

Friday 12th December 2014



Dear Parents and Carers,

KS1 Nativity Success for Team AK!

What a week of stunning performances from our KS1 Children of their infant nativity, 'Baubles'.

The children performed four times (including dress rehearsal) and each time did a sterling job. All of the children who were involved shone and we are so proud of them all. Thank you for your help with costumes and with learning words; to my staff team who have worked incredibly hard to make it all happen- you would not believe the effort that goes on in school to make the production so successful; to the FOAKS for providing refreshments and helping set up, to my four lighting specialists from year 4: Evelyn, Amelia, Ollie E and Dylan who were brilliant and very professional; to the Governors who kindly helped with the scenery and to the chair fairies (the volunteers who swiftly put away the chairs after every show, without me even getting the chance to see who they were and thank them). My thanks go to all involved, what a huge success for Team AK! If you have taken any photographs and would be happy for me to have them for our school book, I would be delighted to receive some so please email s.saville@ashtonkeynes.wilts.sch.uk thank you!

I collected some stunning written feedback after the shows, thank you for taking the time to do this. The staff and children really appreciate your comments. Here are just a few comments to give you a flavour of the Nativity feedback:

What a lovely production! I enjoyed it and definitely have the 'Christmas feeling' now.

A splendid performance by all! I really enjoyed your wonderful singing. You have all worked really hard. Well done Team AK!

Best ever, costumes were excellent, could hear EVERY word. Well done everybody, can't wait for next year.

This is my fourth nativity at AK- I think it is the best yet! Well done!

A great combination of fun and a religious theme. Children did brilliantly! Thank you!



INVESTORS IN PEOPLE





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Reach for the Stars... shine bright!

Following on from our review of the school back in October, one of the key areas we have been thinking about is developing the learning behaviours of our children within the school. At AK we have been busy working with your children to develop their thirst for a challenge. As a result, we have introduced the **AK Star Challenge** across the whole school in Maths and English to begin with. Some classes are even extending the star challenge into to French and other subjects at the request of the children!



What is the AK Star Challenge?

This is a system where every class across the school uses stars to represent levels of challenge (1 star, 2 star, 3 star, WOW). By having the star as a symbol, it is easily recognisable to all of our children and is consistent throughout our school. Although challenge has, of course, been available in lessons previous to this system, this whole school approach re-brands and re-energises challenge as stars, making it much more visible for children and adults and therefore easier to talk about. It is a fully inclusive system which encourages children, as they progress through the school to have a go, feel excited about challenge, try different levels to see if they can challenge themselves to new things, know what to do if they need a little more support and further up in the school make decisions about which level of challenge they start at. We can see this already having a positive impact within our school. The children are really excited about the star challenge and are so keen to talk about how they are 'having a go' at things they might not have challenged themselves to do before and how they enjoying completing their stars.

Please ask your children if they have taken a star challenge at school and see what they say. As it becomes more embedded, you will hear them talking more about it and see it on their home learning brochures, so you too can be part of the challenge. You will certainly notice stars appearing in the children's books where you can see which star challenge they have been trying in their lessons. Stars will become a huge part of AK school where every child has the chance to shine bright.



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Yesterday, one of our Year R pupils was delighted to tell me that he had completed the one star challenge and show me a page of writing, he was so pleased with himself! I watched children writing in Class R, some trying a word for one star, some a sentence for two stars and a couple knew that they could, if they wanted to try, put a full stop at the end for a WOW! A group of Year 3 children told me how they had a go at the WOW today and got it! A year 5 pupil said how they had really challenged themselves to try the two star challenge and how great it felt to achieve it. The children offered me this feedback when they saw me, I didn't have to go looking for it, which is very impressive.

It is fantastic to see this having such a positive impact on our children already, uncapping their learning and igniting them to have a go at new challenge from Class R through to class 6.
Shine bright Team AK!

Sad News from the Twinning Association

In case any of you aren't already aware, Keith Astin, one of the founding figures in Ashton Keynes Twinning, recently passed away. In the words of the Twinning Association:

Keith was a huge character in Ashton Keynes and in particular for Twinning, inspiring all with his enthusiasm and joie de vivre, and it was a great pleasure for all involved in organising this year's trip that he was able to make the visit despite not being in the best of health. Our thoughts go out to Gwen and family as Keith will be sorely missed.

On behalf of the school community, our thoughts are with the family of Keith at this time.

Timetable for the final week to remind you of what is happening in this busy final week:

Day	Events
Monday 15 th December	As normal
Tuesday 16 th December	Am- KS2 ice skating trip (children who aren't going will be provided for in school)



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	<p>Pm-The choir and Mrs Saville are popping to the church so they will need their school uniform to change into.</p> <p>Pm- KS1 Christmas party in school</p> <p>3.15-5.30 FOAKS <i>Christmas Movie</i> for children in the hall. (See the office/ FOAKS for tickets).</p>
Wednesday 17 th December	8am Breakfast Club Christmas Special
Thursday 18 th December	9-11 AK's Got talent for pupils in the hall
Friday 19 th December	<p>9am Heroes and Heroines in the hall (parents/ carers invited)</p> <p>1.15pm Whole school walk to the church for Carol Service (any parents/ carers who can walk with us would be massively appreciated). All very welcome to join us and get festive!</p>

Here's to a rather glittery and festive week for Team AK, which I am sure, will be full of stars!

Yours sincerely,

S.L.Saville

Mrs. Saville

Head teacher



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