

Friday 28th November 2014

Dear Parents and Carers,

After a brief letter last week, I am really pleased to write to you again with some really exciting notices and information about the life of our fantastic school.

Heroes and Heroines

Thank you to those of you who were able to come along this morning, your support was overwhelming and massively appreciated by the children and staff. A big thank you for joining in with our rather active song. As I do not want to scare you off, I promise we won't always make you stand up and join in with the actions (although it was a superb atmosphere). Our next Hero and Heroine assembly for you is Friday 19th December at 9am with Golden Headteacher merits for the end of term.

Governor of the month



Most of you who come to school for drop off will have seen Mr. Tarr, our Governor of the month for November. He is fully embracing his visits to school and has been in for our World War 1 workshops, observed an assembly by worship council, observed class 3's assembly, Heroes and Heroines, had a learning walk looking at the quality of presentation of the children's writing and will be in to join classes with their RE and PSHE lessons too. He has been really impressed and is giving us some really good feedback on the way. We are grateful of the time he is giving to the school. Mr. Tarr will write a synopsis of his visits for you to read on the school website and within my newsletter at the end of his Governor of the month time.

Class Assemblies

We have had the first 3 of our class assemblies during the first two terms. I have been delighted by how the children and staff have embraced this and by how well attended they have been. It is a fabulous way for the children to showcase some of their learning. We are, as a school, on a mission to build confidence when speaking to large audiences and this journey may start rather quietly but I guarantee you, with more opportunities, support and praise, this will grow. Our Year 6 and 4 class assemblies showed a fabulous array of learning and the children had clearly planned and organised the assemblies for you which is brilliant. I know our Year 3 children were delighted to perform their poems to parents and carers this week and they certainly could be heard, which is fabulous. It was excellent to see solo, duo and group performers of published poetry as well as some of their own they had written. I was very proud of each and every one of them. Classes 5, 2,1 and R will all be sharing class assemblies in the new year (dates to follow).



INVESTORS IN PEOPLE





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Home learning

A massive thank you for the brilliant quality of home learning that is coming into school. The children are enjoying sharing and celebrating their work which they are very proud of. I observed a lesson this week where one of our Year 2 pupils told me how she was enjoying doing her brochure information report about Ashton Keynes as a brochure as it helped her in class when she was writing an information report about the visit of the fire service. The tasks are linked to the learning in class and so meaningful, it is great to see them having such a positive impact. The wind chimes in Year 2 are so creative and imaginative, I am very impressed. I can say this of the quality of home learning across the whole of our school.

Christmas and all things glittery! KS1 & KS2 Christmas celebrations...

As that time is fast approaching, You should now know about the exciting celebrations we have planned for KS1 And KS2. A letters has been sent home via parent mail about KS1 Christmas party and the KS2 ice skating trip letter will be coming home on Monday. As with all of our trips, we have tried our very hardest to keep the cost as low as we possibly can for you.

FOAKS Pocket Money Stalls

Please remember it is our pocket money stalls on Wednesday 3rd December afternoon. Gifts are £1 each and there is an impressive range of gifts! We say up to a maximum of £5 to be brought in per child, if your child would like to buy gifts. We are sorry, but we are unable to lend from the office on this occasion. Please could you send money for gifts with the amount on the front of a named envelope, which your child can hand to their class teacher in the morning. Perhaps you could talk with you child about who they might like to buy for so they have an idea before they come in, that would help us. If they are planning a surprise for you, then that is also fine. Once chosen, the gifts will stay in school to be wrapped for the children by some of our kind parents and will be returned as soon as this is done.

Nativity

Our infant children and staff are all working incredibly hard behind the scenes to prepare a fantastic nativity for you. I am really looking forward to seeing what they have put together for us, I hope you are able to join us.

Breakfast Club Christmas Special... Ho Ho Ho!

You may well have heard that on Wednesday 17th December Mrs. Sampson is holding a special festive themed breakfast club for the children of AK. For just £3 per child, your child will have breakfast, make a Christmas



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cracker AND meet Father Christmas and one of his elf helpers who will give them a small gift, all here at AK! How lucky are we? This needs to be pre-booked so book early to avoid disappointment. No free vouchers can be used at this event and due to extra resources being bought for the session can we ask that payment is made in advance. Please see the office or Mrs. Sampson to book or pay? Thank you.

AK's Got Talent

I am ever so excited to let you know that AK's Got Talent (Christmas Special) will be taking place on Thursday 18th December 9-11am. If your child/ children would like to take part, please can they prepare a short act (no more than 2 minutes) and then let their teacher know what they will be performing. Each class will have a sign-up sheet to record the children who would like to take part. If they require music, please can they bring a named cd (just a sticker on the case) into school before the day and give it to me and I will organise with my Year 6 IT leaders to get a play list ready for the day. Because the children will take up most of the hall with an area to perform included, we will not be able to accommodate parents and carers on this occasion. We will take some pictures for you to see on our website. In the future, I will look at ways of making it possible for you to come and share this wonderful experience with us.

I anticipate, from my experience of leading this in my last school, that we may have a range of acts including: jujitsu, dancing, hula hooping, singing, magic tricks, arts and craft displays, jokes, piano playing and gymnastics. The main point is that all children feel welcome to take part if they would like to. If your child does not want to perform this time, they can participate by being a crucial part of our audience. Perhaps they will be inspired to have a go next time? We are already excited to hear the buzz of so many children talking about possibly taking part this time. I aim to organise another one in the Summer term. The children will be delighted to know that Mr. Loveridge has helped me make special merit cards (an AK Talent version) for all of those children who take part.

Mr. David Clover Retires

After many years at AK, our wonderful caretaker Mr. David Clover will be retiring at Christmas. I have only had a short time to get to know David, but it has been an absolute privilege to work with him. He quietly supports the school, doing the essential caretaking role so well and I know the staff have really appreciated all he has done for the school. In the final week of term, the children, staff and Governors will be saying their thanks to Mr. Clover. Luckily Mr. Clover will not be far away, so although he will be leaving his role as caretaker, he will



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continue to be a much loved part of our school community. He has done a fantastic job over the years of working closely with and training up Harry Carter who will be taking over from Mr. Clover as our caretaker from January.

Class Blogs

The children in classes 5 and 6 are incredibly excited because they are learning to blog for the first time! The class teachers have set up class blogs that will be used to share news about what's been happening in upper Key Stage 2. Each child also has their own blog page where they can record activities and events that they've enjoyed, knowing that anyone in the world can read about their learning and make a comment. Great care has been taken to choose a site with the highest possible security settings, so every comment, reply and blog post has to be approved by the site moderators (Mrs Voss and Miss Thomas) before anyone can view it.

If you would like to take a look at the early stages of their blogs, please visit kidblog.org/MrsVossClass6 and kidblog.org/MissThomasClass5.

A school blogging club will be starting after Christmas led by Mrs Voss - more details to follow.

We have been planning ahead to next year and have booked in all of the training days so here are some dates for your diary so you can plan well ahead:

Date	Event
Friday 13 th February	Teacher Training Day- children not in school
Monday 1 st June	Teacher Training Day- children not in school
Wednesday 22 nd July	Teacher Training Day- children not in school

I consider myself incredibly lucky to be the Headteacher of Ashton Keynes CE Primary and it is an absolute pleasure to be able to share what is happening in our school with you each week. I am hoping the children from each class will write a few words for my final newsletter of 2014 to share some of their favourite parts of learning from the first two terms with you so you can see the school through their eyes and get an even better insight into our school.

I look forward to us all enjoying these coming festive weeks together.

Yours sincerely,

S.L.Saville



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Mrs. Saville
Head teacher



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