



Friday 29th January

Dear Parents and Carers,

Whilst it was cold and wet outdoors this week the whole school was full of shining stars inside!

The school and children all shone very brightly last week during our external review of the school which is fabulous and we were able to reflect on what we are doing well and consider ways to drive our school forward.



Team AK Shining Brightly:

Learning Excitement!

As I write, Years 3 & 4 are busy enjoying their Alice in Wonderland WOW day. They all look fantastic in their costumes as do the staff! They are really looking forward to their Mad Hatters tea party at the end of the day which they have invited their parents and carers to. I am going as the white rabbit! I know they have thoroughly enjoyed exploring the world of Alice in their English lessons and the writing they have produced is stunning.

I have thoroughly enjoyed watching forest school on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. It is fabulous to see children learning outdoors in all weathers, doing a wide range of activities and working as a team. Recently I have seen: stick men, naturally made aliens using things found in the school grounds, carving wooden utensils with potato peelers, making a nature's curtain and developing and preparing for our school fire pit.

AKPS Choir success

We are absolutely thrilled that our school choir now has 50 members, almost a quarter of the school. We were so thrilled to have been invited to perform with the AK adult choir in their concert at Christmas and it was superb, Gareth Malone would have been proud! We are now preparing for the North Wiltshire Cluster schools music concert at Swindon Oasis on 23rd March. The songs are fabulous and it will be a stunning evening. The choir are busily preparing and we are enjoying seeing the impact of the choir upon our daily singing in school. Thank you to Mrs Crowley for so enthusiastically leading the choir to enable to them to perform beautifully. If your child is Year 2 plus and would like to join, please see Mrs Crowley.

Apprentice Style Business Learning

The school council have sent home their letter to explain their new business venture in setting up a healthy school tuck shop, very impressive entrepreneurial skills from our pupils. Thank you to Miss Redman for continually supporting them with this and to Mrs Cook our business manager who arranged for them to meet with a manager from Lloyds bank.

Every child took part in the school business 'Apprentice' style challenge to design, make and sell goods at the Christmas market. All classes sold lots and made a profit of £335.40 for the school project. The winning class who raised £86.47 were Class 6, closely followed by Class R



and Class 5. All classes did brilliantly. As suggested by the children the money is being spent on a playtime project and as a result, we have ordered some giant playground games which will be very exciting and a benefit to all.

Vacancies

We have 2 vacancies for the role of Midday supervisor. Team AK are looking for 2 new members of our team to join us at lunchtimes. There is also the option for one of these roles to be a play leader, facilitating play with our wonderful children. If you have a spare slot at lunchtimes, would like to come and earn some money whilst being part of our fabulous team working with our brilliant children then please take a look at the advertisement in this link: <http://jobs.wiltshire.gov.uk/results/#!/search/511910010212411/departmentschoolsnonteaching/page/2/> It is also on our website. I hope to hear from you!

Road safety

Further to the parking leaflet sent to all parents, carers and staff, I do know that the police are keen to ensure that Gosditch is safe and will be visiting now to check parking. Please ensure you park off the yellow lines and observe the guidelines in the leaflet to help keep our children, parents/carers and staff safe on their journey to school. Thank you for your support with this.

Your child could be entitled to further funding to support learning in school

Please remember that if your child is entitled to free school meals, the school is also given a grant of £1320 to enhance their learning opportunities. There are various reasons why you may be eligible, one being an income of £16,190 or less. If you are unsure if you are eligible please come and see us with your national insurance number. Alternatively you can visit: <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/schoolseducationandlearning/schoolsandcolleges/parentadvice/educationgrants/freeschoolmeals.htm>

If you have any questions or queries regarding this, please come and see Mrs Mee or ask in the school office. As all KS1 children currently have free school meals, sometimes this opportunity can be missed by parents who can claim, please ask if you need any support with this.

AK School Improvement Plan Update

SIP Action 3 (Leadership) We have been working hard behind the scenes developing leadership within the school. The leadership team are responsible for driving forward key areas within the school as well as assisting me in the day to day management and running of the school. Mrs Mee, as well as being joint KS1 leader, is responsible for pupil premium funding, working with children in receipt of this, tracking them and ensuring we use the funding in the best way we can to ensure progress. (See website if you would like more details). Mrs Phillips focuses on SEND special education needs within the schools and she also manages any interventions which take place in the school to ensure they are having an impact on our learners. Miss Redman is focussed on assessment and data and manages the new target tracker



data system we have in school, ensuring all staff are trained with this and it is effective. Miss Kibblewhite in addition to jointly leading KS1, focusses on safeguarding and child protection; two essential areas within the school. Both Miss Kibblewhite and myself are the designated Child Protection leads within the school. Mrs Cook, my business manager supports me with staffing, finances and in the general day to day management of the school. The Governors are an important part of the leadership team and they, through the governor of the term system and regular meetings and reports, monitor the school improvement plan and support and challenge us to ensure that we are leading the school forward. All teachers have subjects to lead and training and time is provided to ensure this is effective. The recent Challenge Partner review team were very pleased with the leadership within the school and our shared 'high expectations'.

BBC Radio 2 500 words story writing competition challenge

In school we are promoting the BBC Radio 2, 500 words story writing competition. It is a fantastic way of getting children between 5-13 writing. I know there are quite a few pupils already taking part and that Year 6 are writing at the moment in class with the thought of entering.

Here is the link if you would like to support with this at home:

<https://500words.external.bbc.co.uk/opportunity/1>

We are keen to display the stories in our reading corridor for children to read one another's stories, so please encourage your child to bring in copies of their entries. Good luck!

As a school we are continually reaching for the stars, but we also acknowledge how important it is to take the time to shine.

Have a lovely weekend, thank you for your continued support,

S.L.Saville

Mrs. Saville

Head teacher

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

Date	Event
Tuesday 2 nd February	9am Class 3 Assembly for parents and carers
Wednesday 10 th February	Zumba for Kids for all classes
Thursday 11 th February	9am Heroes and Heroines Assembly for parents and carers End of term 3
Friday 12 th February	TD day, school closed to pupils
Monday 22 nd February	Term 4 starts