



Friday 25th November 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a very busy but productive few weeks here at team AK. I cannot believe how quickly November is passing and that Christmas festivities are already upon us!



Team AK Shining Brightly:

Trust in action

Our Christian value in focus this term is Trust, which is one of our 4 core values for our school. I have seen children spontaneously offering to assume positions of responsibility. Alongside our very effective school, worship and eco councils, we now have children coming forward to offer their leadership in other areas. Your children are so keen to be responsible and to lead within the school, it is fantastic. As a result, we are putting together more opportunities for our children to lead by forming teams in school over the coming year including digital leaders, Science leaders, health and safety leaders, sports and play leaders. I know the children will be very excited to work alongside a designated member of staff to help lead these and other areas forward in our school. I will update you on this as it progresses. The leaders will be able to write a contribution for this newsletter to keep you informed about their work.

Writing Competition Success

I was ever so proud to accompany the children to the annual Soroptomist Cirencester school's writing awards evening on Friday evening where our school certainly shone brightly. Out of over a 1,000 entries from most local Cirencester area schools we did absolutely brilliantly and received four awards for our school including the shield for Years 1 & 2 as best school for the second year running, which was a real achievement. We look forward to taking part in the competition again in the Summer and reaching for the stars once again!

Class 4 Assembly

The class organised and performed a fabulous assembly for parents and carers. They wowed our socks off with their high quality art work and their fabulous poetry. We really appreciate all parents and carers who were able to attend and celebrate what the class have been learning.

Children in Need Thank you

We raised in excess of £250 for this fabulous event and our children looked fabulous. I was

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away for 3 days in Nottingham on a Challenge Partner review of another school and rushed back on the Friday to see the children and their efforts. I was particularly impressed with the School Council and their jumble sale which raised just over £80. Thank you for your support it is massively appreciated.

Sporting success (see website for photos)

Teams of netballers, sports hall athletes and footballers have been representing the school by competing against other school in matches and tournaments over the past few weeks. We have been very impressed with the children's attitude, teamwork and healthy competitive drive. They have been so proud to turn up as a team in their new sports kit, they have stood out as the smartest school and behaved beautifully. We have had some great successes in the outcomes of these tournaments and all children taking part have thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Christmas Pocket Money Stalls Thursday 1st December in school time

Yes, the brilliant pocket money stall event run by FOAKS is here on Thursday! If children would like to purchase gifts in time for Christmas, they are sold at a bargain of £1 per gift and there is something for everyone: men, women, children and adults and all gifts are sourced very carefully to provide excellent value for our children and families. All gifts are £1 and FoAKS will aim to send everything the children buy home w/c 5th December, once they've been wrapped. This event does not happen without help from our parents and carers, we would like to ask people to sign up to volunteer please so look out for these. We will also put out a box out for wrapping paper donations too. Your help really does make a difference for our pupils at this magical event.

Staffing update

I have written to parents of children in Class 1 this week to inform them that Mrs Mee will be leaving the school on Wednesday 7th December. We adore Mrs Mee and she is an incredibly highly skilled teacher and a fabulous member of the team. Mrs Mee has decided to relocate to be near her family in Weymouth and we totally respect and understand her decision. We have an excellent plan in place for her replacement. I am sure you will join me in wishing Mrs Mee and her family luck and best wishes for the future.

Thank you...

We have been really lucky to receive a brilliant new drum kit kindly donated by Mr & Mrs Slade. We have a great drum teacher in school with quite a few children taking lessons and it will really make a difference to have a second drum kit.

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Christingle

Our school are sharing in the Christingle Celebration which will be at Holy Cross Church, Ashton Keynes on Sunday 4th December at 4 pm (after the film Finding Nemo and before the community christmas tree lighting). School worship council have helped plan the event and we'd love as many children as possible to attend and they'll each receive a christingle. If any older children are happy to take part in the service, please let Revd Shirley or the school know.

Christingle celebrations across the country help support The Children's Society, a charity which supports vulnerable children in our country. Today, your children have brought home collecting pots for any money you can spare. This is of course a voluntary contribution. Then they can return the pots to church or to school. Last year nearly £200 was raised to help children who don't have the good things our children have. Let's see what we can do this year. Thank you.

Christmas Concert in Holy Cross Church Wednesday 14th December 1.45pm

What a treat we have in store for you! The choir are busy preparing their contribution, KS1 will perform a song from their nativity and KS2 will be performing 3 songs which are beautiful. We also have managed to adapt the song Mary's child for our steel pans and therefore aiming to perform this for you too. I do hope you can join us for this fabulous event. After the event finishes, back in school we have a short Christmas Fayre being run by our children. The classes are each doing a business challenge to produce items for sale and seeing who can run the most effective business. I guarantee you some brilliant items to purchase in time for Christmas, please pop in after school, thank you!

Cinderella Pantomime

The children are really looking forward to this event on Tuesday 13th December. Please remember to return the slip and payment by next Friday. There are still a lot of payments outstanding and as this is not an educational visit we will not be able to take any pupils who have not paid. You are able to pay online via Parentmail. Thank you.

Thank you for your continued support,
With my kindest regards,

S.L. Saville

Mrs. Saville
Head teacher

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

Date	Event
Tuesday 29 th November	Class 5 assembly to parents 9am-9.25am in hall.
Thursday 1 st December	Pocket money stalls
Saturday 3 rd December	Holy Cross Christmas Bazaar
Sunday 4 th December	Christingle - Holy Cross Church
Tuesday 6 th December	Lunch with the Headteacher. A time for your child to join Mrs Saville with a hot dinner if they would like to. Book by 30 th November. Author visit to KS1 1.30pm KS1 Nativity Production
Wednesday 7 th December	Zumba morning 1.30pm KS1 Nativity Production
Thursday 8 th December	6.00pm KS1 Nativity Production
Friday 9 th December	8.00am Breakfast Club Christmas Special with a visit and gift from Father Christmas- please book your ticket in advance.
Tuesday 13 th December	Whole school pantomime trip to Wyevale Theatre Swindon
Wednesday 14 th December	School Christmas Lunch 1.45 pm Christmas Service and Christmas Fayre organised by the children straight after school (more details to follow)
Thursday 15 th December	Foaks Festive DVD evening for children £3.50 includes film, hot dog, popcorn and a drink 3.15-5.30pm. (Tickets will be on sale soon)
Friday 16 th December	Christmas Jumper Day Heroes and Heroines 9am in hall Last day of term
Tuesday 3 rd January 2017	TRAINING DAY - SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS
Wednesday 4 th January	8.50am Start of Spring Term