



Thursday 11th February

Dear Parents and Carers,

This has been a very busy but very quick half term. Unfortunately, lots of children and staff have had viruses recently so we are hoping after a good half term break, we can all come back refreshed, energised and well.



Team AK Shining Brightly:

This morning certainly put a smile on everybody's face. Thank you to those who were able to join us for Heroes and Heroines assembly. It makes me really proud to be able to share this time with you as we are lucky to see the children who shone every week. Thank you for your positive feedback, we are so pleased you enjoyed our singing. The school have been working really hard at singing and we love to perform for you.

Class 3 Assembly Joy

Class 3 impressed us all with a super assembly, where all of the children spoke clearly and performed brilliantly to share their learning during their Alice in Wonderland topic. It is fabulous to see how far we have come with these assemblies in just a year. The children are certainly much more confident with performing to an audience compared to when they began and we are very proud of them. Thank you for coming to support.

Mathematics Success!

We were invited to send a team of four Year 4 pupils to take part in the Challenge Maths Competition at Kingshill School against other local schools on Tuesday. There were 15 schools taking part and we finished 3rd! We are absolutely delighted, well done to Daniel, Ruby, Rohan and Scarlett who were the Year 4 team representing the school.

Zumba fun

Each term the school arranges for all children to have a Zumba session with Meryl. They really do engage well in these sessions and we love seeing the smile on their faces. The staff fully engage too, everyone is certainly enjoying the sessions so we will continue with another 6 sessions, one per term, next academic year.

Keen Year 6 pupils

The 'Whisperer' team have been busy writing their next edition of the pupil newsletter and working very professionally as a team. Alongside them another team has been working on planning an exciting Year 6 Leaver's book ready for the end of the year. George Jefferson had the idea and I was approached by Jackie Smith, one of our Y6 parents, who also thought it would be a super idea. I have enjoyed meeting with both of them to drive the idea forward. I

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think it will be brilliant and look forward to seeing how it develops. Thank you very much to George and to Jackie for giving of their time generously and for their enthusiasm with this project.

Fizzy moments

I spoke with the whole school today about what makes them fizz at school. Your children enjoying school is really important and we like to know what they enjoy. We try to be a school where we all work hard and we try to create many fizzy moments for your children. Their voice is so important to us, as is yours and that of the staff and governor team. The children often come to me with thoughts and ideas and they also share their ideas through school and worship councils.

The children told me of the many things which make them 'fizz' and want to come to school. Here are a few: our reading corridor, forest schools, gardening club, mindfulness, AK's Got Talent, Sports week, round the world week, maths, star challenge, learning, Art, English, their teachers, me (which was lovely), singing in the choir, everything, clubs, competing against other schools, golden Headteacher merits, school discos, residential trips, performances and Zumba. This makes me so happy that the opportunities we provide are the ones that make our children want to come to school and learn. There were so many more, so I asked them to write them down for me to display. I also asked them for more ways we can continue to make them 'fizz'. We have got a few really exciting things in the pipeline for the children over the next couple of months which we will unfold to them with great excitement! The first of which, the special drama day is outlined below.

Mindfulness session for parents & carers

On Thursday 9th March at 3.45- 4.30pm, you are invited to a mindfulness session in school with myself and Mrs Tromans, our mindfulness teacher. We would like to briefly share with you what mindfulness is at our school and then give you a 30 minute mindfulness session as a treat. We will then give you a short guide which we have written, to help you support your child with mindfulness at home. If you would like to attend, please phone the office to book a place. We will then know if we have enough interest to go ahead. It is planned to take place in the hall and is for adults only please.

North Wilts Music Festival

School choir rehearsals are in full swing preparing for the North Wilts Music festival. Tickets will be available to buy from Wednesday 24th February in the school office. Initially 2 tickets will be available for each choir member costing £7 per ticket. There will be a waiting list for any further tickets.



Plea from Miss Igoe

If you are having a spring clean over half term, we are hoping that you will be able to help us. We are looking for a range of items to help support the learning of some of the children in the school. If you have any of the goods listed below which you no longer need please hang onto them and bring them into Class 4. Thank you for your support

- Toy kitchen sets,
- Dressing up clothes aged 8+
- Till
- Dressing up hats

Staffing news

Unfortunately Ms Langer resigned from her teaching post last week for personal reasons. We would like wish Ms Langer the very best for her future. The Year 2 parents/carers were kept informed last week and Mr Cadle is currently teaching full time in Class 2.

MDSA appointments

On Wednesday we interviewed and successfully appointed 6 new members of the MDSA team (Midday Supervisors). Our aim is always to ensure that lunchtimes are enjoyable for our children and that they enjoy a calm and positive dining experience. The new additions to our team share in this vision and are keen to help us achieve this goal. We warmly welcome Mrs Clark, Mrs Cooper, Ms Hardwood, Mrs Hill, Mrs Murray and Mrs Wilson to the team. They will start after half term and are looking forward to the arrival of the new giant playground games and engaging the children with these.

AK School Improvement Plan Update

SIP Action 2: Reading- on 29th February we have a very exciting day in school-**a special drama day!** The PQA (Pauline Quirk Academy for performing arts) are coming to our school to engage our children in some fabulous drama activities as each class starts a special book. It is planned that the drama session will ignite the children in their learning of the book and they will enjoy learning about and writing from the book. I would like to thank Zak Thompson's mum for providing us with this day as a gift to the school, we are so looking forward to seeing the impact of this experience upon the children's writing. This will be in place of World Book Day - so no need to dress up this year.

We have received some brilliant new books for the school library and classrooms generously donated by Jacob's Mum in Class R and Mr Loveridge. On our journey to becoming a reading school where we promote reading, we are very lucky to be given such donations. Thank you to all parents who have recently given books from home which are no longer needed, they have been put to very good use, thank you!

We have secured some fantastic creative workshops for every class to inspire reading and writing. Details will be sent via class teachers. Cont...



SIP Action 4: Outdoor learning- recently, Mr Jackson, Mrs Willis and the Cricklade Scouts carefully cleared the pond and wildlife areas so that they are now all ready for use for pond dipping and forest school. The scouts used the opportunity to earn a badge whilst massively helping us out. We are very grateful to all who helped and we cannot wait to start using the area again as it was originally intended to be used. As part of forest schools, we bring in a wildlife awareness section to help our children learn about British wildlife and conservation in our grounds.

Second hand Uniform sale

FoAKS will be holding the sale after school on Thursday 25th February.

I hope you have a super half term, thank you for your continued support. We look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday 22nd February.

Kind regards,

S.L.Saville

Mrs. Saville

Head teacher

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

Date	Event
Friday 12 th February	TD day for staff, school closed to pupils.
Monday 22 nd February	School restarts for pupils for term 4
Thursday 25 th February 3.15pm	Secondhand Uniform Sale in school hall
Friday 26 th February	Mock trials for Year 6
Monday 29 th February	PQA (Pauline Quirke Academy) Drama day for all pupils in school (timetabled slots) generously provided by Zak Thompson's Mum as a gift to the school. This will be in place of World Book Day.
Friday 4 th March	Year 6 Mock Trials Mid year reports to parents
Wednesday 23 rd March 7.00pm	North Wilts Music Festival at Oasis, Swindon