



Friday 13th February 2015

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to you, your children, my staff and governors for a fabulous first 3 terms at AKPS. We have certainly been very busy here, reflecting and driving forwards to ensure we are all providing the best for your children. This is a very happy school and certainly an incredibly special family to be part of.

At this mid-year point, it is a good time to reflect on all that is now in place at school as part of our school improvement journey 2014-2015. **All schools** have to write a school improvement plan and I believe it is important to share this plan as I monitor its impact across the academic year. I have already shared a very detailed analysis of the plan with my Governors as part of my Headteacher's report. I thought you might like to see some of the things we have done so far to move forward with our school improvement. There have been many changes to the school outside this plan: including: structure of the school day, introduction of the buddy system, start to the day changes which are so embedded, we forget they were new, therefore signalling their success. These changes make the school run more smoothly and make the best of the learning time available for your children.

Key Action	Action	Mid-year progress update at February 2015
1	To raise standards in writing throughout the school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All pupils have a writing target. Y1-6 have target rockets in their books with layered targets (getting progressively more challenging across the school) which help the whole school focus on improving punctuation. At the start of each month, children do an independent piece of extended writing to enable them to write at length and show what they do well as a writer and identify areas for targeted improvement. The Headteacher has observed English teaching in all classes with a writing focus. Impact: presentation across the school has significantly improved in a range of writing (Ofsted target 2012) Impact: strengths from these observations are shared among the staff team. For staff development, the Headteacher has been teaching writing units in each classroom to model practise and get to know the children as writers. A wide range of writing interventions are in place across the school to support and challenge pupils. Regular pupil progress meetings between the Head and staff ensure pupils are on track to make progress and identify any need for intervention or challenge at regular points throughout the year. Through daily English teaching at the same time across the school and in one writing book, the journey of writing across the school can be seen and monitored easily. The re-introduction of daily phonics groups YR-Y2 in phases and 'alien' words introduced in preparation for Year 1 phonics screening test which children do in Summer 2015. These also aid children learning to spell and read as the groups are 'ability set' to enable more of a focus teaching session.



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Y3-6, the use of apples and pears and target spelling is showing an improvement in children's spelling ages. IMPACT: Spelling ages have increased across the school. Next step: The next step is to ensure children are applying their spelling to their free writing. The spelling sessions in the morning will enable this to happen. By the children writing the words into sentences and focussing on a word to build into their writing that week. (Spelling was an area for improvement Ofsted 2012) Regular handwriting teaching via pen pals scheme, handwriting books introduced, revoked pen licence and bar raised before re-issue. Higher expectations and monitoring. IMPACT: Presentation improved greatly across the school compared to 2013/2014 books and children are taking a real pride in their handwriting-regular rewards and encouragement given. The Headteacher and Chair of Governors had a learning walk across the whole school to look at the impact of the star challenge. IMPACT: the star challenge is having a great impact on writing but also on other areas of learning and attitudes to learning across the whole school. It is being successfully used in all classes and extending through to home learning.
2	To raise standards in reading throughout the school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reintroduced the Oxford Reading Tree structured reading scheme across KS1 alongside the real book system to add variety and structure. IMPACT: positive feedback from parents and evidence of non-readers accessing and engaging with books. Next step: To continue to monitor and purchase books as required. Reading diaries are to be used by all pupils- rewards. IMPACT: home school link, raised expectation of reading at home and school and another way for home and school to communicate. Launch an appeal for parent & community support to read with children. IMPACT: a few parent volunteers but not many- Y4 children have written to ask for wider community help, Mrs. Liz Coulam, a retired teacher who is new to village, now comes in on Monday 1-3pm and Friday 1-3pm for 1:1 or 2:1 reading with pupils -to work on reading and comprehension.
3	To raise standards in mental maths and calculation throughout the school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percy Parker interactive times tables programme and multiplication booklets Years 1-6, Cracking times tables in years 3 & 4, magic maths club in Years 5 & 6 IMPACT: engage pupils and also individual challenge and reward when progress made- overall tables knowledge is improving which is important for all areas of maths. Parents aware of new curriculum multiplication expectation for each year group and involved with at home support, Year 1 are learning their tables which is new for AK. Mental maths mini tests timetabled/ planned for Classes Y3-6 regularly now IMPACT: Earlier support in preparation for Year 6. Next Step: Rainbow maths across the school, a fun, structured progressive mental maths activity for children to engage in regularly. Each child has a maths target- Passport targets have been introduced into Years 1-6 and linked to the new curriculum. EYFS also have ongoing maths targets.
4	Develop role of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teaching alliance cluster links- RWBA 'outstanding' secondary staff teaming up with primary subject leaders in our cluster of schools to extend thinking and



	subject leader in all subjects- especially core ones	<p>network, sharing best practice and developing leadership.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject leaders have been tracking their subject through the Dimensions Curriculum to ensure coverage of the new curriculum and have monitored books. All subject leaders have a new consistent action plan format to use and action plans are in place Subject leaders have been re-allocated and linked with governors for monitoring English and Maths leaders to work with link governors to feedback on key subject areas - English Subject leader (Mrs Saville met with C.Hukins for work sample and learning walk), Maths learning walk with Mrs. Voss and Head.
5	To further develop SEND provision and effective tracking of SEND pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laura Phillips our SENDco and pupil intervention tracker meets regularly with our SEND governor (Mrs Jan Thompson) to report. All necessary expectations from the Government are in place at AK and we are seeing the positive impact of appointing the SENDco to 1 day per week. Through the imminent purchase of the Target Tracking system (suggested by HT and approved by the Governors), retrieving data will be more efficient for us. As currently we analyse and track using our own method which needs updating.
6	To develop and establish effective assessment and monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our data leader, K. Redman, visited cluster school to see 'Target Tracker' in action and to see benefits of using in AK (HT also had a demo and proposed that target tracker is purchased for the school and Governors have approved this). A new mid-year report format has been designed with report card for parents evening to ensure parents are fully aware throughout the year where their child is and of their progress. This will ensure parents evenings are more consistent in format and are a better use of time. By September 2015, to be fully assessing and reporting in line with the new curriculum 'removal of levels' system. We are teaching from the new curriculum, but assessments and reports are under review to fully embrace the new system. All schools have this year as a transition from levels to no levels.
7	To further develop church links	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Links included on newsletter. Regular meetings with Reverend Shirley (who is joining our Governing body) to discuss church and school links- pupils in church and services delivered by Reverend Shirley related to key church calendar events. Increased Open the Book assemblies to three week blocks from two a month last year Involved the church in giving thoughts on the new AK school vision
8	To develop monitoring role of the Governors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governor of the Month- linked to monitoring the school improvement plan and OFSTED key actions- you can see reports and who the Governor of the month is on our school website. Governor induction with HT and planned visits together. Governors involved with HT in joint school monitoring events e.g. learning walks across the school, observing teaching, talking to pupils and looking in books. Link meetings between subject leaders and link governors. School improvement plan writing and evaluation sessions planned in with staff and



		<p>governors together.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governor monitoring plan and school monitoring plan dovetailing to work together more closely.
9	To develop a valuable outdoor area for early years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If planning is approved by the Parish council, we will be building a shelter to enable our Reception class to learn outside without getting wet. This shelter will cover the area outside Class R and will be a big improvement. Once approved, it is anticipated to take 3 days to erect. We will plan a special opening of this area once done. . New round tables to be purchased for 30 children to sit under new shelter and learn (high quality tables to last) An outstanding practitioner has visited school to give EYFS staff advice on the learning environment inside and out and a wish list drawn up including outdoor role play house (purchased) ready to be erected in the Spring once the Shelter is in place. Action: to be a very engaging and natural resources area to fit in with the school grounds and enable our Class R pupils to have more opportunity to learn outdoors all year round, despite the weather. We are very excited about this project!.

As you can see, we have all been very busy here at Team AK! We have already achieved so much in the first half of the year. The second half is a time for consolidation, measuring the impact and embedding what we have put into place. We are committed to providing the best we can for your children. Alongside this, we are creating exciting weeks for the school. We have World Awareness week starting on 18th May, Sports Week starting on 29th June and a special summer AK's Got Talent, some special events which will create special memories and learning experiences for your children. To come: The new AK vision and values are being written and will be put onto the welcome page of our website for all to share; we have plans for improving the outdoor learning and playing areas of the school; Athletics re-launch which includes Year 2; the school uniform will be updated ready for a smart launch in September, lots for us all to look forward to.

Dates for your diaries:

Monday 23 rd February	Netball club starts 3.15-4.15pm with Miss Igoe (letters sent home) Parents Evening Boards available from 3.15pm on the playground (on tables under the shelter) Telephone the office if you cannot come into school to sign up.
Tuesday 24 th February	3.15-4pm Lego club with Miss Kibblewhite (letters sent home)
Thursday 26 th February	Singing Club Starts 3.15-4pm with Mrs. Crowley (letters sent home)
Friday 27 th February	New AK Mid-year Report out to parents
Tuesday 3 rd March	Parent's Evening 4pm-7pm
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day- children come dressed up and bring favourite book/ poem Parents Evening 3.40-6pm
Friday 6 th March	Years 5 & 6 involved in the Cirencester Mock Trials (all morning)- Good



	luck to both teams, what a great experience, I shall be there to support! Mrs. Voss and Miss Thomas organising via letter.
Tuesday 17 th March	9.10 am. Class 1 assembly to parents/ carers/ Grandparents
Tuesday 24 th March	Class 3 & 4 evening production (save the date- more info to follow)
Wednesday 25 th March	Class 3 & 4 evening production (save the date- more info to follow)
Thursday 26 th March	School Discos organised by FoAKS (more details to follow)
Friday 27 th March	9.00 am. Hero and Heroines Assembly for all
Friday 3 rd July	Advanced notice so that as many of you as possible can come- AK Sports Day will be on this day (more details to follow but for now save the date)

All dates can be found on our website in the calendar. www.akps.org.uk

Some news from Class R

Thinking about our whole school value of thankfulness, Class R wanted to thank their buddies for all the fantastic support they have given them so far this year. They decided to host a Knights and Princesses ball for Class 6. They planned the event themselves, wrote invitations, practised a special dance and cooked lots of delicious treats. On Wednesday afternoon Class R dressed in their fineries, collected their Year 6 buddies and presented them each with a special brooch. They then accompanied them to the ball. Lots of fun, laughter and dancing was had by all, finished off with a special fairytale. Please see the Class R page on the website for more information. It was fantastic and an example of living values in our school.

Thank you so much for your support. Enjoy your half term break and I very much look forward to welcoming you and your children back to start Term 4 on Monday 23rd February.

With very best wishes,

S.L.Saville

Mrs. Saville

Head teacher