



Friday 17th June 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fabulous start to Term 6, our final term of this academic year. We have already had a visit from a storyteller in our outdoor storytelling area, a den building day, an extra special iSing pop concert for the Bishop of Swindon, district sports and we are busy preparing for our Year 5 residential and our amazing AK Sports week.



Team AK Shining Brightly:

Storyteller captivates our children



Wow! I absolutely loved watching the children all sat in awe in our outdoor willow storytelling area as Martin, the visiting storyteller, captivated and engaged them with his fabulous storytelling. You could hear gasps, giggles, singing and the ukulele coming from the willow area and the children and staff have begged me to get him to return again



next Summer! I have already seen the positive impact of this event at play with children modelling storytelling in the area and creating their own stories to tell, wonderful!

iSing Pop concert for the Bishop of Swindon

What a lovely concert! Not only did the children and staff absolutely love working with the iSing pop team to showcase our 7 special songs but the Bishop of Swindon was there and absolutely loved the experience. Bishop Lee left with one of the CDs and has been listening to it in his car ever since. He said the concert was uplifting and he was delighted to have been asked to attend. There were teachers from the local schools there to

encourage them to do iSing pop in their schools, I have already heard from one school who are booking them in which is great. We were the first school in Wiltshire to do iSing pop and I am delighted to encourage more schools to take part in this wonderful opportunity.



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Den Building Day

On Friday we took part in the *Save the Children* Den Building challenge. Thank you to all who donated boxes and resources. The children had a fabulous time working together within teams to create dens in our fabulous outdoors. After they had made their dens, which were very creative indeed! The children were able to eat their lunches inside them and visit each-others den to play during the lunch time. A lot of fun was had by all and

much creativity and compromise was shown. Alongside this the children raised a fabulous £78.11 for *Save the Children* to help children who are in need. I would also like to mention that added to that amount was some pennies kindly raised at home by Freya totally off her own back, which is very thoughtful! What a fabulous initiative. Well done to Miss Igoe for organising this fabulous event for us all!

Class R went on their first ever school trip!

The children were so excited as they set off on their travels to the Cotswold Farm Park this week. On return they told me how much they loved the trip and the staff were desperate to tell me how proud of them they were. Some of them also told me how they fell asleep on the way back because they were 'tired out!' Although, shattered, they still had massive smiles and a great first trip was had by all. Well done lovely Class R and the staff team and helpers who volunteered. I am sure you will hear all about it in the upcoming Class R assembly.

Class R assembly Reminder

Parents of Class R, please be reminded that it is Class R's first ever class assembly this coming Tuesday 9am in the hall. The children will be being very brave and sharing the highlights from their learning this year. I cannot wait to watch them and see how much they have grown. I know the staff and rest of the school (especially their Year 6 Buddies) will be as excited as I am, they are a wonderful class. I look forward to welcoming many of you on Tuesday for this special assembly.

District Sports

55 of our junior children represented our school in District sports last Tuesday. They all did incredibly well many finishing in first, second and third place and really importantly representing the school beautifully. Mrs Brown was proud of them all, we look forward to taking those who have qualified through to area sports on Monday 27th June. My thanks to all of the children who took part for being brilliant, to Mr Brown, the staff and parents who kindly helped at the District sports event. Go team AK!

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We have a beautiful new school bell!



As a Victorian school, we have a lovely old bell to ring each day. Over the years the second bell has become a little worse for wear so Zack and Clarke Manley's Grandad kindly offered to take it away for us to repair. Sadly it was not in any fit state to repair and he was so kind as to send in a special replacement bell which he generously gave to us and it is stunning! So, we now have two wonderful bells to ring every day. A huge thank you from all of us to Zack and Clarke's Grandad, Mr Neil Manley, for his generous gift.

AK Learning Stars Awarded

More children have been working incredibly hard on their 10 tick learning behaviour challenge in order to learn their life time learning stars and wear them proudly in school. So far we have Darcey, Jemima and Kirsten in Year 6, Niamh in Year 4 and now Alexandra and Mia in Class R. We were very interested to see that both reception children and their Year 6 Buddies had earned their stars! This challenge has caused a lot of excitement in school and children are certainly reaching for the stars and aspiring to earn their star. I cannot wait to issue some more stars soon, I know lots of children are close! Who will be next? More information about the stars and how they are earned can be found on our website.



Safety First

I wanted to tell you how proud we are of the children. We do regular fire drill practices to ensure your children are safe in the event of a fire. Today we set a real challenge and blocked one of the main fire exits to see how the children and staff managed this (this could happen in a real fire). The children were super calm, quiet and quick and we had them outside and all accounted for in a record time. The whole school should be really proud of themselves.

AK Eco Council

We have a fabulous eco-council in school initially comprising of Libby, Evelyn, Lucy, Lucas, Archie and James from Class 5. They have been meeting regularly and this week are starting an audit of the school and writing an action plan with me. This week they have been involving lots of children from other classes in the outdoor classroom over lunch time to begin planning and making bird feeders. After school today, Evelyn and her Mum have organised a little sale to raise money for eco club's initiatives in school which they sent out a parent mail about. I believe there will be plants on sale, so bring along your pennies if you would like to buy.

The eco council are certainly reaching for the stars and have accepted my challenge to try and earn the bronze eco award for our school. They will be involving lots of other children from

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across the school in their action plan. I am super proud of them for using their initiative and being so passionate about making a difference to our school with this important environmental club.

AKPS on the BBC Radio Wiltshire

Mr Jackson has made it possible for us to take part in a special radio interview all about Forest school at our school. We recorded on Thursday after school with Year 6 where the children showed Graham Seaman, from BBC Radio Wiltshire how to Make hot chocolate on a campfire, build a den, make a bow & arrows and wreaths. Graham really enjoyed his visit and the children were fabulous teaching him how to do the various activities whilst being interviewed! We will let you know when it is aired which we are looking forward to! So, not only are we appearing in the newspaper, we are also on the radio! Next stop the TV?

KS1 Celebrate the Queen's Birthday!

On Wednesday 8th June Key Stage One had a tea party to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday. Every class had the challenge to decorate the table cloths for the tea party. Class One were responsible for making all of the food and drink. After, the children came together to try a few of the Queen's favourite foods as well as enjoying the sunshine. I was invited



down for a penny sandwich and a drink, I was very impressed to see that the children had even dressed up as police and set up a road way in the Reception outdoor area to Guide the Queen in!

This Term's Christian Value in Focus is...

Creativity- one of our 4 core school values. Please find an excellent resource page on our website to help you support your child with this value at home.

Staffing news...

Congratulations Mr Brown!

We are so happy to let you know that our very own Mr Brown got married to his partner Fleur last weekend and has been on Honeymoon this week. Mr Brown really did not want a fuss but I thought you would like to know and would join us in congratulating him and wishing him a happy future and every happiness in his marriage. I hear on the grapevine that they both had a lovely day and we look forward to seeing all of the photographs when he returns.

Goodbye Mrs Sampson

Sadly, Mrs Sampson, who has been our Breakfast club leader for the past 2 years will be leaving on Monday. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all of her effort and

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hard work in setting up the Breakfast club and getting it established, she has worked incredibly hard over the past 2 years and we are very grateful for all she has done; we will really miss her. We wish Mrs Sampson every luck for her future and are happy that we will still get to see her around the school as one of our parents.

Breakfast Club will now be led by Mrs Morton who has been working as an assistant over the two years and is delighted to be taking over as leader of the club. We welcome Mrs Cooper, who is Mum to Aimee and Freya and is an MDSA at our school already so is known to the children as a member of staff. I know Mrs Cooper is ever so excited about joining the Breakfast club team on Tuesday and working with Mrs Morton. They both have lots of great ideas for the club to ensure it is providing the best it can for our children.

Reports

Annual reports will be with you on Wednesday 13th July. These will be in the same format as last year and will reflect your child's academic attainment, progress and learning behaviours as well as a comment from the class teacher, child and from the Headteacher.

We have recently been externally moderated by county for EYFS (reception) and KS1 (Year 2) so that we know our judgements for this academic year are validated. This moderation confirmed how the end of year expectations have now risen greatly and coupled with the move away from levels, it is more difficult for children to achieve the expected standard this year. Many children who were working above last year are now securely within the expected standard due to the raise in expectations, with only a few children in each year group working at what is called greater depth, really applying their knowledge and broadening. This raise in expectation is the same for all schools, although not all will have been externally moderated as we have been.

We carefully track your children's progress and attainment throughout the year, analysing any gaps in learning where areas have not been fully achieved, or areas where extension is required. As with the targets on the report cards you received in November and March parents' evenings, we will indicate these areas for Maths and English as targets on the annual report so that you are aware of them and can support at home, ready for the next academic year.

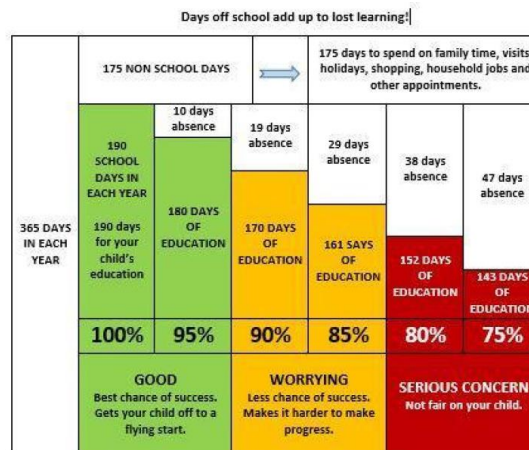
In light of your feedback, when I first joined the school, about being informed of your child's progress and attainment, we have worked really hard to ensure that you now receive reports twice a year at the mid-year point in March and end of year to keep you informed about your child's progress. In addition the report cards with targets which are given at both parents' evenings in November and March ensure you are very clear about what your child's targets are. We hope you agree that you are now better informed about your child's progress and attainment.



Attendance and Punctuality

Please take time to consider the chart below. We are aware that there has been recent media interest in a case where a Local Authority was overruled with regards to a fine. However, I have to remind you that, irrespective of a fine or not, it is against the law to take your children out of school during term time unless it is for an exceptional circumstance as per guidelines from the DfE which we have included within our Attendance policy which can be found on the website.

Holidays during term time will not be authorised only exceptional circumstances are authorised at the Headteacher's discretion. Poor attendance will affect achievement.



The government target for attendance for each child is 97%. This equates to 5 school days off a year. The government has set the threshold of 'persistent absence' at 90% or less. This is approximately 18+ school days off a year. After this point, the Education Welfare Office might become involved. Please consider the above when considering applying to take your child out of school during term time. From September, my new Deputy, Miss Perring will be taking on the new role as Attendance and Punctuality Lead to ensure we are doing our very best as a school to ensure our attendance overall is 97%. This will also be a part of our new school improvement plan so will be in even greater focus than it has been previously. Thank you for your support and cooperation with this.

Next week...

Wednesday until Friday I will be out of school accompanying the Year 5's on their exciting outdoor adventure camp where they will be abseiling down a rock face, caving underground, canoeing on a lake as well as taking part in other fabulous forest school activities planned by Mr Jackson. We are really looking forward to the time with the children and taking our forest school teaching to a real forest!



The week after is sports week, Mr Brown will be writing to you to share the exciting things we have planned for your children and we hope to see many of you at the AK sports morning on **Friday 1st July** with a picnic lunch afterwards if you can stay and join us. I personally cannot wait to meet our visiting Olympian Harry George Owen and see the children get so much from the diverse range of sports we have planned for them.

The evening of Friday 1st July is our very first Year 4 residential and overnight forest school camp at school, we are ever so excited!

I am very proud of the strong partnership we have in our school between parents/carers and the school, thank you for your fantastic support,

S.L.Saville

Mrs. Saville
Head teacher

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

Date	Event
Sun 19 th June	3-5pm Church fete - Church Walk
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
Wed 22 nd	Classes 1 & 2 trip to Living Forest
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
Wed 6 th	10.00am Coffee morning for Sept 2016 Reception children and parents
Fri 8 th	Fairford Air Show visit for Years 2,3 & 4
Sat 9 th	Evening - FoAKS Annual Ball
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
Wed 20 th	Moving up day
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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