



Friday 10th February 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,



Team AK Shining Brightly:

It was lovely to see so many of you yesterday morning for Heroes and Heroines, it was such an uplifting assembly and a fabulous opportunity to celebrate your children shining inside and outside school.

Hare mosaic

Last week we had the special opportunity to visit the Ashton Keynes Hare 'Star Gazer' and place some mosaic tiles on this stunning piece of art work. Star gazer is a community Hare based on the Holy Cross Church in the community. The Swindon Advertiser attended the event and produced a lovely write up which can be seen on our 'AKPS in the community' board outside the school office. I would like to say a massive thank you to Mrs Gray who has not only worked her socks off to attain the hare and used her skill to create the mosaic artwork but also paid for the school to be the final sponsor for the shared sponsorship of the hare. On behalf of the school, thank you Mrs Gray, we cannot wait to see the finished 'Star Gazer' in all its glory once completed, it is going to be truly stunning!

NSPCC visit to school

We have just had the NSPCC come into school to work with KS1 and KS2 to help our children to keep themselves safe. Furthermore, Years 5 & 6 received some additional workshops for upper KS2 to explore safety in more depth and I was incredibly impressed with their thinking and questioning and the level of discussion the children were having. Keeping our children safe and empowering them so that they know how to keep themselves safe is absolutely fundamental. Please have a look at our 'keeping children safe' page on our school website with helpful links to support you at home.

Magistrates in AKPS

This week Years 5 & 6 were visited by the Cirencester magistrates for an afternoon of democracy and rule of law in action! The children took part in a mini trial in preparation for the Cirencester Year 6 Mock trials which we are so lucky to be part of again this year! This time our Year 6 team are up against reigning champions from my old school, Stratton, so no pressure but we are determined to get a win! Watch this space... what a fantastic opportunity for our children, British values in action.

World Book Day- Where's Wally! Advanced notice!

This year on Thursday 2nd March we are celebrating World Book Day. So in advance the theme this year is Where's Wally and his extended family. See the reading corridor for inspiration and ideas- there is even a Where's Wally dog! Be creative and I look forward to seeing the children and staff on World Book day, I might even invite the local press!



Window Wanderland- Please sign up and help us with this exciting community event!

Signing up to Window Wanderland (www.windowwanderland.com) is very simple and takes about a minute. It's free to register and the printed map will have a symbol showing the approximate location of the window/garden/car/caravan, but not the address or names of people who live there. You will not be bombarded with emails afterwards.

The Facebook page has masses of photos to give you inspiration <http://www.facebook.com/Window.Wanderland> and there's a book of photos on the window ledge you can browse in the Village Shop. Kathryn Gray is running two free workshops on Monday 13th February 10 - 12 and on Thursday 16th 10 - 12 in the Village Hall. Please reserve your places by signing up in the Village Shop. The sign-up sheets are on the window ledge. You can also drop in to pick up free materials (black sugar paper and tissue paper, as well as translucent white paper you can use to cover a window with and draw onto or stick tissue paper onto).

Taking part doesn't require much effort at all - a bit of cutting and sticking over half-term and I know your children will be able to create something amazing for your window, for a neighbour, and for grandparents if they are local. And if you don't live in the village, team up with another family to make a window at their house. The event is over two evenings so even if you're off at gymnastics on Friday evening, there's still Saturday to enjoy it.

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

Thank you for your lovely feedback about the canvases, the staff and children are really enjoying them and visitors to the school have also been impressed by them. These are just a few of the collection. All will be able to see during the parent 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. 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.

Request from Class R- helpers to hear readers

Please can anybody spare any time to hear readers in Class R? We are looking for regular volunteers. Please contact Mrs Crowley/ Mrs Serle to confirm your interest. Thank you very much, this will really benefit our children.



500 Words Story Writing Competition with the BBC- please sign up!

The BBC '500 words' story competition is now open and I know many children entered last year and many are keen to enter again. I am also delighted to inform you that Mrs Campbell, our Teaching Assistant in Year 6 has for a second year running been accepted as a judge. Well done to Mrs Campbell and good luck to all who enter. Please bring in your entries and we will proudly display them in school.

Well done to the winners of the popcorn makers from the hot dinners draw!

Congratulations to Rosie Bell and Lottie Cook who were drawn by the parents in assembly yesterday morning to win a popcorn maker each as a result of having hot dinners at school. We are actively encouraging our children to take up hot meals at school. Today I had vegetarian fajitas for lunch and they were delicious. If your child hasn't tried hot dinners yet, I really do recommend you give them a try.

School Improvement Plan mid-year review

I have updated the School Improvement Plan display in the hall to show what we have achieved at the mid-year point. The full School Improvement Plan is a live comprehensive document actively updated by all school leaders. We are on track for all areas.

Challenge Partner review

Last week we welcomed our visitors from the Challenge Partner review team. This enabled us to celebrate our successes and for our children and staff to shine. The reason behind being part of this privately organised initiative is to challenge our school to be the best we can be. We picked up some excellent development points which we are already reflecting on and putting into action, which is the challenge part and something we embrace. Improvement is exciting, we want to provide the best we can for all of our pupils.

Attendance- every minute counts

Please be reminded that the attendance target for your child is 97%. We fully understand that from time to time children are ill but every minute in school counts and we want your children to make the best progress possible and in order for this to happen, they need to be in school. I would like to point out that each day is made up of 2 sessions so 5 days off school is 10 sessions not 5. In March you will have your child's attendance on your mid-year report. If you would like your child's attendance before this please ask Miss Perring. If we are concerned about attendance, we will be phoning you to discuss as we need to ensure children access as much school as possible, ideally 100% but at a minimum 97% (which includes illness). We look



forward to issuing our 100% merits at Easter for terms 3 and 4 and then again in the Summer. Thank you for your support, the full attendance policy is on our website.

Exciting announcement- RIAT (Royal International Air Tattoo) 2017- we are in!

We are extremely excited to announce that our application for tickets to the air show on Friday 14th July has been successful. This year we are lucky enough to be able to take all 4 KS2 classes, Year 3-6. There will be a letter nearer the time but the admission tickets are free but will rely on a voluntary contribution of £6 per child from parents for the coach transport. The school are not in a position to be able to pay for the transport for this event. FOAKS have funded the transport for the whole school pantomime trip at Christmas but cannot fund this event. We are very excited to be able to visit the Air Tattoo again, last year was truly brilliant and we received excellent feedback from children, staff and parents. We are in for a treat!

Funding for our school- we need your help

You may already be aware but all schools face to lose money in coming years due to Government cuts and our wonderful school will be affected by this. We do the very best to offer all that we do for our children but with significant cuts in the future, this will make things difficult for us. I urge you to sign the petition on

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/funding-policy-unit/schools-national-funding-formula2/>

... in support of our school and other schools across the country. The staff and Governors will also be signing this petition. All school in our cluster are urging their parents to do the same.

I wish you all a happy and relaxing half term and my staff and I look forward to welcoming you all back at 8.45am on Monday 20th February for another fabulous term at Team AK,
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.

Date	Event
Monday 20 th February	8.45am School reopens for Term 4
Thursday 23 rd February	Deaf Awareness Roadshow coming to school (details came out via parentmail)
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.
Thursday 2 nd March	World Book Day - 'Where's Wally' theme
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	a.m. 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
Monday 15 th May	Leavers and Class photos
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 13 th 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