



Friday 4th September

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome back! I would like to begin by wholeheartedly thanking you for your kind messages and words, cards and gifts at the end of term, so very thoughtful of you and massively appreciated. I hope you have all had a lovely Summer and I am so excited to see all of your children back in school, looking super smart and ready for the exciting challenge which the new school year brings.

Welcome

A very warm welcome to the newest members of our school family: Archie Townsend in Class 5, Archie Manning in Class 1, Maddison Cook in Class 4 and Jacob Manning in Class 6; to all of our new Class R pupils who have joined us beautifully and are already settling so well; to Mr Jackson and Mrs Campbell our new Teaching Assistants; to our new trainee teacher Miss Boase who will be working in Year 3 alongside Miss Redman. A really warm welcome to them all, our family is certainly growing which is fantastic.

AK Shining Brightly:

AK super smart in the new uniform!



It is absolutely brilliant to see the children looking super smart in the new school uniform, it really does make a real difference to no longer have the sky blue and black, the navy skirts for girls looks really smart and the new logo really adds a smart splash of colour. I know just a few people are using up uniform already purchased, which as I stated before is absolutely fine for the short term as they gradually phase in the new uniform. Thank you so much for your support with the new uniform, the difference to the smartness of our school is staggering.

Please remember that for PE, your child needs to wear a PE top in their house colour, as they do for sports day, rather than white.

Stunning new outdoor classroom has arrived!

I hope you have now seen the new outdoor classroom which was built on the field over the Summer. This is the long awaited lottery funded project which has finally, after a lot of planning, come to fruition. We are so pleased with it, we hope you are too. I know the children are really excited. It has been designed to be an outdoor classroom, rather than just a sheltered area and I know it will be exceptionally well used, already we have plans for it to be used for Forest schools, sports teaching, lessons and to be opened as a reading area at lunchtimes. It will also be used for FoAKS events for the community and by our after school club.

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Shortly, you will be hearing from Mrs Gray about an opportunity to be involved in a mosaic workshop to create mosaics for the classroom. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Kathryn Gray for the countless hours she spent working on the lottery application with Mrs Nicholas, before my arrival and then working hard with me since the funding was granted to get the design spot on and arranging quotes and getting the building in place. I would also like to thank our Governor, Mr David Tarr for his fantastic support with planning, quotes and ensuring the build went ahead in the holidays. We are having an official opening of the classroom on Friday 16th October at 2.45pm. You are warmly invited to join us as local MP James Gray officially opens the classroom for us. FoAKS will be providing refreshments for a small cost, so please come and join us for the official opening and a cuppa before home time.

New Playground Marking

Over the next week the playground will be re-vamped and some bright new markings will appear for the children to enjoy playing on. We have used some of the money from your fundraising to achieve this and envisage it having a positive impact on the outdoor environment and big benefit for your children. Thank you!

Timings

The new lunchtime of 12.15-1.15 has worked well. We have also adjusted our break time start time slightly to 10.30-10.45 so it is a little earlier.

Thank you for making every effort to ensure your children are on time for the start of the day for 8.50am when the bell rings so that they can be registered before 9am and into daily worship/ assembly on time. It is really important to keep to these timings.

Road Closure

Please be aware that the main road which runs past Gosditch from Siddington is closed from Monday for approximately 5 days. The section between the Spine Road junction and Cox's Hill is affected. Please bear this in mind when travelling to school.

School Council Elections

These will take place next Friday 10th September, please see separate letter from Miss Redman (parent mail).

Whole school Photograph

Next Wednesday 9th September at 2pm, we are having a whole school photograph. Usually this is done when a Headteacher leaves, but we felt it would be a great idea to have it done now so we have a current photo of the whole school family together looking super smart in our new uniform. The photograph will be available for you to purchase afterwards from Tempest (details will follow) and the school will proudly display a framed copy in the entrance to the hall.

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Meet and Greet session

As a reminder, on Wednesday 9th September 3.30-4.45pm, you are welcome to come in and visit your child's new classroom and meet the new teacher. Your child will have had a week in the school and by then you should have received the termly letter and home learning brochure from the teacher. It is an excellent opportunity to come with/ without your child to see where they sit, see the classroom and talk with the teacher and ask any questions you may have. New Class R parents will be invited into Class R for a phonic meeting (to explain how we teach phonics and how you can support at home) from 3.45-4.15pm after which, the classroom will be open to look around/ meet with the teachers/ visit siblings classrooms.

FoAKS Team - we need YOU!

We have the best team of FoAKS here, but we need more volunteers to join the team. It is a fabulous way to meet people as well as support the school. We have lots of exciting things planned for this academic year, but we need your help. Please contact Sarah Edmonds or Kim Olden if you are able to join the team. Any help is massively appreciated. The school relies on the fantastic support from FoAKS and the fundraising, which helps make our school a better place and provide more opportunities for your children.

Clubs

Please see the club timetable which will be sent separately by parent mail and will also be on our website shortly. After great request from the Year 2 parents, we have put into place a recorder club and tried to provide a variety of clubs for your children. Please remember that clubs run by the staff are voluntary and that sometimes these have to be on similar days due to various staff meetings which are already in place in school, therefore it is not possible to avoid this happening. In addition, when there are parent consultation/ open evenings, teacher led clubs on those evenings will not be on. I am eagerly awaiting confirmation from Superstars of a start date for AK Glee club, which has been delayed. As soon as I hear, I will send out a parent mail, thanks for your patience with this, it is a currently out of my control.

Happy Birthday to the AK Breakfast Club!

We are delighted to be able to celebrate the first Birthday of our AK Breakfast club on Tuesday! It is wonderful that the club has been so successful and is now a regular part of our school provision. We are having a small Birthday breakfast club party on Tuesday 8th September to celebrate and we will be providing alongside the usual breakfasts, fruit skewers, and a few party games along with a Birthday cake (for later on in the day). If your child would like to join in the fun then please book them in, the cost is as usual £3 for the session from 8am. Thank you for supporting our breakfast club, we are so pleased to be able to have one here at AK.



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Note from Mrs Sampson: Breakfast club are in need of some toys. If you have any surplus or unwanted Knex, Lego or any games which you would be happy to donate to the club, we would be so grateful to receive it. Please see Mrs Sampson if you can help us.

S.L.Saville

Mrs. Saville

Head teacher

Key dates for Term 1:

Please always check the calendar on our website www.akps.org.uk for dates.

Date	Event
Tuesday 8 th September 8am	AK Breakfast Club Birthday party - please book in if you would like your child to join the fun £3
Wednesday 9 th September	2pm Whole school photograph in the hall
Wednesday 9 th September	3.30-4.45pm Meet and Greet- an opportunity to come and meet your child's new class teacher
Monday 14 th September 3.15pm	Cygnets food tasting session- you are invited to come and try a range of school dinners to see what we offer.
Thursday 17 th September	Swimming starts for Year 4
Monday 21 st September	Individual School Photographs with Tempest 8.30am start in hall for family groups with preschool siblings
Wednesday 23 rd & Thursday 24 th September	Life Education Van visits the school
Tuesday 6 th October	Classes 3 & 4 trip to Ashmolean museum
Tuesday 13 th October	9am Class 6 assembly to parents in the hall
Wednesday 14 th October	Zumba Kids Morning- all children will receive 30 minutes of Zumba with their classes (free of charge)
Thursday 15 th October	4-5pm <i>Keeping up with the Kids Maths Session</i> in the hall. More details to follow. The staff sharing latest maths teaching strategies to help you support at home.
Friday 16 th October 2.45pm	Official opening of the new outdoor classroom. FoAKS will kindly be providing refreshments for a small charge. All invited.
Monday 19 th October	4-5pm <i>Keeping up with the Kids English Session</i> in the hall. More details to follow. The staff sharing latest English teaching strategies to help you support at home.
Tuesday 20 th October	End of Term 1 FoAKS end of term disco for pupils (more details to follow).
Wednesday 21 st October	Teacher Training Day- school closed to pupils