



Friday 16th December 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

The school has certainly been shining brightly and we have so much to be proud of and thankful for. As this is the final newsletter of 2016, each class has written about some of their highlights from the first two terms for you:



Team AK Shining Brightly:

YEAR

R

Class R have had an amazing start to their time at Ashton Keynes; settling beautifully into the routines and expectations of the school day. They have experienced Forest school, Zumba, a visit from the Life

Education van, a walk to St Mary's Church for Experience Harvest and that was just Term 1!

This term they enjoyed wearing pyjamas to school for Children in Need, bringing teddies in for the day, exploring and discovering the delights of a frosty morning, and performing as angels and soldiers in the Nativity play 'The Bethlehem Star'. They were particularly amazed one morning when they discovered a crashed space ship in the garden! Space Bear Tom needed urgent help to fix it. Thank goodness Class R are such great rocket builders and

were able to help him.

Tad said "I really love the space rocket and I really like the planets"

Kayden loves the Christmas robin and the Christmas tree that we have in the classroom.

Along with all these fantastic experiences, Class R have been very busy practising their reading, writing and maths skills. All of the team are really proud of how much more independent the children have become and how much they have learnt.



Cont...



YEAR

1

Terms 1 and 2 have whizzed by for Year 1. Our Beegu topic took the children to another planet and helped them to think about differences, and making everyone feel welcome. Matilda particularly enjoyed the writing we did whilst reading this book. Our second book 'The Dark' made the children think about facing up to their fears. During this time the class very much enjoyed playing in the role play cave.

When asked about the highlights of Year 1 so far the majority of comments were about maths. Lizzy has loved counting in 1s, Ellie-May in 2s, Samuel enjoyed writing number sentences, Skye liked finding different ways to make 10 and Mia enjoyed inventing number stories.

In addition to the day to day learning the class enjoyed a visit from the Police when they were all fingerprinted and got to try the uniform on for size! They got to meet a real live hedgehog thanks to Isabella's Nanny. This gave them a good laugh as he, or she, was a very messy eater! Last week the children met Tammy Johnston the author of Elmo's Christmas Tail when she came to see the children's tail designs. She had a brilliant day and was very impressed with the children.



We are now looking forward to the Spring term.

YEAR

2

Wow! What an exciting time it has been in class 2. We have had so many fantastic opportunities that there is almost too much to mention. The children have thoroughly enjoyed their forest school sessions with Mr Jackson,



they have made beautiful nocturnal animals and super bark rubbing pictures that they turned into autumnal animal pictures all whilst learning about the wonderful things they have on their doorstep. Thank you Mr Jackson!

Lauren, 'I like helping the other children to preserve and make what they want to'.



This term started off with a fabulous Diwali themed workshop, during this session the children were taught a Diwali inspired dance. They were taught about the gods and goddesses and

2

cont..





the fire brigade. The children had so much knowledge on being safe around fireworks already. The children loved the acting out of the 'STOP, DROP AND ROLL' and were keen to show this off to each other. Archie 'If a spark catches on you, you must stop, drop and roll like a sausage'.

Tammy Johnston, the author of 'Elmo's Christmas tail' came into school to share her story with the children. The children listened so carefully to Tammy and loved the ending to the story. Tammy was thrilled with the year 2 writing, as was I.



On top of all of this the children have been working so hard on their nativity, every single child from class 2 had lines to learn and songs to sing. They have worked extremely hard and have made me very proud. The children enjoyed making items for the

enterprise project that they sold at the Christmas market this week.

Harry 'I really like helping the other children by prompting them'

It's all glitter and sparkles in class 2!

In the Autumn term we were transported to the Caribbean whilst reading Gregory Cool and Caribbean poetry from Hot Like Fire. This culminated in a fantastic cooking workshop where the children made delicious recipes from the Caribbean islands - delicious!

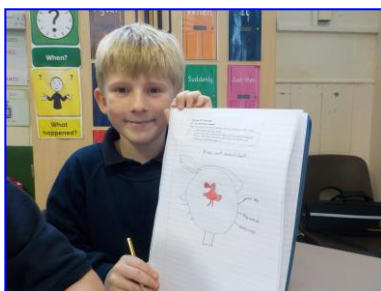
YEAR

3

Most recently in science we have been learning about our teeth and the digestive system. An exciting lesson involved following the journey of food from our mouths to our large intestine - messy fun!

This term is finishing with our enterprise project. The children completed costings for their

Dragons' Den style presentations and the class voted on the best product to make and sell.



"I have liked the experiments in Science. I really liked the digestive system experiment because it was fun to see what the jobs of what's inside us do."
Matthew Dyson

"I have enjoyed our art sessions. I most liked art linked to our graphic novel Mouse Bird Snake Wolf." Evie-May Herbert

"I have enjoyed writing creation myths because I enjoyed the stories we read and then writing our own." Luca





YEAR

4

Our first enjoyable topic in Year 4 was Caribbean Calypso. In Art, we looked at some Caribbean photographs and painted our own versions, learning about foreground, middle ground and background. Mrs Tim came in to teach us how to make different Caribbean dishes, which we shared with our parents when they visited our Caribbean classroom. During our topic, we read a book called Gregory Cool and enjoyed acting out different scenes in the story. We also had a DT day, where we designed and built mini hurricane shelters with recycled materials, because of the hurricanes that travel through the Caribbean.



Our second topic was Mouse Bird Snake Wolf, which is a creation story. During this topic, we created our own new creatures which could have been added to the story. In Forest School, we made the creatures we'd designed using nature's materials. In our English lessons, we acted out the parts of the Gods in the story and ended our unit of work by writing our own creation stories. To link to our topic, our Science work was about humans and animals, including the digestive system, which we recreated in a very messy demonstration!

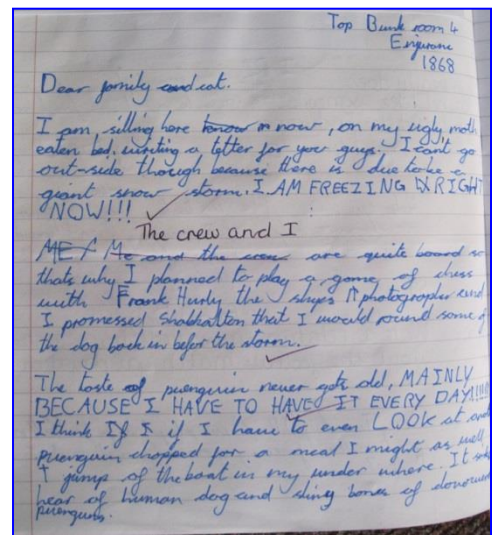
In Year 5 we have been looking at Ernest Shackleton and his amazing journey of survival. We were absolutely amazed that Ernest and his crew spent over a year trapped in Antarctica's ice and that everybody survived.

YEAR

5

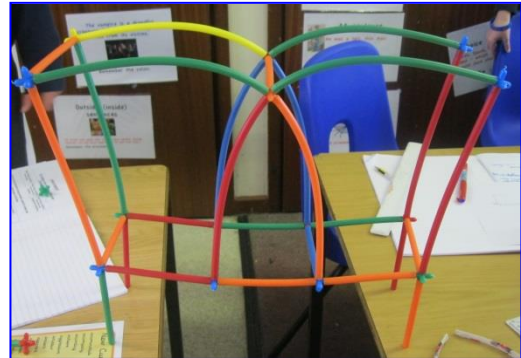
We have pretended that we were members of his crew and have written lots of letters home telling people about the challenges we have faced.

In geography we have spent time looking at the physical and human features that can be found in the Antarctic circle. We have learnt about longitude and latitude.





In Science we have learnt about the classification of animals and how animals have adapted to their environments.



We have also built bridges in DT which we LOVED!

YEAR 6

Being new to Team AK, I entered in September with excitement and a little trepidation, not knowing exactly what it would be like. To my joy and delight, these first two terms have been amazing! Children, parents and staff have all made me feel so welcome and I am overjoyed by what I have seen around the school.

In year 6, the children's effort and learning behaviours have been remarkable and this has resulted in wonderful progress thus far.



Last term, the children helped to organise an AK Senior Citizen tea Party, where the children shared learning, songs (and of course tea and cake) with the older community from the local area. I was so proud to see how they responded in a mature, attentive and kind manner.

This Autumn term, we have looked at two fantastic books: *Rooftoppers* and *Shackleton's Journey*, both of which have acted as stimuli for some incredible, creative writing including: diary entries, letters, character descriptions, poems, newspaper reports and instructions. The children have also looked at and have applied a range of these skills in other subjects such as History, Geography, Science, DT and Art, even becoming explorers and designers (like Isambard Kingdom Brunel).



The children have also made great strides in Maths and have improved their understanding and application of number, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, fractions, decimals and percentages. Thank you for being fabulous!



Team AK Star Learning Ambassadors



All of the children who have completed their learning behaviour challenge cards and earned their special learning stars are known as our learning ambassadors. These children proudly wear their stars and model excellent learning behaviours. There are so many children who are just one or two points away from earning their star and will be joining the team soon. The aim is

for every child in the school to earn their star. I have their star waiting for them in my office! They all know what they have to do to earn it and they are individually responsible for this! This is not something that happens overnight, they really do have to be consistent, persevere and prove themselves. I look forward to presenting more learning stars soon. Even since I took the photograph, more children have earned their stars and become learning ambassadors, a new photo to follow next term!

Forest School Christmas decorations

The children have been so busy outdoors with forest school this term, come rain, wind or even ice! Thank you to Mr Jackson, Mrs Willis and Mr Powell for their fabulous commitment to our forest school programme it certainly has a positive impact upon our children. Recently the children enjoyed making Christmas decorations by whittling wood from branches.



AK Pupil Enterprise Project success!

Wow, the children were brilliant. In the weeks leading up to Wednesday, classes were holding 'Apprentice' style sessions to plan, design and create projects to sell at their very own Christmas Fayre. We saw a lot of leadership, decision making, risk taking, learning from mistakes and team work! Thank you for coming to buy their fabulous goods, it was a brilliant festive event.



Christmas Pocket Money Stalls thank you!

Thank you to all who helped make this wonderful event possible for our children, we really do appreciate your support. The children loved being able to shop for gifts with their pocket money and self-select items for their family members. I was also really impressed with the support the Year 5 & 6 buddies gave to their younger Buddies in Classes 1 & R. Thank you to the Christmas wrapping fairies and elves who wrapped all of the presents for the children, who were delighted to receive them. I hope families enjoy their carefully chosen gifts on Christmas morning!

FoAKS Festive film event

Another fabulous film event and a first for the new FoAKS team. Thank you ever so much. The event was very well attended by well over 100 children. Thank you for supporting this and thank you to all who helped make it possible.

Whole School Pantomime Trip

A first for our school and what a fabulous festive school family thing to do, we all loved it! The children were absolutely brilliant and we received so many compliments from the public about our school. I adored watching the children and the look on their faces and how involved they became. As I looked around, I saw my staff team doing exactly the same! We all thoroughly enjoyed the pantomime but your children's reactions were priceless and were what made it even more brilliant. The children have asked me to book again for next year so their wish is my command and we will get it booked! Thank you to you all for supporting with this event and enabling your children to attend. Thank you so much to all of my staff team and volunteers who came on the trip.

Breakfast Club Christmas Special



Thank you to all who attended. The morning was thoroughly enjoyed and made extra special by the visit of Father Christmas! Thank you to all adults who helped, to everyone who supports our breakfast club throughout the year, to Preet Cook, Mel Tim and especially to our daily breakfast club team Mrs Morton and Mrs Cooper. We are really proud of our breakfast club, it is certainly shining brightly!

Christingle

Thank you to all who attended the Christingle service in Church on 4th December, Reverend Shirley and Miss Thomas were so happy to see so many of you there. A special thank you and



well done to our worship council who carefully planned and delivered their part in the service so brilliantly.

Specialist French Teaching

We are so lucky to have Enzo's mum Mrs Ganivet-Watson working with us this year. She has been absolutely brilliant helping our children to achieve even more in French and really develop their French conversation and singing! They have also been working on projects to develop our links with our twin schools in France, which is excellent. The focus has been on Years 5 & 6 this term and the progress has been very pleasing. They have even recorded a French song to send to our twin schools in France.

We initially set up after school and lunchtime clubs alongside the specialist teaching but the uptake for the afterschool club for Years 5 & 6 was not enough to justify the club continuing after Christmas whereas the lunchtime club was very popular. Therefore we have a new plan: specialist French teaching will now take place on a Tuesday afternoon focusing on KS2 to begin with (Years 6, 5, 4 & 3) and then involving KS1 in the Summer terms. In KS2, French will still also be taught by the class teacher. There will also be a lunchtime club available to children who are really keen to go & extend their French but no after school club. We will offer the lunch club directly to the children so that they can sign themselves up. Thank you to Crystelle for providing this opportunity for our children, we are very lucky! Thank you also to Matilda and Monty's mum who has been volunteering with French alongside Chrystelle this term.

Hare in Ashton Keynes

March 2017 sees the return of the hugely popular Cirencester Hare Sculpture Trail and a brand new trail around towns and villages in the Cotswolds is being planned with the hares decorated with a historical theme. Thanks to the generous sponsorship of The White Hart Inn, the Village Shop, the Village Hall, Andy Rummings' Beef, the Hills Group, and Holy Cross Church (a donation from a member of the congregation), Ashton Keynes will be on the trail as there'll be a five foot high hare sculpture outside the White Hart Inn from March 25th till September 10th. The hare will be decorated with brightly coloured ceramic tiles and the design is based on patterns and images from Holy Cross Church. Kathryn Gray, the artist who has helped organise the project, plans to decorate the hare with the help of the community and so every Tuesday morning in December and January, she'll be working in the Village Hall working on the hare. Please do pop in and stick some mosaic tiles on the hare.

Whilst you're there, you can enter a competition to name the hare. So get thinking and pop your entries into the box on the days Kathryn is there.

The hare still needs one more sponsor so if you'd like to find out more, please email Kathryn (kathryngray28@yahoo.co.uk) or find out more when you help with the decorating.

What a fantastic project! However, that's not the one exciting thing happening: the school is



planning a community event in February. There'll be more details in the New Year, but if you'd like a sneak preview, go to <http://www.windowwanderland.com/event/ashton-keynes-2017/> and sign up.

Christmas Service

What an absolutely beautiful service. Thank you to all who attended and to Reverend Shirley and Holy Cross church for welcoming us, the church was full! I was ever so impressed with the children's singing and loved the steel pan accompaniment! The readings were excellent and I was really impressed by Year 6's retelling of the Christmas story in their own words from interesting perspectives such as through the eyes of the donkey! I was able to say thank you to the children, staff, parents and carers, Governors and the Church and community for their superb support of the school. We presented the outgoing FoAKs committee with some flowers as a thank you for the wonderful opportunities they have created for our school community over the past 2 years and as a thank you for their incredible efforts. We also welcomed the new committee and thanked all who constantly give and volunteer for events.

On this festive note may I take this opportunity to thank all my children, parents, staff and Governors for their continued support and for being part of our special Team AK family. I wish you all a very happy, peaceful and restful Christmas and New Year. I look forward to welcoming you all back on Wednesday 4th January.

With my warmest regards,

S.L.Saville

Mrs. Saville

Head teacher

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

Date	Event
Tuesday 3 rd January	TD day for staff school closed to pupils
Wednesday 4 th January	School reopens for pupils at 8.50am
Thursday 12 th January	Swimming sessions start for Class 5
Sunday 16 th January	4.00pm Messy Church in school hall
Friday 27 th January	Classes 3 & 4 trip to Corinium museum