



Friday 8th May

Dear Parents and Carers,

Wow, what a fantastic week we have had here at Team AK! I wanted to share a few of the highlights with you before letting you know about the plans for next week, our wonderful new Word Awareness week!

Superhero challenge in Class R

Well, a great big smile was put on my face on Wednesday morning when all of class R and the staff arrived dressed as superheroes for their special superhero WOW day. They had an amazing time flying through the sky (photos for the website shortly), completing their secret mission to find and rescue Suzie snake who had been captured by the Golden Batman (this is what the children decided). Along the way they took part in challenges involving infra-red rays, finding clues, building tower blocks and an assault course. Suzie was eventually found safely in the PE shed! The superheroes were successful- what a team!

Class 1 loved Farm to Fork

Class 1 were bursting with tales to tell me about how much they loved their trip to the farm, making pizzas and finding out where all of the food comes from. As expected they were beautifully behaved and we are really proud of them all. The smiles on their faces said it all!

Class 2 shining brightly on their school trip

As you may be aware, our Class 2 children also have their SATs test at this time of year. These have all been done smoothly and happily without any fuss at all. The children enjoyed the tasks alongside their daily learning timetable. We are really proud of what a super bunch of learners they are and how they really embrace their learning. I know they also loved their recent trip 'Bugs and Puzzles' and were keen to tell us all about how they loved making sculptures and solving puzzles together.

Class 3 & 4 Electric circuit game challenge

There was certainly a buzz and a few flashing lights this week as the children of Classes 3 & 4 worked together to design and make circuit boards for their interactive quiz games. I was tested fully on my superhero and pop knowledge as well as my times table, making sure I made the lights flash and the buzzers sound. The children concluded I need to brush up on my mine craft knowledge! They had an excellent time working together to learn about electrical circuits in such a fun and collaborative way.

Class 5 writing to the Prime Minister

Class 5 have been really excited about 'Send my friend to school' which is a campaign which hopes to boost numbers of children in primary schools around the world; creating opportunities for children to attend school across the world. We have been writing to Mr. Cameron to ask him to support this campaign. Worship council has planned and led worship with the whole school to raise awareness for this campaign. Watch this space! More will be reported on our school website.

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Year 6 Shining Brightly

We were really proud of all of our Year 6 pupils this week whilst completing their SATs tests. The manner in which they all approached the tests, their behaviour and stunning attitude throughout the week really did impress us all; they certainly shone brightly this week. It was fabulous to see them all happy during the week. I believe the fabulous flapjacks they had baked in class to eat each day, plus the cakes and other treats helped put a smile on their faces, but also the fabulous way the staff and parents supported the children so that they were looking forward to the week, positive and keen to share all they have learned this year. We have to wait a while for their official results, but whatever they may be, we are so impressed with you all and proud of you for your fabulous attitude to learning, well done team 6!

World Awareness Week

The week has finally arrived and we are all really looking forward to it! The staff are ready with their plans for the week. Each class will become a country where the children will visit throughout the week. The children will travel around the world with their buddies so 7 new classes of buddies will be formed for this week only. On Monday your children will arrive at school as usual in school uniform and will meet in AK Airways with their passports, be issued their boarding passes and set off around the world. They will visit 2 countries each day, where they will learn about the country, where it is, what language they speak, try some arts and crafts from the country, music and food. There will also be a special hour long cooking workshop for your child where they cook with Kitchen Club to make an Indian or Chinese meal. This opportunity is kindly funded by FoAKS, using some of the money they raise from events. Even breakfast club are on board with the round the world theme with each day having a breakfast option from one of the countries your children will be visiting!

I hope that your children will come home buzzing with excitement and keen to tell you all about the countries they have visited and show you what they have made and learned. It is also a fantastic way of enabling the children to spend time in every classroom and get to know all of the staff across the school. The countries are:

- Classroom R- China
- Classroom 1- Indonesia
- Classroom 2- France
- Classroom 3- Australia
- Classroom 4- Brazil
- Classroom 5- India
- Classroom 6- Italy

You might like to continue the learning at home now you know where they will be visiting throughout the week. At the end of the week, you are invited into school at 2.30pm for a sharing assembly where the children will share some highlights from the week with you and I will also present some merits for the end of term.

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Dressing Down Day on Friday 22nd May

At the end of the World Awareness week please can the children wear their own clothes and bring 50p for the charity below and if they wear a coloured top, can they know that colour in another language to share during registration that day.

Here is where the money for dressing down day will go: It is estimated that about 10% of the world's population do not have access to clean water. As part of our World Awareness Week, Kathryn Gray, chair of the Guatemalan Families Association (Reg. 1105241), will be talking to us in assembly on Thursday about the importance of clean water and how not having it can affect the lives of people in so many different ways. We're looking forward to learning more about this global problem, as well as hearing about the visits the Gray family made to a village and a school with improved sanitation during a recent trip to Guatemala. The money donated for dressing down day will support projects that provide clean piped water, safer stoves, and improved hygiene and nutrition in rural communities in the highlands of Guatemala.

After the Sharing Assembly on Friday afternoon, Kathryn and Lucas Gray will be on the playground selling plants, biscuits, and books in aid of the projects.

AK pupils thinking of others

I have been really impressed with how our pupils have been thinking of others recently, wanting to raise money for various charities by making and selling things. Lots of children have approached me and I have said that when they are ready, we can arrange for the teams of pupils to have a table for 15 minutes before the end of the school day and set up their table with their goods to sell and the name of their chosen charity. I will agree a date with the children for a Friday at 3pm after half term and put this date onto a newsletter and the calendar so you can bring along your pennies should you wish to buy from them and help them raise money. The kinds of things they are making include bracelets, loom bands and badges, all items which take time and care preparing which is incredibly thoughtful.

Absence - Important Information

The Department for Education has announced that the threshold for Persistent Absence will reduce from 15% to 10% from September 2015. The current persistent absence (PA) threshold, of around 15%, means a pupil has to be absent from school for around 28 days or more to meet the classification. From the beginning of the next academic year in September 2015 the government will reduce the PA threshold from 15% to 10% which equates to 19 school days absence". Whilst it cannot be avoided if a child is unwell, please have this in mind when asking the school for exceptional leave of absence. The overall idea behind this is to support the child's education as missing any time from school will have a negative effect on their progress, therefore by the Government insisting on this, they are ensuring that children are in school as much as possible. Thank you.

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Lateness in the morning

The bell is rung on the playground at 8.50am and children then have registration at 8.55 ready for worship at 9am. If your child is late it has a real impact on the start of the day, as the register is completed before worship so that straight afterwards children can get straight into learning with no time wasted. Obviously there is the rare occasion when it cannot be helped and we totally understand, but persistent lateness is unhelpful to the school and your child as it hinders the smooth start to the school day. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

Missing pair of shoes

On Friday 8th May Liam in year 3 left his shoes behind after multi-sports club and has not been able to find them since. They are black Clarks boys shoes size 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ G. The shoes are named on the inside label. If found please return to class 3. I have in my possession a pair of Clarks black boys shoes 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ G if these belong to anybody's child, they could have got muddled up? Thank you very much.

Half-term event in Malmesbury Library

Space Tales - join author and illustrator D. J. McGhee for an exciting sci-fi themed event with storytelling and art activities.

Children aged 4-11 years are welcome to join in the fun which will include space stories, alien art and comic book creations.

Wednesday, 27th May 3-4.30pm , Malmesbury Library, Cross Hayes. This is a free event. Please book your place at the library. Tel. 01666 823611

Dates for your diaries:

22 nd May 2.30pm	DRESSING DOWN DAY - know your colour in another language 2.30pm in hall World Awareness Week Sharing assembly with Heroes and Heroines incorporated. We will share some highlights form the week with you and children will have their time to shine with Golden Headteacher merits. End of Term 5
Tuesday 2 nd June	School reopens to pupils after half term - Teacher Training Day on Monday 1 st June.

All dates can be found on our website in the calendar. www.akps.org.uk- please ensure you have them all!

Thank you for your support,

S.L.Saville

Mrs. Saville

Head teacher