



Friday 17th July

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the final newsletter of this academic year!

It is hard to believe that this school year has only two days left, from my perspective the time has flown by. This year has been one which all of us in Team AK can all feel proud of; it is an immense privilege to be the Headteacher of this school.

AK Shining Brightly

There have been a lot of changes this year and a rigorous plan of school improvement. I am so impressed with how the team have embraced the changes and we have all worked hard together to make a difference to our school. All of the areas of the school improvement plan have been achieved and staff and Governors are already working hard on the next plan, which I will share with you in September. So many great things have happened in school this year and I think we can all see how brightly we are shining. I will summarise in more detail, but I would like to share the exciting news that in just a year, we have really improved as a school in all of the areas where we are judged nationally: our EYFS national results, our Year 1 & 2 National phonics results, our Key Stage 1 results and maintained high results in Key Stage 2. Internally, progress rates have improved in all other years which are not reported nationally. We are absolutely delighted with these results, which show the school is really moving forward. Really importantly, the children are happy and enjoying the exciting new opportunities and challenges that are coming their way and there is so much more for us all to look forward to in the future- well done Team AK!

I would like to thank the staff for all their hard work, support and determination to go the extra mile. I would also like to thank all of you who for making me feel so welcome in my first year and for all the support you give your children and the school, the partnership is really appreciated. I am thankful for a fantastic team of Governors for their continued support and shared passion to achieve the best for this school. Also to the FoAKS team and parent helpers who have given so much to the school, it is really appreciated. To Holy Cross Church and Open the Book team for their continued support of the school. Finally, I would really like to say an enormous thank you and well done to the children who are absolute stars and are the centre of all decisions we make and the reason we are all here. Here is a summary of what the children have been busy doing to this term:

R Class R have had a fun filled final term learning about life under the sea, farms and pirates. We have had visits from children who will be part of the new Class R, enjoyed a variety of sports during the whole school sports week, and have been making the most of our protective shelter during the recent hot weather.





The highlight of our term was going on two class trips in two weeks! And both to farms! The first was to Down Ampney farm where we enjoyed the Co-operative 'Farm to Fork' experience. Not only did we make our own pizzas from scratch but we also got to sit in a tractor's wheel, planted sunflower seeds, helped with some watering, saw an owl box, spotted deer's hoof prints and rabbit poo and for some of us it was the first time on a coach! Wow!

Our second trip was to the Cotswold Farm Park where we... deep breath...went on a tractor ride, handled chicks, stroked rabbits and guinea pigs, built dens, saw a cow milking demonstration, watched sheep being sheared, ate lunch, played on the play equipment, fed goats and finally the best bit (for the grown-ups at least!) was meeting Adam Henson himself!

Here is what the children thought...

"I liked seeing the animals, I fed the sheep" Eva

"We made a den" George S

"I liked feeding the sheep and the goats. Me and Lily fed them" Isobel



1 Our topic this term has been 'the seaside' the children have had fun exploring the Pacific and Atlantic oceans and making tropical fish out of clay. "I liked painting fish because of all the colours were really bright," William Fletcher. We have learned about why some oceans are warmer than others and the effect of the equator on the world's temperature. We have enjoyed sports week, particularly the wheelchair basketball and Zumba and were able to design and make a smoothie which tied in with our work on healthy eating and the importance of exercise. "I liked wheelchair basketball because you could go fast," said Matthew Dyson. We have submitted stories for a writing competition, demonstrating our writing skills and writing stories about a dog that had lost its wag or writing about a new dinosaur. Abigail Claridge stated "I liked writing the story about a dog." As the weather has been so nice this term we have even enjoyed reading outside in the warm weather.





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Class 2 have enjoyed their topic, 'Beside the Seaside'. They have been busy learning about, and locating, British seaside resorts, and the way in which they have changed over the years. The children found the idea of bathing machines particularly strange! They also found out about human and physical features. In English we looked at, and read, play scripts, so that the children could write their own Punch and Judy show. We were all entertained when the children acted them out in small groups. In ICT the children made short films detailing a day in the life of a famous explorer, using home made props. Everyone enjoyed the World Awareness, and Sports Weeks.

Max - I enjoyed Sports Week when we did fencing because we looked like aliens!

Tom - I really liked making Sydney Opera House in Australia during Round the World week.

Ethan - I loved dancing at the talent show. I felt really proud of myself, and everyone else. It was such fun.

Polly - It was great riding the smoothie bike.



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Wow what a fantastic final term we have had doing our Meadows project and some forest schools work too! Here is what the children thought:

Aoife "I liked building the Stone Age dens because it was really fun. So was cooking the break on the fire"

Grace "I've really liked moving up levels in Rainbow Maths"

William "I enjoyed the Stone Age den building and trying to make sparks to start a fire"

Rohan "I enjoyed the den building even though my group's den didn't go very well I still enjoyed it!"

Amy "I liked learning about plants and what they actually do because I didn't know this"

Oscar "I enjoyed designing a pond creature in computing using Publisher"

Thomas G "I loved sports week and I got soaking in the Aqua Challenge!"

Charley "I enjoyed trying to make seeds that would float in Science"

Scarlett "This year I really enjoyed computer coding using Scratch"





Teddy "I enjoyed writing stories, especially my alien story"

Liam "I enjoyed Sports Week, especially the Wheelchair Basketball. I kept going round in circles"

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Class 4 have had a whirlwind of a last term, our topic has been 'Walk the timeline UG!' this was based on the Stone Age. The children had lots of fun finding out about the Stone Age and



how people's lives would have changed within the Stone Age period. This was topped off with a fabulous afternoon of building shelters and cooking break on camp fires. The children and adults thoroughly enjoyed this afternoon with Mr Jackson. 'Can we do this all the time' was just one of the comments made by several of the children. The children have created some fabulous cave paintings showing their understanding of what would have

been important for people living in the Stone Age.

Class 4 were very lucky to be invited to Cricklade meadow, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust put on a superb day despite the cold weather and it was brilliant to see all of the children running about in the open meadow and really getting to grips with nature. We have since planted sunflowers back in school and are hoping that this will bloom beautifully over the summer.





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This term has been an action packed term for Year 5. Cromer was brilliant. Some our highlights were seeing the seals and the peregrine falcons. Here are some words we thought summed up our views on Cromer: superb, terrific, cool and fun! We've really enjoyed learning about the life of William Shakespeare and writing a biography about him. We've loved acting in Shakespeare Rocks.



"I thought Shakespeare Rocks was amazing and great fun. Everyone was involved." Holly

"I loved my costume" - Harrison

"I liked auditioning and taking part." Amber



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On 8th June, Years 5 and 6 went off on a residential trip to Cromer in Norfolk, where we stayed for four nights. While we were there, we visited Norwich cathedral where we dressed up as monks, went to Cromer museum and climbed the tall tower at Cromer church. As well as this, we visited the Henry Blogg museum, where we learnt about one of his most famous lifeboat rescues, went to the lifeboat station and visited Seal Island and Blakeney Point. It was an amazing experience which we will remember forever.

We all loved the school's first sports week, especially the different sports we tried out. Our class favourites were wheelchair basketball, the smoothie bike challenge and Zumba. In addition to this, we all felt very lucky to meet an Olympian - Tom Parsons.



More recently, we have worked with Year 5 to produce an amazing production called 'Shakespeare Rocks!' We've worked in a team to make props and scenery, spent a while perfecting the songs and our lines and have had to listen carefully to stage directions so that our performances were as good as they possibly could be.

In summary, this term has been jam packed with lots of exciting events and





even though we are moving on, we will always remember the fun times we have had at our primary school!

Exciting news

Finally I can unveil our plans for the outside area. After many hours of work by Kathryn Gray and the previous Headteacher, Mrs Nicholas, during last academic year, a lottery grant was approved so that an outdoor classroom can be built. This year, once the grant came in, Kathryn Gray, Mr Tarr and myself have been working incredibly hard to design and locate a building which would suit the needs of our new school vision. The Parish council have approved the building and we are just awaiting the final approval from Wiltshire planning. Over the summer the foundations and base are being prepared for the building which will arrive during the first week in September. It will be an octagonal building made of wood so it works with our natural environment. It will contain seating and desks and a blackboard and be located on the field, by the children's play equipment. It will be used for all outdoor learning, including forest schools, which we will be starting next year. It will also be used for art projects, music, sport lesson input and for the community. We will be organising working parties to help put in beds for plants around the building along with mosaic workshops, we will contact you with more details of these once we are ready.

Lunch times changes from September

Lunchtimes will be changing from September from 12.15-1.15pm every day to maximise the morning learning time. Apart from this, the school day will remain unchanged.

The new uniform starts from September, please see our website for a reminder. If you are using up uniform your old style uniform, (ie grey skirts and old logo tops) this is fine to begin with, but please replace with the new colours. Please can I ask that no sky blue polo shorts are worn and no black trousers or skirts from the start. I understand the old logo uniform and some grey skirts to begin with, but gradually these should fade out. Many thanks for your support with making our school smart and our pupils proud to wear the uniform.

Thank you

A big thank you from the Guatemalan Families Association for raising £177 for them in recent fundraising during World Awareness Week.

Despite their being two more days left of this academic year, may I take this opportunity to wish you and your children a safe and happy Summer break and I look forward to welcoming you all back refreshed and raring to go on Wednesday 3rd September. To those of you who have children who are moving on I wish you and your children the very best for the future.



Kindest regards and thank you!

S.L.Saville
Mrs. Saville
Head teacher

Reminder:

| Date | Event |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Tuesday 21 st July | 11am Year 6 Leavers Assembly for parents 1.30pm Rounders match for Y6 in the afternoon |
| Tuesday 21 st July | Dress Down day - 50p donation for Prader-Willi Syndrome |