



Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,



**Team AK Shining Brightly:**

Wow, what a year we have had. In this newsletter, each class is going to share a few ways in which they have been shining brightly:

**Year 6**

What a fabulous final term and a fabulous year we have had in Year 6! We wish them every success and happiness in their future endeavours.



**Sports**

Sports' Week was amazing. We took part in netball, cricket, archery, martial arts, zumba, orienteering, dodgeball, handball, circuit training, smoothie bike and healthy eating workshop, and many more.

Key stage 1 and 2 also came first in the county athletics, beating nine other schools. Ollie stated (on the phone to Mrs Saville), "We won, we were amazing!"

We tried so hard."

**Acting and Singing**

AKPS Choir shining brightly in the community at the Music and Arts festival in Holy Cross Church this term. The church was packed to the rafters with uplifting singing from various village choirs, including The Magnificent AK47, The Ashton Keynes Village Choir, our School Choir and Siren Sisters.

Many Year 6s took part and would like to thank Mrs Crowley and Miss Hancock who give so much passion and dedication to our school choir. Many Year 6s are currently in the choir and I know they will be sadly missed when they move onto secondary school this summer.



Last week, the Year 5s and 6s performed the Year 5/6 production of 'Pirates of Currybean' and we were so impressed with them - all showing piratical style! The excited parents and teachers couldn't believe how well the children performed and how funny they were. Every child in Year 5 & 6 performed their roles brilliantly and the



singing was stunning too. The attitude and enthusiasm of the children was exemplary. One grandparent stated: "It was as good as anything on the West End." and another added, "The best children's show I have ever seen and I am 69!"

The Year 6 Leaver's Assembly and balloon release was emotional and was absolutely brilliant. The children enjoyed a disco with glow sticks for their last afternoon treat.

### Year 5

Wow what a busy year we have had in Year 5! In our classroom, we have travelled to the Antarctic as part of Ernest Shackleton's crew, when studying Odysseus we have visited the island of Ithaca, in World Awareness Week we went to Goa, Israel, Mexico and so many more quests as finally at the end of the June we went on our school residential to Viney Hill in the Forest of Dean!

One person in our class has said "I have enjoyed this year because of the really amazing tasks we have done like Florence Nightingale and Ernest Shackleton."

One our favourite things this year has to have been the school residential.

We went to Viney Hill for three days and two nights staying in tents. While we were there, we learnt to make our own lunches and keep our tents tidy. We did some amazing activities:

caving at Symonds Yat where you had to get through a hole the size of a microwave, canoeing on Mallards pike and abseiling. Have a look at some of things we have said about Viney Hill.

"Firstly, I love it a lot. The abseiling was fantastic and as I was one of the last to do it the nerves kept rushing to

me but once I was on the flat ground I felt proud and happy that everyone in my group had tried their best."

"Also the caving was wonderful. Before going in I was nervous and also







excited. The more I smiled the more excited I became about it." In fact as a class I think we enjoyed Viney Hill so much that if someone asked us to go back tomorrow we would jump at it!

## Year 4

What a brilliant year it's been in Year 4! We've crammed in so much, such as the Christmas Enterprise fair, pantomime, visiting the Corinium museum and welcoming a Roman soldier to the school, taking part in the Malvern flower show for the first year, performing Snow White and visiting the RAF Fairford Air Tattoo!

Caitlin: "The time that I've been in Year 4 has helped me to do better than I did in Year 3 and you get better by practising."

Poppy: "Year 4 has probably been the best year so far for me. It's been the year that I've realised how well I could do in my subjects and if it had been with any other teacher, I'm not sure that I would have managed it."

Tom: "I've enjoyed the Forest School session where we've used the campfire because if you don't like going outside, you have the chance to come out of your comfort zone."



## Year 3

This term Year 3 had a fantastic sports week. They threw themselves into every new sport and displayed excellent sportsmanship throughout. We all persevered with the class marathon and cheered one another on during sports day. We were very proud of the achievements of Evie-May, Finley, Estella, Kayleigh, Matthew, Alex, Luca, Darcey, Abi and Sam in Districts sports. Alex said "I liked competing against other school and seeing all members of Ashton Keynes giving their best." Evie-May said "I really liked the archery and more recently when Megan Fletcher (judo gold medallist) visited the school because it was really inspiring."



## Air Tattoo

What a fun day out at the Air Tattoo. The red arrows display was phenomenal and groups enjoyed the opportunity to explore. The techno zone was fantastic and groups made and launched rockets. We left coated with stickers and armed with posters. Anna said "It was an excellent day at the Air Tattoo. All the exhibits were amazing. My highlight was getting to try out all the different activities in the techno zone."

Today we've ended the term with a pizza and popcorn treat as a thank you for being such an amazing class!

## Year 2

Wow, what a year! The children and the team in class 2 have had a truly superb year. We've had tears, fun and a whole lot of laughter. The children have worked incredibly hard and every single one of them should be so proud of everything they have achieved and tried this year. As a team we could not be more proud and I'm sure there will be a few tears by the end of the day from us. We have enjoyed the topics we have covered, teaching one another and sharing thoughts and understanding. We have taught one another so much; the children have shared their experiences with me as well as me teaching them.



We had a fantastic time rehearsing for the nativity which seems so long ago now, my very first nativity and one I won't forget. The children were fabulous. We have also enjoyed a fantastic trip to Cotswold Wildlife Park and an amazing summer afternoon of fun most recently.



Thoughts from the children:

Sam: 'I loved sports day, I really liked the jump, hurdle and hoop obstacle course we had to do.'

Alice: 'I've loved the Talent shows; it gives us chance to shine'

Freddie B : 'Sports week was great!'

Darcy: 'I've loved Zumba, Meryl is fab!'

Evangeline: 'I love the arts and den building in forest school.'

George S: 'I like World Awareness week because it's fun'







Harriet: 'I am really excited that I come to this school'.

## Year 1

Year 1 have had a fabulous year; they have really grown up and matured into independent and resilient learners.

We enjoyed dance workshops that supported our learning about Chinese New Year and Diwali, and a Japanese culture immersion morning.



In November, Miss Ingham arranged for the police to visit us at school, and we enjoyed dressing up, asking questions and listening to the police officers talk to each other over the radio. We all had our fingerprints

taken. Luckily, none of us showed up as being on the 'wanted list'! Recently, as part of our topic we enjoyed a trip to Cotswold Wildlife Park with Year 2. We discovered lots of new facts about animals of the Savannah, which we were then able to use in our writing.

To finish off the year we enjoyed an afternoon of summertime fun - a picnic, face-painting, games, paddling and a surprise visit from an ice-cream van!



Aubrey - "I have liked doing sums in maths - all of the sorts; adding, taking away, multiplying and dividing."

Rory - "I really enjoyed The Lonely Beast topic as I love drawing story maps."

Darcie - "I like the maths tests we do as I understand them better now, and get better scores."

Samuel - "I love maths and learned how to do dividing."



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## Year R

Class R have been on an amazing journey this year. They have had lots of new experiences and taken most of them in their stride!

From walks to church and a visit to the pantomime in their first term, to a day out at the Cotswold Farm Park

in the summer, they have enjoyed time outside the school gates as well as enjoying fun and exciting

learning opportunities within the classroom.



We've seen chicks become hens, caterpillars become butterflies and of course they themselves have grown and matured and become a class of shining stars ready for Year 1.

Along the way there have been a few dramas: a lost, and thankfully, found parrot, a gingerbread man on the loose and a bear from space who landed in our garden by mistake! Luckily Class R are brilliant at solving problems and Helena accompanied all our dramatic episodes with the line, "It's a mystery!" (said very loudly with dramatic emphasis and expression!!!!).

Livvy's favourite thing in Class R is Golden time and she loved "having ice creams on our fun Friday".

Arthur remembered reading with buddies on a Friday afternoon and he enjoyed it "when we made dinosaurs!"

We've had a pirate day, a reading breakfast, visits from the pre-school, a visit from the author John Dougherty, travelled the world in World Awareness Week, loved Sports week, met a Commonwealth Judo gold medallist, raced snails, met a stick insect, experienced customs and traditions from Japan, learnt new skills in Forest School and much much more.... What a fantastic year!!! Thank you Class R x





## KS2 Visit to the Royal International Air Tattoo

What a fantastic time we all had at the Royal International Air Tattoo! 117 children plus 22 adults visited the show on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July. We were absolutely delighted to watch the red arrows do their wonderful display and there were loads of 'oohs' and 'ahs' and cheers from the children as they let out their colours and entertained us. We then visited the techno area to see our two Year 5 children Scarlett and Jess who won the engineering challenge to represent our school at the event. I am delighted to report that they both shone brightly and finished 2<sup>nd</sup> out of 19 schools- WOW! Children took part in engineering challenges within the Techno zone



and then headed for the RAF village where they sat inside air crafts and spoke with the pilots. Some of the children visited the Vintage village to listen to some 1930 singing and jive dancing whilst watching the air display. Every child and adult had a massive smile on their face, what an excellent experience!



## KS1 Golden Day

Whilst KS2 were at the Airshow, KS1 had a very special treat! They played lots of lovely outdoor games, had special face paints, a picnic and were visited by a real ice cream van! As children left school for the day they told me how it was "The best day ever!".

It is wonderful to create these opportunities for our children, creating memories for them and rewarding them for working hard in school every day. My staff team are all incredible and very thoughtful, all wanting the very best for the children in their care!



### **AK Music and Arts Festival**

We were delighted to be part of this wonderful event. From writing for the landmarks book, creating London art work for display, performing with 3 adult choirs in Church, soloists performing to getting everyone up and dancing in our mini iSing pop concert in Bradstone Marquee, we were thoroughly involved in this excellent community event. We hold music and singing in high priority here at school so we are always happy to be part of performances and music events such as this.

### **Inspiring visit of Judo Gold Medalist, Megan Fletcher**



The children were in for a real treat as they spent the morning doing circuits with and being inspired by Megan Fletcher. The children were in awe as she did some exciting demos and let the children flip her onto mats. They absolutely loved the footage of her winning her gold medals, which can be found on 'you tube'. I am sure your children

told you all about her. She was so lovely with the children and it is very important that children see a balance of male and female successful athletes.



### **Surprise theatre production of 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe'**

I was over the moon to see the children and staff's reaction when I unveiled the surprise Team AK treat for them. The theatre production which came to school was absolutely amazing, the children were totally enthralled throughout as were the staff, it was incredible. Four talented actors and wonderful lighting, effects and scenery transformed our school into a theatre for the afternoon. "I don't want to leave", "That was the best" "How did they do it?" "I loved every minute", their faces said it all!

Wow, what a busy but wonderful last few weeks! Our school is a wonderful place and your support is fabulous and massively appreciated, thank you to you all. This morning in Heroes and Heroines was very emotional and very special indeed, thank you all. Thank you so much to my wonderful and committed staff team, our excellent





Governors and last but not least, the reason why we are all here, our fantastic superstar pupils. Go Team AK! I love our school.

I would like to wish everyone a safe, happy and restful Summer break and look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 8.50 a.m.

Thank you very much for your kind words, cards and generous gifts. I am ever so grateful.

I leave you with these wonderful images, as we take time to wish each and every one of our wonderful Year 6 pupils good luck as they set off (like their balloons) in their different directions on the journey to secondary school. We will miss them all and are



very proud of them.

Finally, as Reverend Shirley said today:

*"For all that has been, thanks. For all that will be, **yes!**"* Here is to a fabulous year and more to come next year!

With my very best wishes,

*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.