices:
£8 adult, £6 child, £20 family (2 adults, 3 kids)

Under 3's go free

Kindly supported by


Date for your diary... Saturday 4th November... AKPS Fireworks night.

Our wonderful annual fireworks display is back. I absolutely love this evening and it is fabulous to see so many members of the local and wider community there. It is always such a well organised and high quality event. Grab a discount and get your tickets before the night! Tickets will be on sale from October, for now please save the date.

The 'Travelling Books' Book Fair is back on Wednesday 4th October until Monday 9th October!

Following its success last year we have asked the book fair to return. It is a chance to purchase some great value and quality books with added benefits of our school benefitting from extra books as a result of the sales. The fair is open Thursday 5th

October during lunchtime, Friday 6th October 3.15pm in the hall and Monday 9th October during lunchtime. The trolleys will be open during the period in the hall so book choices can be made and then purchased at the shop. Discount flyers will be sent out in the next week so keep an eye out. Thank you to Mrs Hancock for organising this for our school.

Important message about forest schools...

All of the dates for the forest schools sessions for each class are on the school website calendar. Please transfer these dates onto your calendars and provide forest school clothes for your children on these days. With 210 children in the school, we are just not able to send parent mail reminders or telephone parents to bring in kit, which I am sure you can appreciate. If your child does not have kit, they will do it in PE kit, so it is a good idea to provide jogging bottoms in their PE bag just in case.

School Improvement Plan 2017/2018

This will be on display in the hall shortly to explain these areas in more detail as each one has a comprehensive plan of school improvement behind it and I will add updates throughout the year to show the progress with this and the impact. There are 4 key very exciting areas:

1. To ensure progress in non-core subjects (e.g. History, Geography) is in line with core subjects (English and Maths) and can consistently be seen in books
2. To develop pupil leadership across the school to work with subject leaders to enhance subjects (To develop all of our pupils leadership skills)
3. To further develop the school's partnership with the Church and links with the community
4. To further develop pupil enterprise skills (Developing a 'Shine Enterprise Project', working with local businesses etc.)



Dates for your children, class assemblies, heroes and heroines etc...

The website calendar is always kept up to date and is the best place to check when things are happening. This includes social events, class assemblies for parents, Heroes and Heroines, church services, SATS, residentials, parent consultation evenings, forest school plus much more. I put dates on my newsletter every fortnight but to avoid missing anything please refer to the calendar which is available 24/7.

Finally, please be reminded that our school gates are locked by our Year 6 monitors in the morning at 9.00 am for the safety of your children and to ensure children are in school and registered on time. After that, you will need to come through the school and sign in. The Year 6 monitors are instructed to close the gates at 9am but unfortunately a couple parents have recently expressed their frustration directly to the Y6 monitors which is not acceptable. The bell goes at 8.50am in the morning with registration straight afterwards. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

Have a fabulous weekend, it is so lovely to be back,
Kind regards,

S.L.Saville

Mrs. Saville
Head teacher

Here are some dates for the year ahead so you can ensure you have them in your diaries from the start. Please always check the calendar on our website www.akps.org.uk for dates. All of these dates are on there.

Date	Event
Monday 18 th September	Class R start full time
Wednesday 20 th September	Pm Oak and Furrows with KS1
Saturday 23 rd September	FoAKS Disco/ Hog roast social evening for parents/carers in school hall
Tuesday 26 th September	School photographs, please be smart and wearing your logo uniform if you have it (please wear a navy cardigan/jumper)
Wednesday 27 th September	2.45-3.15 Phonics session for Class R parents in school hall
Wednesday 4 th - Monday 9 th October	Travelling Book Fair in school with great value books to purchase which support our school reading resources (see detail in newsletter)
Friday 13 th October	1.40-2.30pm Harvest Service at Holy Cross Church. Please would you kindly bring food bank donations to be carried to the church for the service.
Tuesday 17 th October	Author visit Debi Evans (more information to follow) Pm Fire safety workshops for KS1
Wednesday 18 th October	9am Heroes and Heroines End of Term 1



Monday 30 th October	Start of Term 2 Life Education Bus
Tuesday 31 st October	Life Education Bus Visit
Saturday 4 th November	Fireworks Night - bar, BBQ and live music at Bradstone Playing Field organised by FOAKS from 4.30pm (Tickets discounted in advance)
Tuesday 7 th November	3.30-7pm Parents Consultation Evening
Thursday 9 th November	3.30-6pm Parents Consultation Evening
Friday 10 th November	12.30pm onwards Flu vaccination for Years R-4
Tuesday 14 th November	1.30pm in the hall an afternoon for Grandparents/ senior members of the AK community lead by Year 6 (please let the office know if you would like to attend so they can provide refreshments for you) Invitation to follow.
Thursday 16 th November	FOAKs School disco for EYFS/KS1 & KS2
Tuesday 21 st November	9am Class 5 assembly to parent/ carers
Tuesday 5 th December	Annual whole school visit to the pantomime 'Peter Pan'
Wednesday 6 th December	9am Class 4 assembly to parents/carers
Tuesday 12 th December	1.30-2.30pm EYFS/KS1 Nativity
Wednesday 13 th December	1.30-2.30pm EYFS/KS1 Nativity
Thursday 14 th December	6-7pm EYFS/KS1 Nativity
Friday 15 th December	1.40- 2.55 Christmas Service Holy Cross Church
Tuesday 19 th December	9-11 AK's Got Talent Christmas Special-children 3.15pm FOAKS Christmas Movie night
Wednesday 20 th December	9am Heroes & Heroines End of Term 2
Thursday 4 th and Friday 5 th January	Teacher training days, school closed to pupils.
Monday 8 th January	Term 3 starts
Thursday 8 th February	9am Heroes and Heroines Term 3 ends
Friday 9 th February	Teacher Training day, school closed to pupils.
Monday 19 th February	Term 4 starts
Friday 9 th March	Mid-year reports out to parents
Tuesday 13 th March	3.30-7pm Parent Consultation Evening
Thursday 15 th March	3.30-6pm Parent Consultation Evening
Tuesday 27 th March	9am Class 2 assembly to parents and carers in the hall 6pm Year 3/4 production
Wednesday 28 th March	6pm Year 3/4 production
Thursday 29 th March	9am Heroes and Heroines End of Term 4
Monday 16 th April	Term 5 starts
Friday 4 th May	Teacher training day, school closed to pupils
Monday 7 th May	Bank Holiday (back to school Tues 8 th and beyond)
Wednesday 9 th May	Year 6 Leaver's photographs
Monday 14 th May	Year 6 SATs week (Please ensure Year 6 are all in for this week)
Tuesday 22 May- Friday 25 May	Year 6 Residential
Friday 25 th May	9am Heroes and Heroines (Classes R-5 as 6 on residential)



	End of Term 5
Monday 4 th June	Term 6 starts
Monday 4 th June	World Awareness week
Wednesday 20 th June - Friday 22 nd June	Year 5 Residential
Monday 25 th June	Sports Week
Friday 29 th June	Annual Sports morning for parents/ carers to attend- I have ordered sunshine! Year 4 forest school sleepover
Friday 6 th July	Reserve sports morning (We should not need this but if we have to cancel the planned morning (due to weather) on 29 th June, this will be the reserve date
Wednesday 11 th July	Year 5 & 6 Production 6.30pm
Wednesday 11 th July	Visit of the Storyteller
Thursday 12 th July	Year 5 & 6 Production 6.30pm
Friday 13 th July	Annual End of Year Reports out to parents
Thursday 19 th July	Surprise
Friday 20 th July	Pm Year 6 Leaver's Church Service in Holy Cross (Year 6 Parents/ carers/ grandparents welcome)
Tuesday 24 th July	11am-12pm. Year 6 Leavers assembly 1.30-3pm Rounders Y6 v parents/carers 3.15pm Balloon release
Wednesday 25 th July	9am Heroes and Heroines End of the Term 6 and the school year