



Friday 10th November 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Team AK Shining Brightly:

AKPS are in the top 10% of all schools nationally!

We are delighted to announce that we are in the top 10% of all schools nationally for our progress data KS2 2017. We were in the top 10% for reading and Maths last year but now are up there for all 3 areas which is excellent. I have reported that we are well above national for our attainment but progress measures the distance the children have travelled from their starting points, thus showing the progress they have made at our school. This is excellent news to share and I hope you feel proud of your school, we certainly do! Well done to the whole of Team AK, thank you to my passionate and dedicated staff team and our excellent pupils who are real ambassadors for learning!

Year 6 Sports Leaders shining

We have been super impressed by the newly appointed pupil sports captains and leaders in Year 6. They have been putting their training into action by planning and leading lunchtime sports skills sessions for our pupils. Mrs Tanner and I went out to observe them and were blown away by the quality of the session and the level of professionalism with which they delivered the session. The children who took part were clearly engaged and enjoying their sporting skills sessions. It was excellent to see them awarding merits in time to shine assembly to the children in their sessions who they had seen trying hard, persevering or challenging themselves. Well done!

Success for Team AK in recent sport events

We have had so many sporting events taking place after school and sometimes in the afternoons. Mr Tanner has been making sure he has been keeping us on our sporting toes by entering as many different events as possible so that many children can represent the school and take part. We have had so much success from these events and I am so happy to hear how children have been trying their hardest, shining as a team, having success but also representing their school proudly and brilliantly. I have been presenting some gold, silver and bronze medals and certificates lately too- well done everyone and thank you to Mr Tanner and the parent helpers. Mr Tanner will do a sport update for the website soon to give more detail on the outcomes of these excellent events.

Key stage 2

This is provisional data for 2016/2017.

Progress in reading, writing and maths

[▶ Help with progress scores](#)

	Reading Explore data in detail	Writing Explore data in detail	Maths Explore data in detail
School progress score	+5.36	+5.17	+4.33
Confidence interval	+2.87 to +7.85	+2.75 to +7.58	+2.08 to +6.58
Well above national average (about 10% of schools in England)			
Above national average (about 10% of schools in England)			
Average (about 60% of schools in England)			
Below national average (about 10% of schools in England)			
Well below national average (about 10% of schools in England)			



Life Education Bus feedback

The children loved our annual visit of the life education bus. I wanted to relay the wonderful feedback that we received from the providers. They both praised the children and staff and said what a credit the children were to the school. Everyone was so beautifully mannered and incredibly engaged and how impressed the team were with our school. Well done children and staff! Thank you to FOAKS for funding this annual initiative through fundraising at events like the AKPS Fireworks.

Author visit – truly inspirational! Children's author, Debi Evans visited our school recently and the children and staff were enthralled by her story telling and the impact upon the children has been instant; we are so happy! She engaged the children and staff



with stories of her dog Rolo and the magical adventures he gets up to in her

books. She also shared the magic tales of Dragon and History from her books as well as introducing the children to magical Dragon

ore! I have kept a little bit of this in my office should anybody feel they need any of this, it is very special indeed.



Class 6 promptly returned to class after Debi's fantastical words to write the next chapter of Rolo's blog! We treated the school library to a couple of signed sets of Debi's books for all of our children to enjoy.

Christmas Card Designs

Your children have been working really hard and creatively to design high quality Christmas card designs. These designs have been sent away to be made



into cards ready for you to be able to order online in the coming weeks. These cards have been individually designed by your child/ren. I know that as a parent myself, I really cherish these cards made by my children. The designs were looking really excellent so I hope you are pleased.



Thanks to Miss Redman who has again organised this initiative for our school.



Special visitors from Diocese and Church School Partnership award application

On Monday we had some visitors from the Diocese of Bristol as we hosted the network meeting for Head teachers and Parish partners in our school. Reverend Shirley and I did a presentation on our passion for this school and our successful partnership between the church and school. We then invited the visitors to a special assembly where the whole school treated them to some iSing pop. The children and staff were brilliant and our visitors really enjoyed themselves.

We currently have an application in for the Church School partnership award which we are keen to achieve on the back of our OUTSTANDING Church of England School inspection (May 2017). This visit formed part of that assessment and we look forward to welcoming our visitors for our final assessment on 4th December. I will let you know the outcome as soon as I can. We are very excited as this is a fabulous award to achieve.



Visitors from Kabale, Uganda

This morning we welcomed two visitors from Uganda. One of them is a parent of children in our link school Kabale Primary school. They had a lovely morning in school learning and experiencing how our school works and observing the teaching and learning. They really enjoyed joining in with worship and iSing pop 'Friends for Life'. They have invited me to Uganda next summer to further strengthen our links and share our joint passion for teaching and leadership.



Year 4 Table Top Sale Success- thank you

The children of Class 4 wrote a brilliant letter to me to ask if they could hold a table top sale to raise money for a compo sphere for composting at school. I was massively impressed with how thoughtful and eco-minded they were being and of course I agreed. I was so impressed with how everyone donated their items and came and bought from the sale. The class were over the moon to raise £90 at the sale and they are now writing to the local council to see how they can get the best value compo sphere for our school. Well done to all staff and pupils in Class 4 and to everyone who donated or who came to the sale.





Soroptomist Writing Competition Success

Congratulations are in order for some of our pupils who were winners in the annual Soroptomist writing competition which we take part in. We have been really fortunate to have success each year and for the past 2 years we have held the trophy for best Year 1 and 2 writer. The competition involves many local schools in the Cirencester areas and is excellent. This year's winners are: Enzo in Year 5, Archie in Year 3 and a special commendation for Max in Class 5. They will attend a special awards evening next week. Well done to them all and I look forward to taking part again in the summer term.



Malvern Show

We were lucky to be visited by Mark Harwood-Brown, education executive for the Malvern Show. He came with Izzy who did two brilliant workshops with our children last week. The Year 4 children did a workshop on garden design and they planted onion sets. Our visitors sent us a lovely email to say:

It was great to see the children so enthusiastic about the Garden Challenge and so well behaved! We are very excited to see the finished product in May!

This is all in preparation for Malvern show 2018 and I am delighted to inform you that we have been accepted for again this year. The theme is Great Britons. I won't disclose what we are designing for our entry but judging by last year, I know it will be superb. Again, thank you to Mr Jackson for making this possible for us and I thank in advance the tremendous help from the AKPS Malvern show team of helpers. Class 4 will be developing the garden design both in school and via their home learning. How exciting!



Pupil Leadership

Across the school your children have been impressing us by planning and leading brilliant high quality clubs for other children across the school including: sports, wild cat club, eco club, Christmas club and Maths club. All children have to produce a plan upfront, a list of outcomes and resources required and they have specific guidelines to follow to ensure the smooth running of the group and wow they are brilliant! We are so impressed. They have stickers for rewards and beautiful mutual respect is shown.





The feedback from children who attend the clubs is so positive. So many children are involved and I love the way this is initiated and offered by children from across the school. There are so many opportunities at lunchtimes now to keep your children happy and engaged.

Pupil stars in a West End Show!

We are super proud of Matilda in Class 6 who made her debut on stage as part of The PQA Swindon team who performed in the West End performance of *The Lazy Ace*. Matilda loves singing and performing and we were ever so proud of her taking part in this excellent opportunity. I look forward to hearing of her on stage in the future, may this just be the beginning for her!

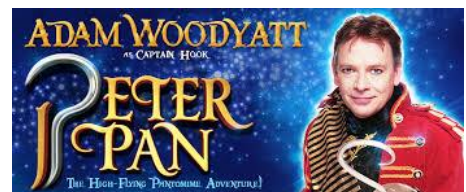
Fireworks Evening

The AKPS Fireworks evening, organised by our FOAKS team was another sparkling success. I have received so much positive feedback from a variety of people who attended and the school are very grateful to all who gave up their time and helped in anyway with this event. It is a key fundraiser for the school but also serves as a key community event too and I love hearing how well received it was. We are very lucky to have such an amazing community event and I am truly grateful to everyone involved. LOST PROPERTY- we have a couple of small items e.g. gloves in the office if you have lost anything. Here is a message from the FOAKS team:

Thank you so much to everyone who came to the FoAKS firework night, it was an amazing success and we were truly blessed in weather and turnout. This success would not have been possible without the brilliant volunteers who came to help leading up to the event right through to the clear up on Sunday! We also would like to thank Ellison Coaches for sponsoring the event, the village shop for selling tickets, Andrew Hiscock Butchers for the meat through the village shop. The White Hart Pub for the bar and drinks, Busy Fingers Printers for the signage, The AKsionals who were fantastic and kept the crowds there after the fireworks and finally to Dave Sheppard and the firework team as without them, none of this would be possible! We simply cannot say thank you enough to all you lovely people who supported us in one way or another. The money raised will go towards funding various things within the school such as Athletics, the Life Education Van, interactive learning resources and so much more which will help our children learn and grow.

Whole school pantomime- Tuesday 5th December- oh yes it is!

We cannot wait to take the whole school to the pantomime again this year. Last year was brilliant and the children and staff loved it. This year it is Peter Pan starring Ian Beale from Eastenders which I am so excited about! A parent mail has been sent out about this for you. Thank you.



5



Exciting news....Surprise visitor to the school for every class on Wednesday 15th November- it is almost here!

I cannot wait until Wednesday 15th November, I hope you love hearing about the very exciting visitor we have organised as a special treat for your children for all of their hard work in PE and sports and as a celebration of the fact that we have achieved the GOLD school games mark award. He holds a current record in the Guinness book of records and plays a sport which he is well known for and I hear he is also starting to star in movies! You will not be able to guess who he is but after his visit, I know your children will be talking about it for ages...

Children in Need

Please be reminded that next Friday 17th is Children in Need Day. A parentmail has recently gone out from school council explaining the plan for the day and what children should wear as it is non-school uniform. 50p or £1 donations for dressing down is appreciated. We look forward to having a fun day which contributes to this great national charity.

Thank you for your fabulous ongoing support of our school, have a great weekend,

Kind regards,

S.L.Saville

Mrs. Saville

Super Proud Head teacher

Here are some dates until the end of term 2 (Christmas). We have now fully updated the school calendar on the website www.akps.org.uk with dates up until the end of this academic year 2018 to help you plan ahead:

Date	Event
Wednesday 15 th November	SURPRISE VISITOR to the school for every class! VERY EXCITING & TOTALLY INPSIRING!
Thursday 16 th November	FOAKs School disco for EYFS/KS1 & KS2
Friday 17 th November	6pm Scouts have a go session in school hall
Sunday 19 th November	Messy Church in school hall
Tuesday 21 st November	9am Class 5 assembly to parent/ carers
Tuesday 21 st November	1.30pm in the hall an afternoon for Grandparents/ senior members of the AK community lead by Year 6 (please let the office know if you would like to attend so they can provide refreshments for you) Invitations via posters are now around the village and local community.
Thursday 30 th November	8am Forest School breakfast session to make Christmas decorations - book in advance
Saturday 2 nd December	2.15pm Holy Cross Christmas Bazaar in village hall
Sunday 3 rd December	4pm Christingle in Holy Cross followed by tree lighting at White Hart at 5.30pm
Tuesday 5 th December	Annual whole school visit to the pantomime 'Peter Pan' Parentmail has been sent
Wednesday 6 th December	9am Class 4 assembly to parents/carers
Friday 8 th December	Afternoon Foaks Christmas pocket money stalls. Helpers would be really appreciated. Please contact Suus Paris suzyrak@hotmail.com if you can help at the event/ with the wrapping. It is £1 per item, children to bring money in a named envelope with a list of who they would like to buy for. More information to follow.
Tuesday 12 th December	8am- 8.50 Breakfast club Christmas Party- visit of Father Christmas with a gift ,



	party games, Christmas Breakfast. £3 per child. Booking in advance is essential. 1.30-2.30pm EYFS/KS1 Nativity
Wednesday 13 th December	1.30-2.30pm EYFS/KS1 Nativity
Thursday 14 th December	6-7pm EYFS/KS1 Nativity
Friday 15 th December	1.40- 2.55 Christmas Service Holy Cross Church Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children organised by School Council 3.15-4pm AKPS Annual Christmas Market where classes will be selling goods they have created as part of an entrepreneurial challenge to raise funds for their classes to spend. This was a great success last year, please come this year!
Tuesday 19 th December	9-11 AK's Got Talent Christmas Special-children. 3.15pm FOAKS Christmas Movie night
Wednesday 20 th December	9am Heroes & Heroines End of Term 2