



Gosditch, Ashton Keynes, Nr Swindon, Wiltshire SN6 6NZ

Head Teacher : Mrs S Saville: Tel/Fax : 01285 861436

Email : office@ashtonkeynes.wilts.sch.uk www.akps.org.uk

Friday 17th October 2014

Dear Parents and Carers,

Heroes and Heroines

I am really grateful to those of you who were able to come along to support all of our children during our Heroes and Heroines celebration assembly. I hope you enjoyed the experience and had, like I did, the goose bump factor when the children sang at the end. I was delighted to see the gold 'Head teacher merits' have such a wow factor. There will be many more opportunities for you to come into school in the future, you are always welcome.

Worship Council

We have a newly formed worship council in school. The purpose of this team of pupils is to lead collective worship and to evaluate worship that takes place at our school to ensure it is of high quality and meaningful to our children. This week, I watched the worship team deliver an excellent worship based on our value of Trust, which they had planned themselves. The whole school was supportive of them and sang their chosen song passionately. The team of Year 5 and 6 pupils certainly embraced this challenge and rose to the occasion. I cannot wait to see their next assembly!

Visitors in school

Our visitors (Four Senior Leaders from the local schools' cluster) spent two very full days in our school, experiencing the life of Team AK. The purpose of this visit was to look at the great things that we do school and share these with other schools in the cluster as well as support the school with ways to improve. As I said in my last letter, all schools should be constantly evaluating what they do and be continually seeking to improve. We are on an exciting journey here and the visitors have helped confirm our plans for future improvement here at AK.

I can already feedback that the great things they were impressed by included: the ethos of the school, how positive both staff and children are and how well behaved our children are in school all of the time. They were also impressed by the relationships in school, highlighted by our Buddies which are now in Class R , 6, 1 and 5.



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I have been incredibly impressed by how our children have welcomed the visitors to the school and made them feel part of the team, I am also impressed by how my staff have embraced this as an
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opportunity to share and learn. I would like to thank the review team for their high level of professionalism, support and challenge. They affirmed among other things: our new start to the day, swift but poignant assemblies/worship and the high quality home learning which reflects the important partnership between parents and school and offers support and challenge.

The visit will make us reflect and prioritise what we need to do to move forward as a school. One area is to develop and promote the learning behaviours of our children . We can do this at school by exploring learning with our children and providing as many opportunities for our children to become independent learners and enjoy challenging themselves. At home, if you would like to, you could, where appropriate, encourage your child to explore the next level of the home learning challenge, helping your child to be excited about challenging themselves.

This is an exciting challenge for Team AK. We will be celebrating the good things, sharing the excellent elements of practice that we already have in school but working incredibly hard to develop and challenge the areas that could be even better. I thank my staff team, governors, parents/carers and children in advance for joining me in embracing this challenge. We have a lot to be proud of here at AK and the future journey is a very exciting one.

Dressing Down Day- Tuesday 21st October

Please be reminded that Tuesday is dressing down day where children do not need to wear their school uniform. As I said in a previous letter, we do not need food donations this time as we recently brought them in for Harvest. This day is a thank you to the children for their previous contributions to the Food Bank.

FOAKS

I attended my first FOAKS meeting last week and was made to feel very welcome. I observed just how forward thinking and hardworking the team are. I would like to formally thank FOAKS for their continued support of the school; their financial support is invaluable and really makes a difference. I



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really hope that the coming bonfire night (8th November) gets the support it deserves, both from volunteers and attendees. I am personally looking forward to being a volunteer and for my family to attend this exciting event. I look forward to working with FOAKS in the future and to working together on a mission to raise money so that we can purchase and launch Ipads into the school to benefit our children.

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Class 6 Assembly for Class 6 parents/carers/grandparents

Please be reminded that the first of our class assemblies starts this coming Tuesday 21st October with Class 6. Please arrive in the hall for a 9.15am start. (To last 30 minutes maximum). The children are taking the lead by organising and planning the assembly themselves to show you some of their learning from this term. I hope lots of you will be able to join us in supporting their efforts. I look forward to welcoming you on Tuesday.

As this is my last weekly newsletter of the first term. Please be reminded that we break up on Tuesday 21st October as the staff have a training day the next day and we return to school on Monday 3rd November. I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for your support this term and wish you all a safe and rested half term.

Dates for first week back after half-term:

Thursday 6th November - Swimming restarts for Class 4

- After-school Singing Club starts for Years 2 - 6

Yours sincerely,

S.L.Saville

Mrs. Saville



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