



Friday 3rd March 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,



Team AK Shining Brightly:

World Book Day- Team AK all became *Where's Wally!*

Yesterday we celebrated World Book Day with a special whole school theme...



Where's Wally and his extended family. I was massively impressed with how everyone took part and made a real effort, the Team AK Wally family looked incredible. The children were given a star challenge across the day connected to reading and recommending books to others and there was a special find Wally activity at lunch time too! Thank you to Mrs Hancock for her tremendous effort in organising this fabulous day. Here is a message from Mrs Hancock...

A huge thank you to the whole school, pupils, staff, parents and carers for such an enthusiastic response to celebrating World Bok Day in 'Where's Wally' style. Over 110 children completed the outdoor challenge of finding Wally in the glorious sunshine and received an 'I found Wally certificate.' We hope the children enjoyed the day as much as the staff did, we already have our thinking caps on for 2018...!

Lots of pictures will be appearing on the display in our reading corridor and on our website so you can have a go at finding your own *Where's Wally!* This was a fabulous event, thank you for the stunning efforts made by pupils and staff for this occasion, such fun was had by all. Well done Team AK! Here are a few photos. I wonder if you can spot the real *Where's Wally* in the background of these photos:



There were so many smiles and happy faces, it was a brilliant day!



As part of the World Book Event and our on-going commitment to promoting reading in our school, we were visited by John Dougherty on Tuesday. Every class got to work with John and at the end he did a special assembly for children, staff and parents/carers. The children were literally laughing out loud at John's retelling of his 'Stink Bomb' and 'Ketchup Face' stories and his hilarious songs. He spent quality time with each child who had ordered a book during the book signing and again after school. The children were excited, engaged and inspired by his visit. Photographs will go in our reading corridor and on the website.

Further to this our reading pupil leaders from across the school have been working really hard to promote visits to the library and rewarding children with bookmarks for visiting the library and using it so well every lunchtime. The reading pupil leaders have been running the library every day and the reading area in our outdoor classroom, thank you for taking on this responsibility so well.

Window Wanderland was wonderful! Ashton Keynes shone very Brightly!



Wow! On Friday and Saturday night Ashton Keynes shone brightly as over 55 households took part in decorating their windows for the community *Window Wanderland* project. We opened the trail at 5.30pm at the school where we unveiled our school 'star' window display. Many groups had been involved in this project including the WI, Golden Years, Church, Youth café group plus lots of individuals either connected to the school or from the local community. Some people who live outside the village but attend the school teamed up to create displays in the windows of their friend's houses in the village.



Miss Perring and I were so overwhelmed by the level of engagement and the effort and thought that had gone into the displays. I stayed until late on Friday night and managed to see most of the windows on offer on the trail; each one unique and sharing something about the home owner. It was a brilliant project and excellent to see so many people taking part and enjoying the event. It is fabulous for the school to be at the centre of community events through a lottery funded project. My thanks on behalf of the school and the community to Mrs Gray who was the driving force behind this project and helped the school make it happen! Can you also find one minute to complete this short survey. Your feedback on this event would be most appreciated by the *Window Wanderland* organisers in Bristol. Here's the link:



<https://goo.gl/JxE51u>

Parent skills being utilised within Team AK

During their electricity topic, Classes 3 and 4 have been lucky enough to receive visits from parents involved in the energy industry. Mr Edmonds visited and explained all about renewable energy. The children were shown how the enormous wind turbines at sea work and saw fascinating footage of one being constructed.

Mr Hill also visited class 3 and explained how energy is made and transported from the grid to our homes.

On both occasions the quality of questions from the children has been excellent, showing a real curiosity and interest in the topic. Their understanding of electricity came through clearly in the type of questions they asked which impressed our visitors.

We are keen to involve parents, carers and grandparents fully within the school and utilise their skills, we will be doing more on this in next year's School Improvement Plan. If during the year you see something on the calendar: e.g. sports week, world awareness week, or a topic in your child's class you could add to, please come forward and share your thoughts with us, we'd really welcome you! My thanks to Mr Edmonds, Mr Hill and the team of parents who do this for us regularly, it is really exciting for the children and fully appreciated.



Growth Mindset Parent/Carer Workshop

Thank you very much to those who were able to attend the workshop and for the really positive feedback. As promised, here is the link to the presentation. <https://prezi.com/ekjekrca3izr/parent-workshop-gm/> It should be self-explanatory but if you require any further support please ask.

Growth Mindset has been mightily positive and each class has created an environment in which the differences between a fixed and growth mindset is evident so that it can be easily referred to, from Reception - Year 6. Through our teaching and through leading by example, we encourage our pupils to adopt a growth mindset approach to their learning. A Growth Mindset is about recognising it's ok to make mistakes and that our brains grow when we try. It can help alleviate frustrations that some students experience in their learning and hence reduce the frequency of potential low-level disruption. A great success so far. Keep growing you brains!

YR Run, run, run as fast as you can....Year R are after the Gingerbread man!

Class R were ever so excited last week as they arrived back in class to discover that their classroom had been disturbed by a visitor! Things were out of place and chairs turned upside down! As detectives they started to investigate and found evidence that the Gingerbread man had been in their classroom! They set off on a hunt for clues around the school. They were shocked to find that the Gingerbread man had been in my office on my desk!



After finding a trail of clues and working together as a team to solve



read and solve the puzzles, they finally located the Gingerbread man himself! He apologised for the mess and had made them gingerbread biscuits to say sorry. The class decided they would forgive him and they suggested that they could work together as a team to put the classroom back together! Such brilliant learning took place during and after this well planned WOW



event. Following on from this, I have seen lots of role play, making, and endless writing from the children about the Gingerbread man. I hope your children have told you all about it! At parent's evening, please take a look in the Class R big book and you will see their hunt in pictures. Well done Class R, you superstars!

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Cross Country shining success!

We have recently attended 4 cross country events outside the school 3 in Gloucestershire and 1 at Bradon Forest. All children who took part from Years 3 to 6 did themselves proud and represented the school beautifully. It was fabulous to see the children really trying hard and pushing themselves to complete the runs (in all weathers) and to do better each time, we are proud of them all. In each year group event about 50 children from across many schools took part. We had 4 bronze medals and 2 gold medals which was a fabulous achievement! Well done Team AK! Mr Tanner will report in more detail for the website. Thank you and well done to all who took part. A big thank you to Mr Tanner for ensuring our children are part of this opportunity.

Netball shining success!

Miss Igoe took some children from her netball club to a tournament at Kingshill last night. They did incredibly well and finished 3rd in the first round and 1st in the next! Their team work and attitude towards others was exceptional and Miss Igoe was incredibly proud of them all. A real achievement for Team AK! Thank you Miss Igoe for running the club and making this opportunity possible for the children.

Deaf Awareness Roadshow

We were so lucky to be visited by the Deaf Awareness Roadshow. It was such an informative, educational and fun day and in the session I observed, I was really impressed with how engaged the children were and the level of their questioning and responses. We have written to thank the NDCS team for such a wonderful day. The children were absolutely buzzing after their sessions and the day certainly helped to raise deaf awareness for our whole school. It was also so lovely to see our deaf pupils so engaged in the technology session, full of confidence when given the opportunity to show all that they know and skills that they have. We look forward to inviting the Roadshow back again next year.

40 Acts of Kindness for Lent

For our focus for Lent this year, we have asked our children and staff to take part in the 40 Acts of kindness event. Rather than giving up something for Lent, at AKPS, we are going to give something. Each day your child is shown the act for the day and each child has a special chart to keep track and then try and do the acts. They are so thoughtful and include acts like introduce yourself to someone you don't normally speak to at school, give someone a compliment etc. At the ends there will be special '40 Acts' merits made for those who complete the 40 acts tasks. Some acts can be adapted/ two done on the same day to make it work for each individual. If at home your family would like to take part in this fabulous event then the link is:

<https://40acts.org.uk/signup/>



Go for 40 acts for groups and on the bottom line where it says group type there is an option for families. Good luck, let's all see if we can give 40 things generously for Lent!

Red Nose Day Friday 24th March- buy your noses here!

We have ordered loads of red noses for pupils of AKPS and their siblings to buy from the school. As we sold out quickly last year, we have ordered many more this year. Red noses are £1 each and all money raised goes back to Comic relief. Any unsold noses cannot be returned and have to be paid for by the school so please purchase your nose from school if possible. As soon as the noses are here, we will send a quick parent mail to let you know they are ready for sale.

Dear Parents/carers,

I am writing to inform you about Red Nose day on the 24 March 2017. We are dressing up as a red nose character or wearing red clothing for an optional 50p donation towards Comic Relief. Red noses will be on sale soon so please buy yours from the School Council to help our school raise as much as we can for Comic Relief on Red Nose Day. They will be on sale before school daily.

Melissa (Y6)

On behalf of the School Council

Y4 residential

Exciting news... After the success of the one night forest school camp in the grounds of the school last year, we have decided to offer this special opportunity again to our current Year 4 children. The date is Friday 30th June. 5.30pm until 9.30am on Saturday 1st July. Please save the date, a letter with finer details will be making its way to you very soon. I know the children will be very excited to hear this is happening!

Calling all Mathletes- Mathletics 2017 March Maths Challenge...

Mrs Voss has registered our school in this year's Mathletics March Maths Challenge, where all children with Mathletics accounts (Years 2-6) can earn points to help us compete against other schools registered with Mathletics. Children can earn 10 points per correct answer in their curriculum activities between 6th March and 19th March, and can download a special participation certificate from their Mathletics account. At the end of the qualifying period, the top three schools will receive funding towards their Mathletics subscription, a trophy, wristbands and certificates. Please encourage your child to take part!



Parents evening online sign up opens on 7th March 9am

Please be reminded that parent evenings are on Tuesday 14th March and Thursday 16th March. To make it more convenient for parents/carers, the school have now bought into the online signing up system which we trialled in November. We are just working to ensure all new pupils to the school are on the system ready for the re-launch. The system will allow parents/carers to book from this coming **Tuesday 7th March 9am** and not before using this link:

<https://akps.parentseveningsystem.co.uk/>

If you have more than one child in the school, please remember to book a gap between appointments to give you time to get to the next classroom. Appointments are 10 minutes long to discuss your child's progress. A mid-year report will be sent out for classes 1-6 on Friday 10th March and for Class R, reports will be given at parent's evenings so that they can be talked through and explained to help with clarity and understanding. Apart from initial teething problems, the online sign up system was very effective last time but if you encounter any problems, please see Miss Perring.

Mrs Campbell and I will be in the hall showing the photos from the photo shoot and providing you with the chance to order a digital copy of your selected images for £4 per copy or £10 for 3 images. The money raised will go back to the school to help pay for the shoot and canvases. Order forms will be available on the evening so come with some cash/cheque and your email address so we can send the high quality version of the images directly to you.

Reminder: As the shoot was a totally natural event and not contrived, we cannot guarantee every child was captured in the images. Also any children who cannot be photographed for public sharing will not be included in the photos available.

No nuts in school

In line with most schools, thank you very much for adhering to this guideline and not sending nuts or nut products into school. We do have children with severe nut allergies currently in school and therefore coming into contact with nuts/ nut products would make them have a severe reaction. Thank you for your ongoing support with this.

AKPS Parent/Carer Spring surveys

Thank you very much for those returned so far. We really appreciate you taking the time to complete the surveys, your comments are very important to us. Please send in your completed surveys to the school office. Many thanks.



Pokemon Cards

We are keen to encourage positive play at school and where possible, we try not to ban things. However, Pokemon cards in school are causing upset on regular occasions for some of our pupils when they are swapping them. So for now, please keep the cards for home enjoyment only rather than bringing them into school. Thank you for your understanding.

New Church Service in school hall- This Sunday 4pm!

At Holy Cross we have launched a new informal service for all God's family: It takes place in the School Hall at 4pm on Sunday 5th March and then the first Sunday in each month. It's FRIENDLY and FUN - come and see!

Bradon Forest Open morning

There will be an open morning for Year 5 pupils at Bradon Forest School, Purton next Wednesday (8th) from 9.15-10.30am.

Have a lovely weekend,

S.L.Saville

Mrs. Saville
Head teacher

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

Date	Event
Tuesday 7 th March	Class 3 assembly to parents and carers 9am in hall Online booking for parents evening opens today
Friday 10 th March	Y1-6 Mid-year reports out to parents and carers
Monday 13 th March	National Science week- a Science focus this week in school
Tuesday 14 th March	Class 1 assembly for parents and carers
Tuesday 14 th March 3.40-7pm Thursday 16 th March 3.30-6pm	Parent Consultation evenings- photos from photoshoot available for view and purchase in the hall
Wednesday 15 th March	New venue St Mary's Purton- Music Festival Rehearsal (choir)
Friday 17 th March	Year 6 Mock Trial competition v Stratton! More info for Year 6 from Miss Perring after half term.
Friday 24 th March	Red nose day (School council will be organising the sale of noses well in advance of the day to avoid disappointment)
Tuesday 28 th March	Class 2 assembly to parents and carers 9am in hall
Thursday 30 th March	Music festival (Swindon Oasis) for the choir
Monday 3rd April	Evening - Classes 3 & 4 Production
Tuesday 4 th April	Am Zumba with Meryl for every class Evening - Classes 3 & 4 Production



Thursday 6 th April	Year 6 Residential Parent Meeting 5pm in Class 6 (approx. 40 mins)
Friday 7 th April	3.15pm End of Term 4
Monday 24 th April	8.45am Term 5 starts
Monday 15 th May	Leavers and Class photos
Monday 8 th May	Year 6 KS2 SATs week every day
Tuesday 16 th - Friday 19 th May	Year 6 residential to London
Monday 22 nd May- Friday 26 th May	World Awareness week- Team AK travel around the world!
Thursday 25 th May	5pm Year 5 parent and carer meeting for Year 5 residential (in Class 5)
Friday 26 th May	Last day of Term 5 ends at 3.15pm
Monday 5 th June	TD day- school closed to pupils
Tuesday 6 th June	School re-opens 8.45am Term 6
Tuesday 13 th June	Class R assembly for parents 9am.
Wednesday 21 st - Friday 23 rd June	Year 5 residential to Viney Hill activity centre
Monday 26 th June	Sports Week
Friday 30 th June	Am Sports Morning- please save this date in your diaries AK Music and arts festival begins (more details later) Y4 Residential- one night forest school camp at AKPS
Friday 21 st July	3.15pm Term 6 ends