



Friday 16th January 2015

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a busy week here at AK. The children have certainly been making their most of their time in school. I have seen some excellent examples of learning as I make my way around the classes. In a few weeks, I will be writing to you to report on my mid-year analysis of the school improvement plan and summarise for you the great progress which our school is making in light of the changes that have been implemented. I will also be working with a team of adults and pupils to formulate the new school vision. Thank you very much for the feedback I have received from you so far, if you would still like to respond, please do this before next Wednesday. You can do this on paper or via email to the office.

Our Value for Term 3 is... Thankfulness. The children are reflecting on all we have to say thank you for and not taking things for granted. They have been focusing on thankfulness in collective worship and hopefully you may notice them thinking to say thank you more often at home. The 'Thankfulness' parent value pack on the website gives excellent ideas to explore the value further at home with your child. <http://www.akps.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/THANKFULNESS.pdf>

Pupil Newsletter...

Oliver (Class 6) has formed a team to work on the next edition of *The Whisperer* which will be put onto the school website in the coming week. I was delighted to see the children working as a team to share ideas and edit their writing together. The team of children will change for each edition of the pupil newsletter to give more people the opportunity to take part. The pupils currently working on this edition are: Oliver and Toby in Y6, Holly and Archie in Y5, Jasmine and Dan in Y4 and Ivy and Will in Y3. They are asking for the thoughts of our infant children on the playground and we aim to include them in the writing of the newsletter as it develops. Great start and well done to the team!

Winter Weather

Further to the parent mail sent out, if in the event of snow which forces a school closure, you can listen to Heart FM to find out or BBC Wiltshire radio. The school will only close for snow in extreme circumstances.

Reminder of important dates:

Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day- advanced notice for you- please can children & staff come dressed as a book character and bring their favourite book into school. We will be organising a special day for the children within school.
Thursday 12th February	Dress down day- please bring a can/tin for the Swindon food bank Heroes and Heroines 9am start

All key dates are put onto the calendar on our school website, please check there for parents' evenings etc.



Uniform

I would like to do a real push on smartness at school. We will look at updating the school uniform policy, ready for the next academic year, so that it is much clearer for all. For now, please be reminded that trainers are not acceptable daily footwear, sensible school shoes or smart boots should be worn. It is much smarter when children are in school uniform colours of navy blue, grey and white and not other colours. I am incredibly proud of our school, but feel that a uniform reminder is really in need. Thank you.

Mock Trials

I am really excited to let you know that this year Ashton Keynes will be entering the Cirencester Mock Trials. This is a hugely successful competition between local schools in Gloucestershire which I have, in my previous school, been part of and therefore know the huge benefits for the children and school. This year I have managed to get AK into the competition for the first time.

The Mock Trials involve all pupils in years 5 & 6 starting with a visit from local magistrates who came in on Wednesday and worked with all of the children to look at law and justice. From this the two classes prepare cases based on a script. Two teams of 13 pupils in each will then be drawn to act out the roles in a mock court trial, but every child will have an input in the preparation of this. One team will be prosecution, the other defence and they will practice against one another in school, gaining feedback from the other class members. They will go to the Bingham gallery to compete against two Gloucestershire schools in March. The staff and pupils are really enthusiastic about this and I am thrilled that we can take part. One of our Open the Book team, who is a Magistrate in Wiltshire has kindly offered to come and share her expertise with the children too, which is really appreciated.

This week and next week you may notice I am not as present as I usually am. I have to attend some really important Child Protection courses and conferences. This sometimes happens and unfortunately there are a few courses in a short space of time, which is out of my control. In my absence, Miss Kibblewhite is available should you need a senior point of contact. I look forward to being back in school every day as usual, time away from school certainly makes you appreciate what you have and I look forward to returning to school.

Have a great weekend,

Yours sincerely,

S.L.Saville

Mrs. Saville

Head teacher