



Friday 11th September

Dear Parents and Carers,

There is a real buzz in school with the start of the new school year, it is fantastic to see.



The new Reception pupils have been settling really well and it has been brilliant watching them touring around the school with Mrs Bobe, getting to know who and where everything is. I was thrilled to receive a visit from some of them with some flowers from the Reception garden. I giggled when I saw the flowers were in fact enormous sunflowers and said that I didn't possible have a vase big enough! They came to show me how they were harvesting the seeds! I then enjoyed watching the children as they are designing and building a mud kitchen with their new TA, Mr Jackson. They are already, after just a few half days in school, learning all about DIY and health and safety!

AK Shining Brightly: Fantastic learning!

We had a visit from our new School Improvement Adviser from Wiltshire (all school have one), and she was incredibly impressed by how smart the school was looking and how eager and ready to learn the children were. In every class we visited the children were totally engaged in their learning, it was an absolute pleasure to show her around. I have been particularly impressed by the class targets each class has set for themselves, you could ask your child what their class target is. I have been really impressed with the start to this school year, I am feeling extremely proud of our school.



School Council Elections

These took place today and I have been visited by very excited children who have been elected. We really appreciate how hard the children work to prepare their election speeches and the whole experience is valuable. The secret vote for a boy and girl is also very fair and important. I will announce the new representatives next week. Pupil's voice is so important in our school and through class councils, all of the children have a voice which is represented by the school council at meetings. Well done to all who took part, I am proud of you.

Outdoor Classroom

I'm sure by now you have all admired our lovely outdoor classroom, funded by an *Awards for All* grant. We have also added some guttering so that we can collect the rain and use it to water the school gardens and for Reception class to use in their mud kitchen. We now need to dig garden beds part of the way around the outside of the classroom, as well as making a small kitchen garden bed. The children will be helping sowing seeds and planting it up with bee and
Cont...



butterfly friendly plants, but we would be really grateful if you could spare some time on Tuesday and/or Wednesday morning next week to help create the beds. It will be a great way to get to know other parents, as well as getting fit with some light digging/turf removal.

If you're able to come, please come along on the day with a spade. Refreshments will be provided and no gardening expertise is needed. If you have any queries, please email Kathryn Gray (kathryngray28@yahoo.co.uk). Thanking you in advance, I really hope some of you are able to join us as we really would love to put the finishing touches to this wonderful new area ready for the opening on Friday 16th October at 2.45pm.

Playground Markings

These are planned to be done

Zumba Kids Fitness at AKPS

As a result of the Zumba Kids sessions being so well received at our school during Sports week, I have booked 6 half hour in school sessions for each class throughout the year, all funded by the school. It was fabulous to see how much the children and adults (staff and Governors joined in) enjoyed the sessions and what great exercise it was. I look forward to seeing them all getting the most from their Zumba sessions this year, I know I am looking forward to joining them!

Meet and Greet session

On Wednesday we offered a time after school where parents and carers could visit their child's new classroom and teacher. Parents were able to introduce themselves, see what their child had already been learning and ask any questions to help at the start of a new school term. We felt this was a useful session and hope you found it beneficial too. We will continue to run this session at the start of every school year in September.

You are invited to a food tasting session from 3.00pm on Monday in the hall

Cygnat (part of Chartwells) catering who provide our school lunches will be in with a sample of meals for you to try. Please feel free to come along and try.

Visitors

On Monday for one day, we welcome 6 people who are training to be Secondary teachers. As part of their training they are required to spend a day in a primary school. We very much look forward to welcoming them into Team AK for the day and working within our super team.

Parental Plea

With our exciting Reading focus in school, we are asking whether you have any story cd's or cassettes which you no longer use so that we can use them in school. We have kindly been

2

cont.



donated 10 new portable cd players from Innov Hardware solutions for the children to listen to stories on and we are really keen to get going.

Please remember the reading star challenge which has come home via parent mail before the Summer and last week to enable your child to take part. The deadline is next Wednesday with rewards being given in Time to Shine Assembly on Thursday.

For your information, lots of new dates have been added to the school calendar on our school website including dates as far ahead as the Summer TD days.

Have a lovely weekend, I hope the sun continues to shine for us all,

S.L. Saville

Mrs. Saville

Head teacher

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

Date	Event
Monday 14 th September 3.00pm	Cygnets food tasting session- you are invited to come and try a range of school dinners to see what we offer.
Thursday 17 th September	Swimming starts for Year 4
Monday 21 st September	Individual School Photographs with Tempest
Wednesday 23 rd & Thursday 24 th September	Life Education van visits the school
Sunday 4 th October	Holy Cross Harvest Festival
Tuesday 6 th October	Classes 3 & 4 trip to Ashmolean museum
Tuesday 13 th October	9am Class 6 assembly to parents in the hall
Wednesday 14 th October	Zumba Kids Morning- all children will receive 30 minutes of Zumba with their classes (free of charge to parents as funded by the school)
Thursday 15 th October	4-5pm <i>Keeping up with the Kids Maths Session</i> in the hall. More details to follow. The staff sharing latest maths teaching strategies to help you support at home.
Friday 16 th October 2.45pm	Official opening of the new outdoor classroom. FoAKS will kindly be providing refreshments for a small charge. All invited.
Monday 19 th October	4-5pm <i>Keeping up with the Kids English Session</i> in the hall. More details to follow. The staff sharing latest English teaching strategies to help you support at home.
Tuesday 20 th October	End of Term 1 9am Heroes and Heroines Assembly in the hall for parents and carers FoAKS end of term disco for pupils (more details to follow).
Wednesday 21 st October	Teacher Training Day- school closed to pupils

Gosditch, Ashton Keynes, Nr Swindon, Wiltshire SN6 6NZ

Head Teacher : Mrs S Saville: Tel/Fax : 01285 861436

Email : office@ashtonkeynes.wilts.sch.uk www.akps.org.uk

