



Wednesday 16th December

Dear Parents and Carers,

I write this final newsletter of 2015 absolutely bursting with pride. I am so proud of our school. Everyone is working so hard to make it the best it can be.

For those of you who joined us this morning in Heroes and Heroines and took part in the new school dance, you will be singing this song for a long time now... Reach for the stars!



As the final newsletter of this term I have asked each class to write for you and share their highlights:

Team AK Shining Brightly:

In the last few weeks children from the EYFS and Key Stage One have been working very hard on their nativity 'Starlight'. They have been learning five songs, remembering what to do on the stage, as well as helping with the props. Can you believe the children even made the back drops, designed the programmes and the tickets! We are all so very proud of them! Thank you to my fabulous KS1 staff team and volunteers for all of their brilliant effort, it was an outstanding effort and performance.



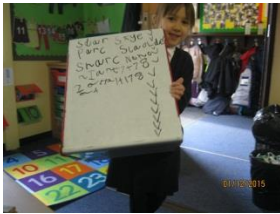
Choir shone so brightly in church!

I was so privileged on Saturday to be able to accompany our choir and Mrs Crowley to the Holy Cross Church where we performed alongside the AK village choir. It was a fabulous opportunity for the two choirs to come together and we are very grateful for the opportunity and I would like to thank the village choir for inviting us. The children were beautifully behaved and performed their hearts out. They sang with the adult choir in harmony, by themselves as a group and Evelyn led the solo part of 'Once in Royal' absolutely pitch perfect! At the end the school taught the audience 'We Wish you a Merry Christmas' in sign language which was fun and brought everyone together. I was immensely proud of the choir who represented our school so brilliantly. I know they enjoyed singing with the village choir and were inspired by their stunning singing! A special thank you to Mrs Crowley who has worked so hard and led the choir to be able to perform so fantastically in Church.

School Council Shining Brightly!

Not only have they organised a dress down day for tomorrow (Thursday) to raise money for the new star friendship bench, but yesterday they met with my business manager, Mrs Cook, and our local schools' bank manager from Lloyds bank! They discussed their new business venture which they will unveil in the New Year.

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The Apprentice comes to AK!

I have set every class a challenge. They have to set up their own class business venture and make something to sell to you at the AK German Christmas market on Thursday. There is a competition to see which class can make the most money! They have to design, cost their resources and work out their profit. I will announce the winners on the school website in the New Year. The collective money raised will be put towards some giant playground games such as connect 4 and Jenga to further improve playtimes for all. The children are so excited!

R

Class R have had a lovely sparkly term with lots of many wonderful things to enjoy.

Starting off with a theme of Space, we built a rocket in our classroom, made our own moons and found out about stars and planets.



Christmas was soon upon us and preparations for our Nativity were in full swing but we still found time to do lots of amazing writing and reading.

Our Nativity was called Starlight and we joined with Years 1 and 2 to produce a fantastic show which we all really enjoyed. The boys in our class were Roman guards and the girls were sparkly stars. We sang beautifully!



Rev Shirley came to join us for an afternoon to talk about Christmas and what it means to all of us; we shared everything we knew about the Christmas story.



candles. It was a lovely enjoyed sharing stories We think Year 6 loved it

As a thank you to our Year 6 buddies we had 'Stories by candlelight'

with hot chocolate and afternoon and we really with our older friends. too!





1

Class 1 started the term with a movie screening of the films they had made. All of the children were excited when they received letters back from the Welsh Minister, Stephen Crabb, Prince Charles and the Prime Minister in response to a question from a previous topic, 'Why is the Welsh flag not represented on the Union Jack?' Come and read the detailed responses they received. They have been very busy learning about Diwali and retelling the story of Rama and Sita. The class have researched the story of Guy Fawkes and written their own facts. The class are currently making their Christmas cards, calendars as well as a few items for the Christmas market. Feel free to have a look or buy some of their lovely art work on Thursday 17th December.



2

This term, in class 2, we did an amazing amount of learning! Not only did we investigate 'Life Cycles', we also worked extremely hard improving our skills as mathematicians and writers. Knowing what it is to be a good learner is very important, therefore we have had an enormous focus on learning behaviour in the class. We know what it means to be a good learner and we apply it every day in our learning.

During our 'Life Cycles' topic we investigated a whole range of different animal's life cycles like that of the frog, butterfly and Ladybird. After all this learning, we now know how animals can change many times in their lives.

We linked our writing to our topic. After reading the story of 'The Hungry Caterpillar', we used movement and sign to learn the story off by heart. This helped us to write our own 'Hungry Caterpillar' inspired stories. They were fantastic! If words like denominator and numerator confuse you, don't worry! Find someone from class 2 and they will be able to explain to you exactly how fractions work.

On the photo, you can see us use Lego to explore fractions.



As if learning about fractions was not enough, we have also learned how to use positional





language mathematically. Here we are applying what we've learned.

Everyone in the class, loved forest school and we can't wait for next time.



3

Class 3 had 6 runners up in the AK book review competition, and one winner! Our runners up were: Tom, Rachel, Niamh, Poppy (x2!), Caitlin and Eva! Our class winner was Alice who wrote a fantastic review of *Cat Tales* and received a £5 gift voucher to Octavia's book store - Well done everyone!

We have had a super exciting term in class 3, with a whole host of different topics. To see what we have been up to in Art, head to the AK website and look at our photos on class 3's page!

In Science, we have been learning about Forces and Magnets. Do you know what materials are magnetic? We carried out an experiment testing different household objects and were very surprised by some of the results.

What's the time you ask? Well, in Maths we have been learning how to read an analogue clock! We have particularly enjoyed this because it's important to learn and it's a good skill to have - try testing us at home!

Some of us especially like independent and guided reading time after break. As we love reading, it gives us some time to relax and dive into our favourite book in our reading garden.



4

In class 4 we have been working incredibly hard on producing writing that creates imagery for the reader. We have looked at lots of different techniques and methods and read a variety of poems. We have thoroughly enjoyed thinking about winter and what it means to each person in the class. We shared ideas on the sights, sounds, smells and feelings of winter and used these to create winter themed pieces of writing.

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We have really enjoyed forest schools and getting up close and personal with nature, even if this did mean getting rather wet and fighting against the wind! We cannot wait for our next session.



We are well underway with our enterprise project too; it has been lots of fun working out the costings, thinking about what we need to spend and what we will need to sell things for. The designs are looking fabulous for what we are going to be selling. We hope to see you there!



With all of this and more happening in class 4 we are looking forward to a relaxing holiday with our friends and family and returning in the new year ready to start afresh!

5

Year 5 have had a great term learning about different celebrations as well as commemerations from around the world as part of our topic 'Come and join the celebration'. We have written reports about Remembrance Day, Hanukkah and Diwali. We looked at the stories behind these events and how they are celebrated or remembered. As part of looking at Diwali we made Khandil lanterns. For Hanukkah we ate traditional food, made and played dreidel and created a menorah. We also re-enacted the story of King Antiochus defeat at the hands of the Maccabees. In French we have been looking at describing pictures. We have also looked at the work of the artist Terry Annany.



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In November, we took part in Bikeability sessions so that we could learn to be safe when riding our bikes on the roads. Neil, our instructor, taught us how to check our bikes with the ABC, how to stick to the Highway Code and safety tips we can use when we're out on the road.



In our English lessons, we wrote suspense stories.

Features of a suspense story include: a red herring to trick the reader, cliffhangers to build suspense, scary adjectives and to leave the reader thinking. If you would like to read some of our suspense stories, visit our blog: <https://kidblog.org/class/akpsy62016>

So far, we have had two Forest Schools sessions with Mr Jackson. We have learnt how to make a wreath from willow, how to work better together as a team and we have developed safety skills. It has been lots of fun and we really enjoyed making hot chocolate using the Kelly kettles on our open fire.

Important Announcement...

Christmas Panto 2016

Oh yes it is!

I am delighted to inform you that for Christmas 2016, instead of ice skating/party we are taking the whole school to a Christmas Panto! Oh yes we are!

We have booked for all children and staff to go to the Wyvern theatre in Swindon to see Cinderella at 1pm on Tuesday 13th December. We have arranged for every child to have an ice cream as a treat. Confirmation of parental contribution will be available in the New Year, but the school and FOAKs will contribute towards the trip to keep costs down for everyone. So, please put the date onto your calendar- we are all so excited!

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Christmas Clear Out

If over Christmas you have a clear out of old toys, please can you think of us. Our Breakfast club is desperate for some quality games and puzzles and would really appreciate anything you can spare. Thank you very much.

AK School Improvement Plan Update

SIP Action 4 (Outdoor education)- All junior classes and Year 2 have had their first forest schools sessions now. Years R and 1 will have theirs in the New Year. Mr Jackson will adding another afternoon session so that the classes can have forest schools more often. The impact is already being seen with children working in teams to tackle and persevere with problems and learn new skills. These can be transferred to learning within the classroom. (See our website for what classes have been up to in their sessions).

SIP Action 2 (Reading)-I have observed how well the outdoor classroom is being used at lunchtimes as a reading zone. Without any prompting, the children are in there reading with their Buddies and enjoying the time to read together or by themselves. It is fantastic to see. New listening stations have appeared around the school for children to listen to audio books along with book stops which are being well received.

SIP Action 4 (Worship)- The worship council will be leading the Christmas service in church in my place on Friday. They are confident with doing this in school so the Church will be a new challenge for them.

Invitation from the Holy Cross Church

Christmas for Families at Holy Cross Church

Carols with Candles Sun Dec 20th 6 pm. Children welcome, and school choir are to come and sing 'Bethlehem' with us.

Crib Service Dec 24th at 4 pm. Do come dressed as one of the Christmas characters

Dec 25th at 10 am Christmas Day Family service

Lost Hoodie During a dress down day one of our Year 4 pupils mislaid his black Next Hoodie with brown flecks in it, age 10. Sometimes when changing for PE children are quickly putting clothes back in to their PE bags and the odd item of clothing can get mislaid. With PE bags coming home for Christmas, if you find a hoodie within your child's PE bag, please would you kindly return it to the Office. Many thanks.

Parking

If you are parking in the village for school events, please be mindful of the fact that buses need to come through the village and need to be able to pass parked cars. I will do my best to ensure gates are unlocked in the playground for big evening events such as plays and parent's evening to avoid congestion. Thank you for your cooperation.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support and your fabulous feedback and to thank my whole staff team for being so fantastic. I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year and I cannot wait to be back with you after my operation on 11th January. I know Mrs Thompson is really looking forward to welcoming you all back to the start on term 3 on Monday 4th January.

With my warmest regards,

S.L.Saville

Mrs. Saville

Head teacher

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

Date	Event
Monday 4 th January 8.55am	Term 3 starts. Mrs Thompson in for Mrs Saville (Monday, Wednesday and Friday this week).
Friday 15 th January	Deadline for Primary School applications
Sunday 17 th January	Mess Church - school hall