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Friday 27th January 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

 **Team AK Shining Brightly:**

Your children are working so hard in school and I have been watching them enjoying their learning and working hard to grow their brains! Yes you heard right, the children are really really exploring 'Growth mindset' led by learners in Year 6 and looking at how they can grow their brains and that mistakes are important for learning. It really builds on our 'Can't do it....yet' approach to learning we have in school.

Miss Perring and I are going to run a 'growth mindset' session for parents after half term on **Monday 27th February 5.30-6.30pm** so you can see what we are doing and how you can support your children with this at home. I think you will really enjoy this session and would really like as many parents to attend as possible. We absolutely love promoting growth mindset in school; it is such a positive approach to learning. The biggest impact it is having is removing worries from children about making mistakes and developing self-belief, enabling children to take more risks with their learning. We really hope to see lots of you at the session, I guarantee you will enjoy it! I will make some tea and coffee for you, and we can have a catch up, it will be lovely to see you.

Cultural Awareness

Team AK were so lucky to be visited by Miss Raja last week from her school in Reading. She spent time with every class and taught them all about her culture and encouraged the children to ask questions and make comparisons with their own lives. This has inspired lots of discussion and in depth work back in class. Miss Raja was very impressed by the level of questioning and respect from all of the children. She looks forward to visiting again.

Canvases around school- please have a look and more images for sale in March!

If you get the chance to walk through school you will see stunning canvases appearing on the walls in the corridors, office reception area and hall. We were so lucky to have a professional photo shoot in school before Christmas. My aim was to capture the children learning and enjoying school life without realising the camera was there. I wanted to capture what I see every day in school so that I can share it with you and other visitors to the school. Of the 350 photographs, I managed to print out 25 on canvas and the choice took me days! I tried to capture different aspects of the school and something from every class. The children have told me how excited they are to see the canvases go up.

My next plan is to share the whole collection of photographs with you and give you the opportunity to purchase these one-off images. They are unique in that they are not set up,

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they are incidental learning photographs which is hard to capture. During the evenings of parents evenings on Tuesday 14th March and Thursday 16th March, Mrs Campbell and I will be in the hall showing the photos and providing you with the chance to order a digital copy of your selected images for £4 per copy or £10 for 3 images. The money raised will go back to the school to help pay for the shoot and canvases. We were ever so lucky to have the photoshoot provided by the partner of Mrs Campbell, Mr. D Hughes, who is an amazing professional photographer and gave us a fabulous rate. Order forms will be available on the evening so come with some cash/cheque and your email address so we can send the high quality version of the images directly to you.

Please note: As the shoot was a totally natural event and not contrived, we cannot guarantee every child was captured in the images. Also any children who cannot be photographed for public sharing will not be included in the photos available.

Terrific Scientific

Classes 5 & 6 have today launched the start of our National interaction with Science by the BBC. The children took part in a taste experiment where they counted the funghi form papillae on each other's tongues! They learnt loads but also had tremendous fun taking part. The launch continues on Tuesday and is all part of our School Improvement Plan to raise the profile of science in school. During National Science Week (week of Monday 13th March) we will be having a special exciting Science workshop day, bought in for all classes across the school.

Reception are sproutastic!

After growing their own sprouts, our little green fingered reception class cooked and ate their own sprouts today. They were very excited by the whole event, let's hope we have changed children's view of sprouts and that they may actually now enjoy them!

Class 3 & 4 Roman trip to *The Corinium Museum*

Today we took our Years 3 & 4 pupils on their WOW trip to investigate Roman life at the Corinium Museum. I was really lucky to be able to accompany them on the trip, which I love to do where possible. They were so excited from the moment they set off on the coach and their enthusiasm continued and buzzed for the entire day. 'This was the best trip ever' most of them told me. This will connect their learning from the classroom, home and forest school Roman learning all together to give them a fabulous experience of Roman life. I think it is really important our children access local History and get time to reflect on what life would have been like if they lived in this exact place in Roman times! Fascinating. I have to add that

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as I expected, the behaviour of our children was exemplary, real ambassadors of Team AK out in the wider community! Thanks to all of the parent helpers who gave up their time to come today and to the staff team who were incredible planning, risk assessing and ensuring the visit was a success.

AKPS Year 5 & 6 Sports Hall 5th of all Cotswold Smaller schools!

On Tuesday 17th our Year 5 & 6 sports hall athletics team represented the school at district level after doing so well locally. After a shaky start where sadly lots of the original team were off school with a virus, the superstar replacements in Year 5 and 6 stood in last minute and were brilliant. All of the team gave their best, took a pride in their school, were extremely competitive but respectful and we were so proud of them. To finish 5th out of all of the Cotswold smaller schools (Schools less than 300) was a true achievement for our school as there are loads of small schools in the Cotswolds! I also think they were the smartest team in the whole competition, the new kit is stunning! Thank you to all of the children who took part to get to this level and then to all of the team who competed on the day, you were brilliant, I was so proud to be there and support you. A massive thank you to our sports superstar Mr Tanner for training the team and providing our children with these fabulous sporting opportunities.

Malvern Flower Show 2017- we are in!

We are extremely excited to announce that the school will have a show garden at the RHS Malvern Spring Show this year. Our green fingered Mr Jackson has worked with Years 3 & 4 in Forest school sessions to draw up plans for the garden and year R have been *mucking in* by preparing the compost. Years 1, 2 and 5 will also be participating over the next few weeks. We would really appreciate any donations of plants, aggregate or sand to help our show garden be a *blooming* success! Hardy perennials would be best but flowers and vegetables would also be appreciated. Please could any donations be bought into school after the February half term holiday. Thank you.

Exciting Author visiting our school on Tuesday 28th February- reminder to order books and come to the assembly

Please don't forget to get your orders in to the Office by **Friday 3rd February** for the signed copies of John Dougherty's books. We are really looking forward to his visit and hope some of you are able to join us for a special assembly for children, staff and parents with John at 2.40pm until the end of the day in the hall!

With my kindest regards,

S.L.Saville Mrs. Saville, Head teacher



Please always check the calendar on our website www.akps.org.uk for dates. A couple of **additional dates** added .

Date	Event
Thursday 2 nd February	NSPCC in school to work with all of the children as part of our school commitment to child safety
Friday 3 rd February	Deadline for book orders for signed copies of John Dougherty's books (to the office please)
Monday 6 th February	NSPCC in school to work with all of the children as part of our school commitment to child safety
Tuesday 7 th February	Year 5 & 6 Mock Trial workshop afternoon in school with local Magistrates
Wednesday 8 th February	All morning Zumba with Meryl for every class
Thursday 9 th February	End of Term 3 9am- 9.30am Heroes and Heroines Assembly in the hall
Friday 10 th February	TD day- all staff on training with cluster schools 'The Art of Brilliance, school closed to pupils.
Monday 20 th February	8.45am School reopens for Term 4
Thursday 23 rd February	Deaf Awareness Roadshow coming to school (details later)
Friday 24 th and Saturday 25 th February 5.30pm onwards meeting on the Friday outside the school.	Ashton Keynes community project, lottery funded and led by school starting at 5.30pm from outside school on the Friday night. A great way of getting out in the community visit www.windowwanderland.com and get signed up or visit the face book Window Wanderland to find Ashton Keynes. More information to follow and in the village newsletter.
Monday 27 th February 5.30-6.30pm	Parent session in hall with Mrs Saville and Miss Perring- 'Growth Mindset'. Please come along, coffee and tea as a treat if you can join us!
Tuesday 28 th February	Author John Dougherty visit for every class. Books signed. 2.40pm in the hall, parent and carer's invited to join the children, staff and Governors for a special assembly with John.
Tuesday 7 th March	Class 3 assembly to parents and carers 9am in hall
Friday 10 th March	Mid-year reports out to parents and carers
Monday 13 th March	National Science week- a Science focus this week in school
Tuesday 14 th March	Class 1 assembly for parents and carers
Tuesday 14 th March 3.40-7pm Thursday 16 th March 3.30-6pm	Parent Consultation evenings- online booking system will open in advance and we will parent mail to let you know when it will open.
Wednesday 15 th March	New venue St Mary's Purton- Music Festival Rehearsal (choir)
Friday 17 th March	Year 6 Mock Trial competition v Stratton! More info for Year 6 from Miss Perring after half term.
Friday 24 th March	Red nose day (School council will be organising the sale of noses well in advance of the day to avoid disappointment)
Tuesday 28 th March	Class 2 assembly to parents and carers 9am in hall
Thursday 30 th March	Music festival (Swindon Oasis) for the choir
Monday 3 rd April	Evening - Classes 3 & 4 Production
Tuesday 4 th April	Am Zumba with Meryl for every class Evening - Classes 3 & 4 Production
Thursday 6 th April	Year 6 Residential Parent Meeting 5pm in Class 6 (approx. 40 mins)
Friday 7 th April	3.15pm End of Term 4
Monday 24 th April	8.45am Term 5 starts
Monday 8 th May	Year 6 KS2 SATs week every day cont..



Monday 15 th May	Leavers and Class photos
Tuesday 16 th - Friday 19 th May	Year 6 residential to London
Monday 22 nd May- Friday 26 th May	World Awareness week- Team AK travel around the world!
Thursday 25 th May	5pm Year 5 parent and carer meeting for Year 5 residential (in Class 5)
Friday 26 th May	Last day of Term 5 ends at 3.15pm
Monday 5 th June	TD day- school closed to pupils
Tuesday 6 th June	School re-opens 8.45am Term 6
Tuesday 13th June	Class R assembly for parents 9am.
Wednesday 21 st - Friday 23 rd June	Year 5 residential to Viney Hill activity centre
Monday 26 th June	Sports Week
Friday 30 th June	Am Sports Morning- please save this date in your diaries AK Music and arts festival begins (more details later)
Friday 21 st July	3.15pm Term 6 ends