



Friday 25th September

Dear Parents and Carers,

Another super week here at school.



Team AK Shining Brightly:

I must pass on how proud I am of all of our children. The teacher from the *Life Education Van* came to tell me how she works in many schools, but our school stands out because our children are all so well-mannered and beautifully behaved.

In addition, when a PC from Malmesbury joined us for Year 5's session on the first day, he commented on what a happy school we are and what super children and staff we have, which again is very true. It is so lovely to hear these fabulous comments from visitors to the school and to be able to feedback these back to you. Our school is certainly shining very brightly.

Life Education Bus Visit

Yet again we have had a very successful visit of the life education van and the superstar Harold the Giraffe. The children thoroughly enjoyed their PSHE (Personal, social, health education sessions. Thank you to FoAKS for funding this fantastic educational experience for all of our children, it really is a superb use of money. This visit supports our PSHE journey at AKPS and we will, over the coming months, as we do every year, be having a whole school focus on a range of very important areas to help your children learn about safety and wellbeing including: Team work, Friendships- 'Getting on and Falling out', Anti-Bullying and E-safety.

Bright new Playground Markings are here...

We are incredibly excited, the new playground markings are here! The children have been so excited watching them being put down from afar, this has been a really interesting process for them. It is brilliant to see the money you raised by Sports Week sponsorship being put towards such a visible legacy as a whole playground make over. I know the children and staff are delighted to have it and I have a sneaky feeling it will have a very positive impact on their playtimes. If you haven't seen it yet, it is a range of the highest quality markings in bright colours providing engaging activities and trails for your children, it is brilliant.

Our Christian Value in focus this term is... Friendship

One of our 4 core values is friendship- something which our children think our school should be known for. Each week in worship we think about friendship on many different levels. We have created a recipe for friendship with your children and thought about what we need to be a good friend. We are particularly keen for children to be able to share examples of how they have seen other children showing the qualities of a good friend. We also explore what happens when friendships go wrong, discussing and sharing helpful strategies. To support this value at home please visit our website.

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Some exciting local news for budding readers...

The very talented illustrator Nick Sharratt, is visiting Octavia's bookshop, Cirencester on Sunday 11th October, 11am. No tickets or booking required.

<http://www.octaviasbookshop.co.uk/2015/08/13/11am-sunday-11th-october-2015-nick-sharratt/>

The children's Bath literature festival starts today and continues into October. There are some wonderful authors to see and visit; Jacqueline Wilson, Michael Rosen, Judith Kerr, Cathy Cassidy, Jonathan Meres, Francesca Simon, Chris Riddell, to name a few. Full details can be found on line,

<http://bathfestivals.org.uk/childrens-literature/>

New School Improvement Plan 2015/2016

After a very successful year of school improvement last year, I would like to share with you the 6 new areas for our school improvement focus this year. As you will have seen, I always display the plan in the hall and add notes as it is being achieved. Look out for the new display in the coming weeks. For now here are the key areas, there is so much more detail to each area in the full plan and I will share the actions with you as they occur in school, rather than bombard you with it all.

The 6 areas are:

- 1. To ensure all pupils make expected or better progress in Reading, Writing and Maths.
- 2. To promote reading and embed a whole school reading culture.
- 3. Develop the role of middle and senior leaders to drive improvement.
- 4. To develop an effective outdoor learning environment.
- 5. To further develop an effective monitoring and assessment system without levels.
- 6. To further promote collective worship and our Christian Distinctiveness.

Schools always produce annual improvement plans and I am very keen to share ours so we are all involved and clear with the journey of our school improvement. The staff and Governors of AKPS are continually reaching for the stars with our school improvement but also, importantly, we are proud of all that was achieved in the school last year (our moments to shine). Team AK has so much to be proud of including; seeing our children really loving the changes and new additions such as: the star challenge, World Awareness and Sports weeks, celebrating our improvement in end of year results for every phase of the school and the fabulous feedback from parents and carers. We all have so much to be proud of, the school is buzzing.

This year's School Improvement Plan will bring even more great opportunities for your children. As mentioned above, I will give you much more detail about the plans in my newsletters as they happen over the coming year. As a taster for you - some of the



plans include: becoming a Forest School, developing our conservation area, improving the playground and playtimes, a massive drive and positive focus on reading and using meditation to help pupils become really successful learners. All of our school improvement is focussed upon providing the very best we can for all of our pupils, it is a very exciting journey for us all.

As always, this journey only works if we work together - school is successful if it is focused always upon what is best for our children, and parents and the school work together as a partnership. Each week I thank you for your continued support, I really do mean it.

Have a lovely weekend and let's look forward to another fantastic year together,

S.L.Saville

Mrs. Saville

Head teacher

Please always check the calendar on our website www.akps.org.uk for dates.

Date	Event
Monday 28 th September and 5 th October	Mosaic workshops after school in school hall for Parents and Pupils
Sunday 4 th October	Church Harvest Festival
Tuesday 6 th October	Classes 3/4 trip to Ashmolean museum
Thursday 8 th October	Wilts Fire and Rescue service visit Classes 2 & 6
Tuesday 13 th October	9am Class 6 assembly to parents in the hall
Wednesday 14 th October	Zumba Kids Morning- all children will receive 30 minutes of Zumba with their classes (free of charge to parents as funded by the school)
Thursday 15 th October	4-5pm <i>Keeping up with the Kids Maths Session</i> in the hall. More details to follow. The staff sharing latest maths teaching strategies to help you support at home.
Friday 16 th October 2.45pm	Official opening of the new outdoor classroom. FoAKS will kindly be providing refreshments for a small charge. All invited.
Monday 19 th October	4-5pm <i>Keeping up with the Kids English Session</i> in the hall. More details to follow. The staff sharing latest English teaching strategies to help you support at home.
Tuesday 20 th October	9am Heroes and Heroines Assembly in the hall for parents and carers Dressing Down Day - bring a can or packet for the Swindon Foodbank End of Term 1 FoAKS end of term disco for pupils (more details to follow).
Wednesday 21 st October	Teacher Training Day- school closed to pupils

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