



Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2015

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had another super week here at AK, where we are all making the very best of the time in each school day. Here is an insight into what I have seen on my journey around the school this week:



Class R welcomed me in to see their learning during their fairy tale theme. I was delighted to watch the children independently re-enacting the story of Rapunzel using telephones, others writing 'ng' words in sparkly sands, creating stories of Knights and Princesses; using a two star challenge to write sentences using 'ng' words for Rapunzel with some trying to write a small story WOW! There were invites being written for the Prince's ball and puppet play, along with teacher and TA focussed phonics groups- a busy, buzzing learning environment where all children were engaged, leading their own learning, whilst having the opportunity to write. I was even there for the magic moment when I watched a pupil learn to blend their first words, beginning to read, a very special moment indeed!



Class 1 have been on a sensory walk around the village, which fits in beautifully with our value 'thankfulness' and our focus this week of being thankful for creation. This morning, we celebrated our children and shone bright whilst singing 'Sunshine in your Heart', which certainly made us all smile and we believe it made the sun come out!



Class 2 have been busy in Geography planning routes around the village and making pitches for their peers to vote which route they should follow. They will be following their maps when they head out into the village as a class, next week.



Class 3 have thoroughly enjoyed making a stunning Roman mosaic with Mrs. Gray as part of their 'Under Attack' theme. They are certainly engaged in their new topic and Miss Redman has been ever so impressed by their enthusiasm and learning.



Class 4 have been turning my stomach by being completely grotesque and writing revolting recipes (based upon those by Roald Dahl). I don't think I will be putting any of these on the school menu! I am looking forward to teaching writing in class 4 all of next week with Miss Igoe with a very creative twist which will certainly ignite their writing and spark their imagination!

Class 4 have been writing letters of persuasion to see if they can entice any of you to come in and hear them read as they are keen to have more people come and read with them. Please see the letter:



Dear parents/careers

Class 4 have been trying hard on their reading, and would like some people to listen to how they are doing.

The children have decided they would like you to stay for about half an hour if you can make it and come approximately every two weeks. Don't worry if you can't come because it's your choice to come or not. We don't want to force you to come it's only if you have any free time any day will be accepted. We will try to find you a perfect match if you aren't too confident. Class 4 will be on their best behaviour so don't be scared!

If you are interested have a talk to the school office or email us by using this email address [class4@ashtonkeynes.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:class4@ashtonkeynes.wilts.sch.uk). If not don't worry I'm sure you can come another time.

We are looking forward to seeing you.

yours sincerely  
class 4



Classes 5 & 6 have been thoroughly engaged and enjoying writing their myths and legends. Please have a look at their blogs to read more:

[www.kidblog.org/mrsvossclass6](http://www.kidblog.org/mrsvossclass6) and [www.kidblog.org/missthomasclass5](http://www.kidblog.org/missthomasclass5)

I really am the lucky one who gets to travel around the school and watch the fantastic learning that takes place in every classroom. This morning, I was accompanied by Caroline Hukins

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(Governor of the month) on a learning walk of the school to look at improved presentation, extended writing opportunities and the new spelling programmes. It was a very informative morning for both of us as a way of monitoring the great work that is happening here at AK. As well as monitoring teaching and learning, I am gradually making my way around the school teaching a week's writing journey in each classroom to share my passion for writing with the children and staff. I have already visited Year 6 where I helped them get us on the edge of their seat when teaching them how to write suspense stories (See their Class 6 blogs). I am heading into Year 5 to teach a writing journey as we set sail to Treasure Island and then into Year 3 where we are off to create an imaginary world! I will then head into the infants to continue my creative writing journey.

### Steel Pan Mania at AK!

It is with great excitement that I let you know that our school was incredibly fortunate to receive £1,000 from the AK Musical festival which we have used to help us stand out musically from local schools by purchasing our very own set of 10 steel pan drums. They are such high quality and sound fantastic. I have just returned from a lunch time staff development steel pan session, where my team were learning to play songs in 3 parts before they start to deliver the lessons to the children. I know Year 5 have already started learning the steel pans with Mrs. Crowley. The staff were incredibly enthusiastic, even Mr. Brown joined in, Miss Igoe was already making requests for songs... *The Little Mermaid*. We thought we should start with *Twinkle Twinkle* in three parts and work our way up! I look forward to reaching the point where Team AK, staff and pupils can play for you on a sunny afternoon as you collect your children from school! We really are very lucky to have this funding and we will be making sure we say a huge thank you to the AK Music festival for their generous contribution to our school. I will be inviting them in to see the steel drums in action at AK!

### FoAKS Rain or Shine Theatre *Great Expectations*

FoAKs would like to invite you to come and enjoy the Rain or Shine Theatre Company's presentation of Charles Dickens' *Great Expectations*. This will be held in the school hall on Sunday 8th February at 3.30 p.m.  
 Adult – £15    Child (under 15) – £10    Family (2+2) – £38  
 Tickets are available from the school office, village shop or White Hart. In true FOAKS style, I know this will be an excellent event.

#### Reminder:

Date	Event
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February	9.10 am Class 5 assembly to parents/ carers/ grandparents 1.00 pm Mock Trial visit for Year 5 & 6 to Bingham Gallery (transport all set up)
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> February	3.30pm in School Hall Rain or Shine Theatre

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## School Uniform message

I am very much looking forward to looking at smartening up our AK school uniform ready for September. I am fully aware that many parents order the AK school logo sweatshirts and cardigans and I wanted to confirm that I am not intending to change these, they will remain a key part of the uniform (Navy blue cardigans/sweatshirts). I will be clarifying, as soon as possible, the rest of the uniform colours so that we can all return in September with smart consistent colours for Team AK.

## Headlice

We are fully aware that there is an outbreak of head lice across the school at present which is causing concern to parents. We do ask parents regularly to check their children's hair and treat if necessary. In the first place parents should just comb their child's hair through with a narrow toothed comb and some conditioner to check if head lice or eggs are present. (We have a couple of the combs in the office free of charge if anyone would like one). If some evidence is found it is only then that it is necessary to treat with a treatment from the chemist. Some people also use tree-tea oil regularly to try and combat the problem. Pound shops also sell a head lice deterrent spray which is left on the hair and uses essential oils not chemicals. Also we would recommend children to tie their hair back where possible as this also helps. Helpful information can be found at the website - [http://www.chc.org/homedir/parent\\_info.cfm](http://www.chc.org/homedir/parent_info.cfm)

We do speak directly to parents who children have noticeable head lice problems but we would like to make parents aware of the County Council guidelines that we are required to work within. The Health Protection Agency via Wiltshire Council has issued 'The control of communicable diseases in schools and nurseries guidelines' which state 'It is not recommended that schools send out letters to parents whenever a teacher suspects a case of head lice infection - it is likely that there is always some cases of head lice infection in school; this is normal. School should provide a reminder in newsletters at the beginning of term. **Schools are not responsible for detecting, treating or excluding children who are thought to have head lice infection.**' Based on this we are already doing above what is required and we really do understand how frustrating this is for all. Mrs Saville is planning to contact the County department personally next week to see what further action can be done to control the problem.

## Nuts

There have been a couple of incidents lately where children have brought nuts or peanut butter sandwiches into school. We do have children in the school with severe nut allergies and we kindly ask that no nuts or nut products are sent into school for the safety of these children. Thank you for your co-operation.

Thank you for your support, more next week from our Team AK,

Yours sincerely,

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