



Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you enter our hall you will see our new display that the whole school have made with Mrs Bobe's daughter, Jemma, to represent our school motto: Shine Bright, Reach for the Stars. The Year 6 worked as leaders to teach groups of children across the school different art techniques to use on a hand which is displayed on the board, reaching for the stars which children made at home as part of Oliver (Year 6) 'The Whisperer' pupil newsletter challenge. A true Team AK effort! More exciting school vision displays will be appearing around the school soon.



### World Awareness Week Wonders

I am delighted that our new World Awareness week was so well received! There has been an amazing buzz of learning and excitement across the school all week and I really hope it has continued at home, with your children telling you all about their time at school and what they have learned and experienced this week. Visitors to the school have commented on the buzz of learning and purpose especially in this week approaching half term and after the Year 6 SATs week.



I would like to express my thanks to all those who made the week possible and added special sections to it. Thanks to my staff for the fabulous workshops they provided in each country for the children and for their enthusiasm; to Breakfast Club for providing some breakfast foods from around the world; to Cygnet catering for the fabulous range of tropical fruits they offered the children on

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Thursday, to Kitchen Club for the awesome cooking workshops they provided for the children, to Tesco for donating over £135 of cooking ingredients to help our school and to your wonderful children for being so keen to learn and work with their buddies so beautifully all week, they are absolutely brilliant.



This week has been a success on many levels. The children have learned about 7 countries in the world: geographical information, facts, languages, food tasting, dancing and creative arts and crafts. They have experienced a cookery workshop cooking Indian or Chinese food with many trying new foods too. We hope they came home keen for you to try their food and inspired to cook with you.

The children got to travel around the world with their buddies all week, meeting different teachers and teaching assistants and working in 7 different classrooms which will certainly help with their transition up to the next class in September. All classes got to benefit from using the new Reception outdoor learning area which was brilliant to share this fantastic resource. The children had insight into a real airport from one of our teaching assistants who is a flight attendant, and each day we met at AK airport and set off with our passports. Breakfast Club changed their menu to provide breakfasts from around the world and Cygnet provided a stunning range of tropical fruits for the children to try on Thursday lunchtime, which was a big hit with the children! At the end of each day the children quietly reflected on their day's travels and the comments were incredibly positive. As a result of this all round positive feedback, we plan to do this again next year in the same week in May before the half term to explore 7 new countries which we can all look forward to.

### Exciting news... Sports week

We have another exciting week to look forward to... AK Sports week for the week commencing 29<sup>th</sup> June. This is different to World week as the children's learning will mainly be based in their classes with a focus on health education and awareness. However, throughout the day they will be timetabled to experience a range of different sports and activities from external providers including: martial arts, tennis, wheelchair basket-ball, fencing and Zumba. On Tuesday morning, we will be visited by a very special visitor, an elite athlete who has been selected to compete in Rio in the Olympic Games 2016! More details on this to follow after half term. The week ends on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July with the annual

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sports day during the morning, which I hope you are all able to join us for. You can bring a picnic and have lunch with us 12.15-1pm. At 1pm on this day, the whole of Ashton Keynes community is invited to join us in trying to beat a Guinness world record. To do this, we need to get over 450 people hopping simultaneously on one leg for 10 seconds. We are keen to give it a go, aim to achieve it, but the taking part and community spirit is the most important part. The children have made a poster and a short film to go out to the local community. Please can you practise with your children to hop on the same leg for 10 seconds and try to get as many people as you possibly can to join us on 3<sup>rd</sup> July. Together, we can enjoy reaching for the stars, by taking part in this community challenge and try to get AK into the Guinness Book of Records so that we can shine brightly to the world!

### **Roll up, roll up, the circus is coming to AK! Message from FoAKS:**

Thursday 18th June sees the return of the much loved Happy's Circus.

This wonderful, family circus will be performing in a Big Top tent on the school field.

Gates open at 4.30pm when the BBQ will be sizzling away, there will be a range of refreshments and there will be traditional circus games and stalls. The main show starts at 6pm. Tickets to the show will be on sale after half term on Wednesdays and Fridays in the playground.

### **Competition time!**

To win a free family meal at the circus from the BBQ, all your child has to do is design a front cover for our circus programme. Named entries should be handed into your class teacher by Monday 8th June when we'll pick a winner from KS1 and KS2.

### **Welcome Back to Mrs Mee**

After half term we welcome back Mrs. Mee from her maternity leave. She will be working in Class 1 on a Monday and Tuesday while Miss Langer teaches the class on a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday until the end of the term. On a Wednesday, Mrs Mee will be working across the school with groups of pupils and individuals. Welcome back Mrs Mee, we are really looking forward to your return.

### **Dates for your diaries:**

Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	School reopens to pupils after half term and Teacher training day on Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June.
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> June	Deadline for named Circus poster competition entries to Class teachers.
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> June	Class 4 visit to Cricklade Meadow - more details to follow
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> June	3pm - AK Church fete - Church Walk (or village hall if wet)
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> June	9am - Class 2 assembly Class R trip to Manor Farm 6pm - Reception 2015 new parents meeting
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> June	Happy's Circus - tickets on sale on Wednesdays and Fridays in the playground or through the school office if you cannot get to the playground.
TD Days for next academic	1 <sup>st</sup> September 2015, 21 <sup>st</sup> October 2015, 12 <sup>th</sup> February 2016 - two more dates to be arranged.

All dates can be found on our website in the calendar. [www.akps.org.uk](http://www.akps.org.uk) - please ensure you have them all!



### **Changes**

After half term, I will be writing to share with you information about our new end of year report format and confirm class teacher structures for next academic year. In addition I will unveil plans for a new lottery funded outdoor classroom which will be happening in the Summer. There will also be some internal refurbishment taking place as our school hall floor has a necessary overhaul to repair it from previous damage. Also, we will be having some necessary development to our school internally as Class 4 has a refurbishment to integrate the group room next door and develop the learning area to comfortably accommodate our classes above 25 as they come through. There are plans for the school entrance area to be smartened up and a new parent seating area created. The upstairs area will be re-organised and an intervention room for pupils and staff will be created in one of the rooms. All of these are plans at a low cost, will creatively use the space we have to improve our school, whilst making the best of the fantastic Victorian building we have. All of these are exciting plans, which I look forward to seeing put into place.

### **Message from the school office**

Please can we remind parents to phone rather than e-mail the office with requests or messages. The office is often very busy and e-mails may not be checked for a couple of hours or may get lost among the many received every day - meaning important messages may be missed. School absence, medical and lunch order forms are all available on the website under 'Resources' if needed. To be able to provide you with the best service please ring or pop in - we are friendly and don't bite!

### **Smartening up for September**

Please be reminded that the new school uniform list for September is now on our website so you can refer to it if you start uniform shopping early. Please be assured that wearing old logo jumpers is totally acceptable until your child is in a position to need to replace the jumper, it is expected that it will be a gradual phasing in process. I am really looking forward to seeing how smart the school looks in September with this uniform change including during PE time when the children only wear their house colour t-shirt and navy shorts/skorts. I am already incredibly proud of our school, but being smarter with our uniform will make us shine even more brightly. In addition, ensuring attendance is high (above the governments 90% expectation from September) with a rigorous monitoring system in place to discourage pupils arriving late and after registration time, will also be high on our priority list and contribute to improving the smart, punctual values of our school.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your amazing support and wish you a happy half term break and I look forward to welcoming you all back on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June as we enter term 6 together.

Kind regards,

*S.L.Saville*

Mrs. Saville, Head teacher