



Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fabulous couple of weeks! We have been so busy here at school with lots of exciting learning opportunities for your children some of which I will give the highlights from in this newsletter. Please also read on for some exciting news of upcoming events so that you don't miss out...



**Team AK Shining Brightly:**

### **PQA Drama Workshops**

On Monday, the Pauline Quirke Academy for performance arts joined us (generously donated by its Principal, one of our YR parents Dee Thompson). Every class had a super drama workshop to explore a chosen book. The purpose for the day was to ignite writing and engage the children in the books through drama before embarking on a writing journey. The staff and children told me they loved the workshops and I am looking forward to seeing the writing which comes from this.

We have booked for every class some exciting workshops chosen by the children. All classes experience 2 workshops from a range of different subject areas to ignite their learning further in class. The first two workshops have taken place this week in Class 2 and Class 3.

### **Year 2 African storytelling session**

The children absolutely loved this session, reshaping an African oral story with drama and props, taking control of the story as it unfolded. I hope they told you all about it. It will spark the learning for their stories from other culture writing with Miss Redman after Easter. I know Mr Cadle will be sharing some photos from this with you in the Class 2 assembly on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 9am in the hall.

### **Year 3 Forensics**

I could not pull myself away from this fabulous forensics workshop this week. Year 3 visited in groups of 9 to a crime scene where they had to find traces of DNA from 3 settings and try to work out who the perpetrator was! The engagement, team work, and problem solving was excellent as they worked together using clues to solve the mystery. I hope they told you all about it!

### **Tuck Shop off to a roaring start!**

Wow! The School council have really impressed us with their business skills! The tuck shop has been incredibly well attended with some items being sold out and high demand for more. Thanks you for allowing your children to take part in this excellent enterprise. Well done and thank you to School Council and Miss Redman.





## Mock Trial Success for Team AK Year 6

Team AK certainly shone today! We were again this year very fortunate to be able to take part in the Cirencester Mock Trial competition against primary schools in Gloucestershire. I am delighted to have



witnessed the team winning their very hard to win case!

They were superb on every level and were highly commended by a number of legal professionals on their costumes and professional team approach. I have been part of these trials for many years and I could not have been more proud today as Headteacher. The success is for the whole class team who have been fully involved with Mrs Voss and Mrs Campbell and supporting one another all of the way. The entries from 12 schools will be judged overall and whatever

the outcome, the whole class were winners in our eyes! What an experience, certainly one to prepare our children for Secondary school and beyond! Well done team AK! Thanks to Mrs Bromelow for accompanying us as a parent Governor and for treating the whole class to a well-deserved ice cream to celebrate!

## Cross Country

Many children from years 3-6 have been attending cross country club with Mr Brown on a Monday and polishing up their distance running. We are really proud of them as they are entering 3 local competitions and at the first on Monday 19 children took part, they all did brilliantly with some very high finishers- we even had a 1<sup>st</sup> in the Year 3 boys race! We are proud of all who took part and did their best for team AK! Thank you to Mr Brown.

## Wake and Shake

We are reviving Wake and Shake. Class 4 have been leading the way and getting all fired up for the day with a 5 minute work out at the start of the day. Miss Manning, 1:1 TA in Class 4 is very excited to be getting this going and would like to do it as Wake and Shake Wednesday so you can get involved. So, weather permitting, when the bell goes on a Wednesday and you see the new PA system set up and hear the beats, please feel free to join in with the moves, I am sure you will recognise the tunes and it will get you going on a Wednesday!

## Mindfulness Session

We are holding a session for parents to help them to support their children with mindfulness next Wednesday (9<sup>th</sup>) after school. We have enough to hold the session but have not had a large response so if you would like to take part please let the school office know as soon as possible.

## Mrs Saville away 14<sup>th</sup>- 16<sup>th</sup> March inclusive

I am now trained as a reviewer so will be accompanying a team with an Ofsted inspector to review a school in Cornwall during the above dates. This will be a fantastic opportunity for our school as I am visiting a currently outstanding primary school to do a review so there will be lots to learn and reflect on through this process. During my time away, please contact any of my senior leadership team (Mrs Mee, Miss Redman or Miss Kibblewhite) should you need any assistance with a matter you would normally share with me.



## Netball

A massive well done to the team of Year 5 and 6 girls who entered the netball tournament at Kingshill. This year our team came third with a score of 11 points only 3 away from the winning team with 14 points! Thank you to Miss Igoe for her commitment to the netball club and the parents helpers who helped with transport to matches and especially to those lovely ladies who have helped Miss Igoe with the club this year, it is really appreciated.

## NWFM (North Wilts Music Festival) Ticket deadline!

The choir are fully underway with preparation for this magical event where we join with other Wiltshire schools in our cluster to perform at the Oasis. Please be reminded that rehearsal is on Monday, the concert is on March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm and tickets are only on sale from the office until Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March so make sure you get them quickly. After this date they will be allocated to larger schools as extra tickets so please don't miss the deadline (we have already extended it by 2 weeks).

## Residential trip meetings

There will be a meeting for Year 6 parents concerning the London trip in May at 6.00 p.m. on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April to enable you to find out more about the trip and ask any questions. The Year 5 parents' meeting concerning Viney Hill will be at 6.00 p.m. on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May.

## New Playground Giant play games has arrived!

Thanks to the money you raise for the school and the hard work of the children, staff and parents at the Christmas market, we have been able to buy some fabulous games for the playground. We hope to rekindle a love of traditional games for your children. The games include: giant connect four, large wooden dominoes, giant chess and draughts boards, giant Jenga set and Noughts and Crosses, Ludo and Snakes and Ladders in the giant form! We hope they give your children hours of fun and lunchtimes, I can't wait to hear what they have to say! This is another fabulous example of how some of the fundraising for the school is spent to benefit every child in the school! Thank you.

## 'iSing pop' Team AK concert- save the date May 4<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. - whole school are involved, we would love you to join us!

I am ever so excited to let you know that we are part of a very exciting school, community and Church project. During the week of April 25<sup>th</sup>, a company called iSing pop (you can see their website for more details) are coming into our school to teach the children 7 amazingly upbeat pop style songs and dance moves, all based around our values. At the end of the week, they professionally record the children for a special DVD, which we can use in our daily assemblies and worship and will be available to purchase.

You are invited on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May to a special concert for parents, carers, grandparents & members of the local community to join with us to celebrate the songs in a special concert. The concerts will be at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. involving all of the children in the school. Tickets will be sold at a small price of £2.50 each and the money will go towards the project. I can tell you that since I saw this company at the Gloucester Cathedral in 2012, I have been desperate to work with them. Now is the time for Team AK to be part of this as the first Wiltshire school to take part. I know parents who have been to iSing pop concerts and absolutely loved it, they play the CD in the car constantly! I really hope you will come along and support this project, I promise you will love it! What a great way to bring everyone together in a short uplifting concert, leaving us with a professional recording of 7 amazing songs to use in home and school.



We are having a dressing down day on the last day of this term and ask you to donate 50p to go towards this project - thank you.

### **Easter Experience**

This year pupils will take part in an Easter Experience on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> March where they will visit the church and be involved in an event with people from Open the Book. Reverend Shirley is also taking an Easter assembly with the pupils near the end of term. This will take place instead of the usual Easter service at the end of term. The pupils also have the iSing pop event which involves the church and to which parents are invited. (see above).

### **Disco**

Please be reminded that the Easter disco for KS1 (5 p.m.-6.15 p.m.) and KS2 (6.30-7.45 p.m.) is on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March. Tickets will be available for sale from FoAKS and the school office next week. The children love the discos and we hope many of them can join us for a boogie on 17<sup>th</sup>. Just £3.50 for a fabulous disco, hot dog and a drink! Huge thanks in advance to all parent and staff helpers who enable this event to happen.

### **500 word competition**

We were delighted to hear that so many of our children entered this competition and also delighted that one of our members of staff, Mrs. Campbell has been selected as a judge, well done to her. Please can your child bring a copy of their story into school so that we can proudly display them in the new reading corridor for others to enjoy reading.

### **Message from Mrs. Crowley:**

Swindon Music Co-operative is organising a FREE "Learn to Play Day" on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March, offering musical taster sessions on a wide range of instruments and voice, with the aim of encouraging more pupils to take up music lessons. This will take place at Dorcan Academy, St Pauls Drive, Swindon, SN3 5DA from 11am-2pm. NO BOOKING IS REQUIRED. This is open to everyone but children must be accompanied by an adult. For further information call 01793 554747. All children are welcome to come and have a go at playing a musical instrument, so why not pop in and have a go? You never know, you may discover a hidden talent!!

### **Preventing radicalisation information**

The teachers at AK have been trained on the Government's new preventing radicalisation initiative. If you would like to find out more, please see the agency leaflet on this on our school website

### **Staffing**

We have recently appointed 6 new members of the midday supervisor team. This means we can increase our adults on the playground well above the legal requirement to enable more play with the children. Lunchtime is a really important part of the day for your children so we want to make sure we make it the best we can for all of our children. After Easter we warmly welcome back Miss Boase who will be teaching in Class 3 alongside Mrs. Pegg until the Summer holiday. As a result Miss Redman will teach Class 2 as Mr. Cadle will be leaving us at Easter to relocate with his family. Year 2 and 3 parents have already been informed. The children are really excited.



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](http://www.akps.org.uk) for dates.

## IMPORTANT DATES

Date	Event
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> MARCH	3.30-6.00 p.m. Year 6 Parents' Evening Choir rehearsal Wootton Bassett Academy 4.00 -5.30 p.m.
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	4.30 -7.00 p.m. Parents' evening
Wed 9 <sup>th</sup>	3.45 -4.30 p.m. Parents' mindfulness session - please sign up in office
Thurs 10 <sup>th</sup>	3.30-6.00 p.m. Parents' evening (not Year 6)
Tues 15 <sup>th</sup>	8.00 a.m. Breakfast club cooking session 9.00 a.m. Class 1 assembly - all welcome
Thurs 17 <sup>th</sup>	Last swim session for Class 5 Easter Experience for pupils 5.00 - 6.15 p.m. KS1 Disco in school hall 6.30 - 7.45 p.m. KS2 Disco in school hall
Fri 18 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Experience for pupils
Sun 20 <sup>th</sup>	Messy Church in school hall
Mon 21 <sup>st</sup>	6.00 p.m. Year 3/4 Play in school hall - all welcome
Tues 22 <sup>nd</sup>	9.00 Class 2 assembly - all welcome Zumba morning for pupils 6.00 p.m. Year 3/4 Performance in school hall - all welcome
Wed 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Choir to Oasis, Swindon in afternoon 7.00 p.m. Concert in Oasis, Swindon
Thurs 24 <sup>th</sup>	Dressing Down Day - please bring 50p 9.00 a.m. Heroes and Heroines assembly
Fri 25 <sup>th</sup>	School closed for Easter holiday
Mon 11 <sup>th</sup> APRIL	School restarts for Summer Term
Tues 19 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 p.m. Year 6 parents' meeting for London trip
Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Leavers and Class Photos
Wed 4 <sup>th</sup> MAY	2.00 p.m. and 6.00 p.m. Ising pop Concerts - all welcome
Mon 9 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 p.m. Year 5 parents' meeting for Viney Hill trip

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