



Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,



### Team AK Shining Brightly:

I need to start this newsletter by saying a massive thank you to you, the parents and carers for your continued support of the school. This morning in Heroes and Heroines, the hall was packed and you came to celebrate all of our children, which was brilliant! Our Team AK family is certainly very special. Not only has the sun been shining this week, your children have too...

### Easter Service

On Monday we were invited to Holy Cross Church for our weekly worship with a special Easter focus led by Reverend Shirley and Mr Tuck. It was a truly special morning, the sun was shining and the church was so peaceful and calm and the children enjoyed an Easter service through which they sang using pop songs to support the Easter story and message. They all asked if we could include 'Spring Chicken' within the service and they performed it with real excitement and gusto! Thank you Reverend Shirley and Mr Tuck for inviting us to church for this special worship.

### Japanese workshops

Yesterday, Classes 1 & 2 and some of the parents who could join them, were treated to a fabulous Japanese workshop kindly provided by Nano and Mehna's Mum and her team of wonderful ladies. The team provided kimonos for our children and staff to dress up in, origami and craft activities for the children to enjoy. After the session, Class R, led by Mehna said the register and learnt to count to 5 in Japanese and did further origami activities and I know Nano has been helping Class 1 speak and write Japanese too. This was a fabulous opportunity for our children and we look forward to welcoming the team back to work with other years in the school. As they left, the team commented on how they work in many schools but were so impressed with how especially polite, enthusiastic and engaged our children were, well done Team AK.

### Christianity Around the Globe Workshops

Every class received a special workshop from Barnabas to learn about Christianity around the Globe on Wednesday. I was really impressed with how they learned the story of Jesus through actions, we have recorded this so that we can continue to use it as a school.

### Quiz with local schools

3 of our Year 6 children accompanied Miss Perring and I to a cluster quiz for 10 and 11 years olds, organised kindly by the Rotary club. Not only were the children fantastic company and so polite and representing our school beautifully they also did very well in the quiz, finishing 3<sup>rd</sup>!



Well done to Patrick, Evelyn and Zoe who made a brilliant team and certainly shone brightly among local schools! We really enjoyed watching them work so well as a team and most importantly really enjoy the event.

### **Easter Hunt from FOAKS**

The children have been so excited today as they have had a special Easter hunt on the field kindly provided by FOAKS team and helpers. Further to FoAKS parent mail, please encourage your children to show generosity and kindness this Easter by doing jobs/ chores to help others and if you are able to kindly reward them with 20ps to fill their smartie tube, I will award prizes after Easter and we will raise some money for FoAKS towards their school legacy projects. We will write to you after Easter to unveil a very exciting FOAKS legacy project from the previous FOAKS team which the children will love and will benefit them all, more on this soon. Thank you to all who help with FoAKS events.

### **Parent and Carer Feedback- Thank you!**

The Governors and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your feedback in our recent Spring parent survey. There were some very positive comments indeed and we really do appreciate them, you help us to see how we shine brightly...

*Excellent communication through website and emails*

*The school provides a happy environment with lots of activities*

*Pupils are known individually and valued*

*Loads of sporting opportunities and reading culture*

*Encouragement of good learning behaviours*

*General buzz and excitement around school*

*Loads of 'extras' provided e.g. trips, visitors, authors, forest school, theme days, cooking special weeks...*

*Everyone is treated fairly*

*The school has been fantastic at settling my girls who are new to the school and really focussing on what they need which makes me extremely confident in the school.*

*A lovely, happy school with clearly committed and competent staff and a Head with masses of enthusiasm and skill that truly binds everyone together and leads the school to so much improvement.*

*I like the diversity of ways the children can shine brightly*

*Staff quickly identify where support is required and act upon it*

*Leadership: strong, positive, firm but very fair.*

*Too many to mention- This is an outstanding school and should be recognised as such!*

*I think the star challenges are a great approach to differentiation. My son loves being part of Team AK and is very proud of his school!*



*I love the positive energy from AK staff and the Growth mindset strategy.  
I think the merits, stars and buddy system are all fantastic in building a wonderful team spirited learning environment.  
GREAT SCHOOL, fantastic support, motivating children with rewards.  
Great communication and enthusiasm from all team members.  
Great atmosphere among the parents  
Fantastic commitment and care for the children from the teaching team  
No bad behaviour observed  
Positive engagement with the church to encourage good Christian values and also great connections with the community  
Fantastic staff and teachers, an excellent school  
Teaching the children to work towards their goals (learning stars)  
Everything! We think Ashton Keynes is a fabulous place and we are so proud to be part of it!  
We sing the school's praises to everyone we talk to  
Can't think of a better place for our children to be  
Heroes and Heroines Assemblies  
The school looks lovely inside and out  
Love the children choosing how to support charities  
Pupil voice is so strong  
Breakfast and after school clubs  
The settling process in reception is excellent  
Buddy system works really well  
Love the new school catering  
I love the star theme in the school.*

It is great to see the many things which you think are working well in our school. I will collate them all to share on our website very soon. The suggested improvements were also excellent and we have already started to action some of them. A couple we have started to action are:

1. Painting the Year 1 outdoor area fence- this will be done in the Easter break
2. Parents and carers to come in with their children to look at their work and visit the classroom- this is an excellent idea. From now on, after class assemblies, parents/carers will be invited to stay a little longer and visit the classroom with their children to share their work together. This will start after Easter with the Class R assembly. We hope you enjoy this.

We look forward to placing your further suggestions into our school improvement planning in the Summer term. Your feedback is so important in recognising what we do well and helping shape the future of our school. Thank you. We have also done a pupil spring survey so that our children are at the heart of our school improvement too.



### ***Star challenge for home***

Thank you to those who I have spotted already doing this! If you have not yet taken part, please have a go...

2 \* To support with our mission to get everyone in our school telling the time, we would urge you to provide your children with an ANALOGUE (not digital) watch which they can wear every day to school. They can be applying real time telling throughout their day in school, which is the very best way to learn to tell the time.

Thank you for your support!

### ***Easy Fundraising- well done to our parents and carers! Merit to be earned...***

I am currently designing a special merit to reward parents/ carers/ staff/ friends of the school with this Easy fundraising so that you can shine brightly too! See below how to be in with a chance...

We are raising great funds using the *Easyfundraising* website and app! Since our cause was registered in 2007, the school has received an amazing £1818.18 in free funds. This was achieved by people registering for free with *EasyFundraising*, setting their cause as Friends of Ashton Keynes School, then accessing their usual online shopping sites via [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) (or the app) - the school is then rewarded in funds raised.

We currently have 58 supporters, a number which I am sure we can increase greatly with a little Easy Fundraising drive from our school! I would also call on all parents, carers and teachers to reach out to any local (or not local!) businesses to buy all their stationery etc. online via the EF tools. It is a very easy process and will become second nature in no time. Most importantly it costs the user nothing!!

Retailers involved:

Tesco

Waitrose

Amazon

Booking.com

Waitrose

John Lewis

Expedia

The White Company to name just a few...

Go to our website to find out more about this and register via easy fundraising. Flyers will come home via FOAKS next week to support you with this. Each time you spend in your usual way, our school gains! Please help, this is a fabulous and easy way to raise much needed funds for our school.

### ***Request for plant pots from Mr Jackson***

We are getting ready for our garden to feature in the Malvern show (very exciting). If you have any spare plastic plant pots, please can you send them into school for Mr Jackson. The



children will be using them as part of their garden design to make a bug house as part of their Wallace and Gromit rocket.

### Reminder- school meal order deadline for next term

To avoid disappointment, please ensure you order your meals by Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April for the first week back. You can block book meals ahead if this makes it easier for you. Thank you.

### Abbey 900

As many of you might know, 2017 sees the 900th anniversary of the founding of the Augustinian Abbey of St Mary, in Cirencester, by King Henry 1 in 1117. As part of their celebrations there is much going on in Cirencester. We are currently discussing a possible way for our school to get involved with this is in the Summer term. I would like to promote to you and your children the lego build challenge, where you can buy a brick for £1 and help sponsor the build of a unique lego version of the Abbey which would be fun for the family if you are interested. See <http://abbey900ciren.org.uk/> for more details.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Easter, thank you for your continued support. I would like to thank my wonderful staff team for their super passion, hard work and dedication to providing the best for your children. Finally to our wonderful children, who are fully embracing their school life and we cannot wait to welcome them back all refreshed for an action packed and very exciting Summer term. We have so much to look forward to together!

Have a lovely Easter and may the sun shine on us all,

*S.L. Saville*

Mrs. Saville  
Head teacher

Please always check the calendar on our website [www.akps.org.uk](http://www.akps.org.uk) for dates.

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| Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> April                          | 8.45am Term 5 starts                                   |
| Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> May                             | Bank Holiday - school closed                           |
| Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> May                             | Year 6 KS2 SATs week every day                         |
| Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> May                          | Class 4 trip to Malvern show                           |
| Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> May                            | Breakfast Club special cooking session                 |
| Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> May                            | Leavers and Class photos                               |
| Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> - Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> May | Year 6 residential to London                           |
| Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> - Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> May  | World Awareness week- Team AK travel around the world! |
| Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> May                         | Movie Night  |



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| Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> May                             | 5pm Year 5 parent and carer meeting for Year 5 residential (in Class 5)  |
| Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> May                               | Last day of Term 5 ends at 3.15pm  |
| Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> June                               | TD day- school closed to pupils  |
| Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> June                              | School re-opens 8.45am Term 6  |
| Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> June                             | Class R assembly for parents 9am.  |
| Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> June                           | Breakfast Club special cooking session   |
| Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> June                              | Fathers' Day/carers pocket money stalls  |
| Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> - Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June | Year 5 residential to Viney Hill activity centre   |
| Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> June                              | Sports Week  |
| Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> June                              | Am Sports Morning- please save this date in your diaries<br>AK Music and arts festival begins (more details later)<br>Y4 Residential- one night forest school camp at AKPS |
| Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> July                              | Visit to Royal Air Tatoo (KS2)   |
| Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> July                              | 3.15pm Term 6 ends   |