



Friday 6th May 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

The sun is shining and it has been another WOW couple of weeks here for Team AK with so many fabulous things happening!



Team AK Shining Brightly: iSing POP

What an amazing experience! For those of you who were able to join us, I am sure you will agree what a superb performance the children, staff and iSing pop team put on for you. We cannot wait for the cd! It was brilliant to get the AK community together in our village church. As expressed in the concert, my thanks goes to all involved in the project, Rob and the iSing Pop team, the children and staff and the Church for their support and enthusiasm and for kindly providing refreshments. What a team and what an opportunity for our children. The cds are being produced as I type and are expected Tuesday/Wednesday next week. We will send a parent mail when they arrive.

Exciting news...

Ising pop is returning! On Thursday 9th June 1.45-2.45pm we are doing a special repeat of the concert in our school hall for the Bishop of Swindon and Headteachers from local schools. So if you weren't able to join us on Wednesday, there could be a chance for you to come and see the concert for £2 - please contact the school office and they will book you a place. Unfortunately due to limited space we are not able to open this up to everyone who came before but it would be lovely to see some of you who weren't able to come the first time. I know the children and staff will love performing again!

Cup of Friendship

Friendship is one of our core values and we have got a special friendship cup which will be presented weekly to children who are shining in this value. The first person to earn this cup was Zack in Class 3 nominated by staff and his peers. Well done to Zack!

Our infants up close with nature

This morning was amazing! I joined the infants as they had a brilliant workshop with Jonathan's Jungle Roadshow organised by Mrs Crowley. The children in Class R who have mini beasts as their topic, were enthralled as they held giant millipedes, saw prickly stick insects and pink toed tarantulas (including a mini one) and held a special snake called Nacho! Ask your children about it, it was brilliant. Classes 1 & 2 loved their experience just as much. We were delighted to see the children grow in confidence throughout the session by experiencing new things.

Class 3's wonderful brochures

I was absolutely thrilled to visit Class 3 today and see the wonderful brochures they have each
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produced about our school. The presentation, with our new handwriting style, is beautiful and the content shows how much they enjoy their school. Miss Boase will be displaying the brochures and will put some onto her class page on the website, they are brilliant!

Special Learning Stars

Every child in our school is working really hard to achieve their learning star. We have set them a ten tick challenge to show 10 learning behaviours in order to earn their star. I am excited to announce that the first star in the school went to Darcey in Year 6 quickly followed by Jemima who earned her star on Thursday. The children can wear these star badges with pride and to show the school that they have great learning behaviours.

Tracey Corderoy's visit

The children in Classes R-3 and all of the staff absolutely LOVED Tracey's visit! She had us all sitting on the edge of our seats with her fabulous story telling. The impact upon the children was immediate. Straight away I saw Class R children making their own books and many children have been working hard at home and in school to create their own mini books, totally inspired by Tracey's visit. It was amazing! Having the 3 fantastic authors in school has enabled every child to experience at least one author which has been inspiring them to read and write.

New AKPS Cursive Handwriting

Wow- we have recently introduced a new cursive handwriting style to the whole school in order to further improve presentation of writing and the impact is staggering! I look forward to you seeing your child's new handwriting style, the change is fantastic!

Fuel Cell car visit

Recently we were ever so luck to be visited by Dr Peter Gray, a parent and Governor, at the school. He brought in a unique opportunity for our children to see one of the 20 fuel cell cars available. He talked all about how it worked and the children were really engaged. The children were then all given a guided tour of the car and could listen to how quiet it was when it was running! I know lots of them were really inspired and it gave some important messages for the future about the environment to our children who are the future generation! Thank you ever so much, Dr Gray.

Return of the story teller in our outdoor story telling area!

On Tuesday 7th June I am delighted to announce that we have Martin, the fabulous storyteller, returning to our school to tell stories to every class in the outdoor willow story telling area! This is another way to further engage children in reading and writing.

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Fairford Airshow

We are so lucky! We have got the opportunity to send classes 2,3 and 4 to the Fairford Airshow on Friday 8th July! There will be a detailed letter to follow as soon as possible, for now please put the date on the calendar.

World Awareness Week This is taking place on Monday 23rd May.

The Countries are:

Iceland in Class R, New Zealand in Class 1, Spain in Class 2,
Nepal in Class 3, Madagascar in Class 4, Uganda in Class 5
Japan in Class 6

The children will pair up with their buddies and travel around the world visiting all 7 countries in each of the classrooms. They will meet every morning after registration in AK Airport (Hall) before setting off on their travels. On Tuesday and Thursday we have Kitchen Club here again to cook with every child in the school. Thank you to FoAKS for funding this special opportunity for our children! I know the staff and children are really looking forward to this week after its success last year, we hope you are too!

Can you help? If you have any resources/ experiences of these countries you would like to share with us, please let us know. We would love to get you involved! On the Friday afternoon at 2.30pm, you are invited to join us in a special Heroes and Heroines round the world special where we will celebrate merits earned whilst the children are around the world. We hope you can make it!

SATS

Next week 9th - 12th May our wonderful Class 6 will be sitting their SATs tests. As a school we feel they have worked incredibly hard and are well prepared however we feel the balance has been just right with all of the wonderful school experiences they have been experiencing around these tests. We are very proud of them all. I know they have been busy designing and baking different flavoured healthy flapjack to eat throughout next week as treats, I can't wait to try some!

Year 2 will also be doing a few tests over the next couple of weeks, but again, we have ensured they are fully engrossed in lots of wonderful learning opportunities to help them grow and learn in all areas. Classes 3-5 will also have some end of year assessments around this time, but as a school we are assessing our children all of the time so we do not just rely on tests throughout the school. A really healthy balance is being achieved and this is really important to us. At the end of this time we can all join together in our special World Awareness week, a fabulous way to end the term.

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School Grounds

The school grounds are looking lovely and will soon be a haven for wildlife as the Friends of the Earth Bee Cause mini meadow sown by children from Class R is coming up beautifully, as well as the wildflower seeds sown in the borders in front of the outdoor classroom and along the side of Class R's classroom. The children are enjoying playing in our two new willow dens and in the arbour in the quiet area, built by Kellie Noonan and Kathryn Gray. Many thanks to Kathryn for applying for the free seeds, supervising the sowing, and donating the willow and to Kellie for all her help.

Kellie and Kathryn have also been busy clearing out the border by Class 2 and soon that will be planted up. Next week Kathryn is going to be digging a small border around the outdoor classroom and then planting lavender there. If you can lend a hand one morning next week, please email Kathryn Gray (kathryngray28@yahoo.co.uk) your support is massively appreciated.

We are shortly going to be having our quiet area developed into a reflection garden which will include a beautiful solar powered water feature, wind chimes, a lovely wooden bench and a beautiful area which each child will design a tile for. This will create a more calm and peaceful space for our children and adults. We have been so lucky to achieve this through funding given to us generously by Costain and Thames Water. We are also being given a Water safety and water conservation workshop for all of our children along with a forest school session to make bug houses. We are very lucky!

Rugby Tournament On Friday 30th April Mr Brown asked me to take a Year 5 & 6 team to the Tag Rugby tournament in Royal Wootton Bassett Rugby club and what an absolute pleasure that was! The team were absolutely brilliant and represented our school perfectly. I was the loud one cheering madly at the sidelines! I was so proud to watch the team work so hard and win their first match, draw and finish joint second overall! Well done to Mr Brown for organising the children to take part in the event and to the parents who helped with transport. The team were: Lucy H, Theo, Georgie, Poppy L, Archie, Jess from year 6 and Ollie M and Oscar L from Class 5.

Open Morning *NEW*

On Monday 11th July at 9.15-11am, we will be holding our first open morning. We have decided to do this instead of the open evening to give you and prospective parents a chance to visit the school while the children are learning. There will be a short meeting in the hall at 9.15 to share some of the highlights from the year and then from 9.45-11.00 there will be group tours of the school led by myself and our pupils. There will be a chance to visit every classroom and see Maths learning across the school. At 10.30am refreshments will be available in the hall kindly provided by the FoAKS team until an 11am finish. We hope you can join us.



Deputy Head Appointment

I am delighted to inform you that the Governors and I successfully appointed a Deputy Headteacher for the school to start on 1st September 2016. We had an excellent pool of very strong candidates who applied and were interviewed for the post. Once all necessary paperwork is completed, I will be able to let you know more about the person we have appointed but for now please know that we are delighted. I will of course let you all know the class structure for next year as soon as I am able, I was able to do this in June last year and will do my best to do it as early again next year. It is an exciting time for team AK and wonderful to be welcoming someone new to the school.

We are so lucky to have all of these wonderful things happening in our school, thank you for your positive feedback, it is fabulous to see how happy our school is, what a team!

Have a lovely sunny weekend,

S.L. Saville

Mrs. Saville

Head teacher

Please see over for latest dates



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

DATE	EVENT
MAY	
Mon 9 th - Thurs 12 th	Year 6 SATS
Tues 17 th - Fri 20 th	Year 6 residential trip to London
Mon 23 rd	6.00 p.m. Year 5 parents' meeting for Viney Hill trip
Mon 23 rd - Fri 27 th	World Awareness Week
Fri 27 th	2.30pm Heroes and Heroines assembly - all welcome
Mon 30 th - Fri 3 rd June	Half-term holiday
Mon 6 th June	TD Day - SCHOOL CLOSED
Tues 7 th	Storyteller in school
Wed 8 th	Class R Reading Breakfast (more details to follow)
Thursday 9 th	11.30am District Sports for selected pupils 1.45pm Ising pop concert in school hall
Fri 10 th	Charity den building day
Sun 19 th	3-5pm Church fete
Tues 21 st	8.00am Breakfast club cooking session 9.00am Class R assembly - all welcome
Wed 22 nd - Fri 24 th	Year 5 residential trip to Viney Hill
Mon 27 th - Fri 1 st July	Sports Week
Tues 28 th	6.00pm Parents' meeting for new Reception pupils 2016/17
Fri 1 st July	Sports morning - all welcome 5.30pm Year 4 Forest School overnight camp
Fri 8 th	Fairford Air Show visit for Years 2,3 & 4
Mon 11 th	9.15am AKPS Open morning - all welcome including prospective parents
Tues 12 th	6.00pm Years 5/6 Production - all welcome
Wed 13 th	Annual reports to parents 6.00pm Years 5/6 Production - all welcome
Thurs 14 th	AK Got Talent
Mon 18 th	2.00pm School summer soiree concert in school hall
Thurs 21 st	11.00am Leavers service in school hall followed by balloon release 1.00pm Leavers v mums/dads rounders match
Fri 22 nd	Training Day - SCHOOL CLOSED
25 th July - 31 st August	School Summer Holiday
Thurs 1 st Sept	School restarts for 2016/17

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