



Friday 16th October

Dear Parents and Carers,

Team AK Shining Brightly:



WOW - a super time was had by all at our official opening of our new outdoor classroom. The children were delighted to sing and perform their surprise dance. Thank you to all who attended, including our visitor Mr Gray MP. A big thank you to everyone who donated cakes and to FoAKS for serving tea and coffee.

Zumba was back by popular demand for the whole school on Wednesday and the feedback from the children and staff was fabulous. We have a Zumba session with Meryl booked for the school each term, which we can all look forward to.

Class 6 delivered the first of our class assemblies and it was brilliant. They spoke so clearly and performed so well. They worked as a team to open the assembly with a piece of music on glockenspiels played by every child in the class. They shared with us how much they are enjoying being Buddies to the new Class R children and some of their fabulous suspense writing. Really importantly, they shared an e-safety quiz with the school to check we are all learning about safety and aware of how important this is, I was delighted by the response from all years, especially some of our youngest children taking part. Well done Team 6 a stunning start. Thank you to all parents and carers who were able to join us.

Internet Safety is in focus at Ashton Keynes School

We are presently teaching pupils e-safety and as part of this the children are creating their own pupil e-safety guide. They may discuss this with you and there are useful links on the school website to support you at home (under Parents Resources).

Breakfast Club World Food Day cooking activity. This morning was well attended as the children celebrated World Food Day by making their own Japanese rice balls 'Origini'. It was a session run by 'Kitchen Club' with Mrs Timm and we have booked in many more of these throughout the year to enable the children to cook/make healthy breakfasts and meals. Thank you to Mrs Yeates mum of Nano in Year R for her expert help and to Mrs Cook for her support too. We advertise these sessions in advance at the usual breakfast club price of £3 per session so watch out for these on our website if your child would like to do some cooking!



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Writing Competition Success for AK!

Back in the Summer classes 1,2,3 & 4 took part in the Cirencester Soroptomists Writing competition. This is a brilliant competition I was involved in at my previous school and is highly regarded in Cirencester, I just had to get Team AK involved. The Soroptomist kindly let us join the competition and I am delighted to announce that 5 pupils were given awards! This is a fabulous achievement for our school as many Gloucestershire schools from in and around Cirencester take part. We will be the first Wiltshire school involved and I cannot wait to take part next year! The award winners were:

Year 1-2 Category-

1st prize- Rachel Buckle

Highly Commended- Issy Rogers

Year 3-4 Category

Special merit award - Thomas Senior and James Smith

Highly Commended- Grace Rodger

Well done to all who took part and a special well done to those with awards. They have been invited to a special awards evening in November and myself and my Chair of Governors will accompany the pupils and their parents. Well done Team AK, shining brightly in Gloucestershire as well as Wiltshire! Until next year... something for all of our writers at AK to aspire to!

AK 'Keeping up with the Kids' Evening Maths

I would like to thank all of you who were able to attend and I am delighted to hear how useful you found it. We did during the evening take the time to go through the Government changes in the Curriculum and assessment and shared with you how our school have approached this. I also reinforced the need to work as a team to ensure the best for each of your children. My maths leader, Mrs Voss, clearly outlined the methods used to teach maths and how essential it is that the calculation policy is followed at school and at home. She also shared the new SATs test format and changes for Years 2 and 6. We also reinforced the need to assist your child to learn their times tables and to tell the time. We will put all resources onto the website in the next week. It will be in the new parent resources section under home learning from next Tuesday. Although the information is there, the explanation isn't so if you couldn't attend the evening and you need support with the methods in the power point then please ask your class teacher. I hope to see many of you at the English evening on Monday with myself and Miss Thomas, my English leader. Mrs Voss is running a separate Year 6 meeting for current year 6 parents to look in more detail at Year 6 and the SATs for 2016 on Monday 9th November 4-5pm in Class 6.



AK School Improvement Plan Update

SIP Action 4: Forest Schools- this will begin at our school after half term with Year 6 having their first 2 hour session on Wednesday 4th November in the afternoon! There is a weekly rolling programme so that every class has forest schools sessions with Mr Jackson our forest schools leader. The classes will be involved in exciting outdoor team activities where they problem solve and lead initiatives for the school. Year 6 are going to be involved in creating our forest school area of seating and fire pit! We are so excited as are they!

SIP Action 2: Reading- the photos from the reading challenge are on display in the corridor. Classes 3-6 all received some very exciting new class readers which they were excited about. They received a mixture of the latest books and some classics too. The outdoor classroom is being used at lunchtime as a reading area and a special book club has been set up by Mrs Hancock with Class 4.

Thank you- new books donated

Thank you to Mrs Barnett, parent of Jacob, in Class R who has donated loads of new books to the school. We really are grateful and the children across the school will be delighted. Thank you also to Mrs Newman-Kennedy parent of Charley in Class 4 for also kindly donating lots of books to the school. Your generosity is really appreciated by Team AK.

Headlice

Please can we all check our children's hair over the half term and try to ensure we return to school lice free. Please remember that alongside chemical treatments there are non-chemical preventative sprays available which lots of parents are saying they find work. Also tying back long hair will help. I appreciate how frustrating it can be but these little visitors are in all schools and we give the advice above, as well as regular reminders for the whole school, to check and treat if necessary at the same points in the year.

Correction to last newsletter - there was an error on the date listing in that Class 4 will continue to go swimming after half-term. Class 5 will start after Christmas.

Have a lovely weekend, I hope to see many of you at *Heroes and Heroines* assembly on Tuesday morning at 9am to see our children shine. May I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and wish you a happy half term.

Kind regards,
S.L. Saville
Mrs. Saville
Head teacher





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

Date	Event
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	End of Term 1 FoAKS end of term disco for pupils (more details to follow). 9am Heroes and Heroines Assembly in the hall for parents and carers
Wednesday 21 st October	Teacher Training Day- school closed to pupils
Saturday 31 st October	Deadline for Secondary School applications
Monday 2 nd November	Term 2 restarts at 9am
Thursday 5 th November	Swimming restarts for Class 4
Friday 6 th November	3pm Pupil charity stalls in hall/playground
Saturday 7 th November	Fireworks Night - Bradstone field.