



Friday 22nd July 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Team AK Shining Brightly:



I write the final newsletter of this academic year and would like to share with you what I wrote for the Ashton Keynes village newsletter:

### Village newsletter for August 2016

What a fabulous year we have had at Ashton Keynes C of E Primary School! We have had so many special events and highlights throughout this academic year that have enabled our children to have a stimulating and exciting high quality education, full of a wide range of experiences. Along the way we have made important links with the community of Ashton Keynes through performing with the village choir, providing an iSing Pop concert for the community, providing a Christmas market and supporting with village and church events such as the fete. Links with the community are so important to us; we want the village to feel proud of their school.



Here are a just a few recent highlights from our moments to shine:

RIAT- We took 92 children aged 6-9 and 17 adults to the Airshow! We were delighted to be there to see Prince William, Kate and George and to get a special wave for our school. We also got a wave from the red arrows as they took off for an amazing display. The

children thought they saw them make a star formation, especially for our school!

A Dinosaur visited our school! As part of Class R's topic on Dinosaurs, they had a special delivery of rather large eggs which they nurtured and finally out popped a mini dinosaur. As if that wasn't exciting enough, on a normal day in school, we were visited by a giant dinosaur which made all of the children gasp with excitement!



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The whole school have been set a unique challenge to try to earn a special learning star. The sparkly star badges are achieved by the children achieving a ten point criteria for learning behaviours. The adults in our school can also earn their star by significantly contributing to our children's learning. Here is a picture of Izzy in year 2 with Reverend Shirley proudly showing the stars which they have both been awarded. It is an absolute delight to

see how happy children and adults are when their time has come to earn their stars!



Sports week 2016 was another incredibly successful week where we provide our children with lots of different sports whilst making connections with sports groups in the local and wider community. Some of these include: Golf, Archery, Wheelchair Basketball, Cricket, Smoothie Bike, Zumba, Dance, Martial Arts, Uni-hoc, table tennis, sports leaders, a visiting Olympian and Common Wealth Games Gold medallist and much more...

We are now a forest school and provide excellent

outdoor education for all of the pupils in our school.

We recently invited Graham Seaman from BBC Radio Wiltshire into our school and the children taught him

to make a bow and arrow, a den, some hot chocolate made safely on a camp fire and a head wreath. You can hear the interviews if you visit our website and follow the links

<http://www.akps.org.uk/class-6-to-star-on-bbc-radio-wiltshire/>



I feel incredibly proud of my pupils, staff and Governors who all work so hard and share in our vision to 'Shine bright and reach for the stars'. Since I have been Headteacher here, we have certainly been reaching for the stars and have had a rigorous and rapid time of school improvement which has led to us achieving our best results to date. Across our whole school, we have this year seen some outstanding results, which we have all reached far to achieve. This success is due to the enormous amount of hard work and dedication of our talented staff and pupils, and the important

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support given by their families. It is teamwork: as a whole school community, we all aspire and we all share high expectations. We will continue to reach for the stars and maintain these excellent standards and we will strive to continue to shine very brightly in our community.

### **Samba Success**

We were treated to a special performance from Classes 1 and 2 after their afternoon Samba music workshop on Tuesday. I absolutely loved the carnival masks they had all made, they were so creative! The performance was really impressive and the children and parents that were there to share in it certainly enjoyed themselves.

### **New Class R Induction**

It has been so super to see all of our new Reception children coming to visit the school before they start 'big' school in September. Already they are making a good transition into school and I have really enjoyed visiting them and seeing them calmly engaging in activities and enjoying their first experiences of school. I have enjoyed watching the current Year 5's as they are keen to assume their roles as Year 6 Buddies and very keen to choose their Buddy!

### **Film Stars at AKPS!**

Wow, how fabulous did all our children and staff look at our film dress down day! We did a little share and celebration in assembly to see what effort everyone had made! Thank you for letting your children take part and for raising money for Wiltshire Air Ambulance. Thanks to Clarke and George J in Year 6 for a fabulous idea! We had lots of Harry Potter characters, James Bond, Hunger Games, super heroes, storm troopers, bright yellow minions and a rather peculiar looking over-sized oompa-loompa! I apologise if I gave any of you a fright with my green hair and strange outfit, I certainly got some strange looks on my long journey into school! I don't think I have ever attended a finance meeting with Batman, Puss in Boots, Willy Wonka and being dressed as an Oompa-loompa, it did make us smile!

### **Holidays- think before you book!**

All term dates are available on our website, including TD (Teacher Development) Days so that you can carefully plan your holidays to avoid any being taken during term time- mistakes in bookings will NOT be authorised as holidays should not be taken in term-time. As Headteacher, I carefully consider exceptional requests for absence on an individual basis and in line with our attendance policy, which can be found on our website. I must remind you that from September each child's target for attendance will be 97% as set by the Government. This allows for reasonable occasional illness. This starts from Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September and lasts for the academic year. We will inform you of your child's attendance on request, on the mid and annual reports and will telephone you if we are becoming concerned about your child's

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attendance or notice regular days of the week when they are off, as required by the local authority. We need to all work together to achieve this target next year, in order to give your children the best educational opportunities that they are legally entitled to. I will be very pleased to give out more 100% attendance merits at the end of each term next year. Thank you for your support with this.

### **Arrival of new TEAM AK Sports kit!**

For those of you who were able to attend Heroes and Heroines on Tuesday, we got to unveil the new Team AK sports kit which was purchased with your fundraising from the school marathon. It looks tremendously smart and will make our children feel proud to be part of the AK Team as we compete against other schools next year. Thank you so much to Claire Clark who worked tirelessly to get the kit together, thank you for your contribution and to CB Slade for their sponsorship. I cannot wait to see them all turn up to the first competition in the kit next term!

### **French and Science Specialist Teaching**

I am delighted to inform you that from September, all classes will receive specialist in-class music teaching on a Wednesday afternoon from Mrs Crowley whilst Mrs Serle teaches in Class R. Also Classes 1-6 will receive some specialist French teaching throughout the year and a free lunchtime and after-school French club will be available on Monday's from Enzo's (current Class 4 pupil) Mum. She is fabulous and has kindly volunteered her time to our children every Monday next year. I will write to you about this to explain the timetable in September.

### **Thank you to FOAKS and volunteers**

We thoroughly appreciate all of the effort and support our FoAKS team give to our school, all volunteers work so hard and have provided our children with so much, we are very lucky! School funding does not stretch very far and so many of the special extras that we provide for your children have been made possible by FOAKS. In addition, the high quality events organised for our children and parents are exceptional. I am incredibly grateful to Kim, Sarah and Sonja and the whole of FOAKS team and I thank all who have given their time freely, it really is appreciated. I know in September, the current FOAKS chairs and treasurer will be coming to the end of their time in post and we are actively seeking for new FOAKS chairperson and treasurer. I would like to encourage people to put themselves forward for this. I get to work closely with the FOAKS team and it really is great to get to work together and provide wonderful things for our school. Thank you!



### **Ashton Keynes Flower and Produce Show 2016**

I am absolutely delighted to be invited to be the guest who presents the prizes at the show on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2016. I would really like children from the school to get involved so I can see them at the show! The categories are really lovely and you might like to get started on these over the Summer.

Pre-school- Paint a Picture of the Queen

Years R,1,2 and 3- A Self Portrait

Years 4,5 and 6 Handwritten and decorated extract from Shakespeare -you can show off our new cursive handwriting!

I really hope some of your children can take part, it will be lovely to see them there and to see the school supporting this community event. Many thanks.

### **Moving up Day**

As I walked around school on Monday morning, I did so with a big smile on my face as I watched so many keen to please and enthusiastic children as they visited their new teachers, teaching assistants and classrooms for September. Lots of children told me how much they're looking forward to next year and enjoyed the morning. It was lovely to welcome 4 new children who will be joining us in September Maximus and his sister Estelle and Samantha and her sister Melissa. In addition, it was fabulous to be joined by our new Deputy Head, Miss Perring and I am glad many of you got to meet her on the playground. Each class has been given a Summer brochure with a few tasks to keep them busy over the Summer should they wish to take part. I look forward to seeing what they produce! The staff all reported how lovely their new classes are and how excited they are for September.

Yesterday we said a heartfelt Goodbye to Miss Boase who leaves us to go travelling around the world and to our wonderful Year 6 class who leave us to continue their educational journeys in their chosen Secondary schools. We are super proud of each and every one of them and will miss them all. They are more than ready for this next step in their journey and we will look forward to hearing how they continue to shine brightly in the future.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your fabulous support and wish you all a very lovely Summer break, may the weather be kind to us all and I look forward to welcoming everybody safely back to school on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September.

With my kindest regards,

*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.**

# ASHTON KEYNES

Church of England VC Primary School

SHINE BRIGHT ★ REACH FOR THE STARS



Date	Event
Thurs 1 <sup>st</sup> Sept	School restarts for 2016/17
Sat 10 <sup>th</sup>	FoAKS Event
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> /Tues 20 <sup>th</sup>	Life Bus in school
Tues 27 <sup>th</sup>	School photographs

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INVESTORS IN PEOPLE



Healthy School