



Friday 13th January 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

A really warm welcome back and Happy New Year to you all! Thank you so much for your festive thoughts, best wishes and gifts for Christmas, they were very much appreciated. I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year and have managed to avoid the various illnesses doing their rounds! Here's to a healthy 2017 with lots to look forward to here at Team AK!

Team AK Shining Brightly:



Today we had a sprinkling of the white stuff which caused much excitement for Team AK, it was really special to see the children playing in the snow this morning. Here are a few pictures:



At break time the children were desperate to play on the snowy playground which had not yet been melted by the sun and what fun they all had! "That was the best playtime ever" the children told me!

Roman Soldier in School!

Year 3 & 4, at the start of their Roman learning were met by a surprise visitor this week, a Roman soldier! They received an exciting interactive workshop to kick start their topic with a WOW! The children absolutely loved the session and I saw how it ignited their learning! I cannot wait to see what else they are learning this term, I am lucky enough to be accompanying them on their trip to the museum to further develop their Roman experience in coming weeks. I am sure lots of photos will appear on the Year 3 & 4 class pages soon!

Forest School 2017

I was met by some incredibly excited Year 5 children this week who were about to embark on their forest school session in the log seating outdoor camp area. They were all set to make dough and bake bread on the campfire which they were going to eat accompanied by some delicious jam! I can see why they were very excited! Year 6 last week planted some trees in the school grounds and then were taught how to do a risk assessment, excellent skills for life!

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As a continuation of forest school and outdoor education, our school eco council and helpers have been busy gardening this week, even when it was raining! They are busy improving the grounds and have some excellent ideas whilst getting lots of fresh air and exercise! We absolutely love seeing the children using their initiative and wanting to make a difference to their school, a fabulous responsible and caring attitude, leadership in action.

Choir Concert with Village Choir

Thank you to all of the choir who took part in the Christmas concert in Holy Cross Church on Sat 17th December. This is the second year in a row we have joined forces with the village adult choir to perform in a concert. The children were absolutely brilliant and sang beautifully on their own, with the adult village choir and Gabe in year 6 sang a solo along with Madi in Year 5 who did a solo on her drums! A massive thank you to the children and a tremendous thank you to the staff who accompanied them: Mrs Crowley and Mrs Hancock, who have given up so much time and passion to teach the choir all year in the build-up, Mrs Campbell who gave of her time freely to support the children on the day and take amazing professional photos for the school and choir with her partner, Dav, and Mrs Cook who whilst accompanying her daughter, also supported the children on the day. What a team! We have hidden talent in our team as Mrs Crowley and Mrs Hancock also sang a pre-prepared song in front of the children and adults! I have had such positive feedback on the whole event, well done to you all! Being part of our community is really important to our school and this is one fabulous opportunity-until next time! Have a look on our website in the news section to see some of the stunning photographs taken at the concert.

Whole School Pantomime Trip 2017- it is booked! Yippee!

Cinderella 2016 was wonderful, a real whole school family festive trip which was enjoyed by all and we have received such fantastic feedback from so many children, parents and staff. The children have asked that I book for next Christmas so that is exactly what we have done! So on Tuesday 5th December 2017 we are going to see 'Peter Pan' at the Wyvern Theatre Swindon. Please put the date in your diaries, we will aim to keep the parental contribution as close to what it was this year (£11) and see if fundraising from FoAKS can cover the transport (£6 per child) as a benefit for all children. We have already pre-booked 4 coaches ready so everyone will travel by coach. For now, put it on your calendar and we will confirm finer details nearer the time. How exciting!

Exciting Author visiting our school on Tuesday 28th February- invite for parents

I am ever so excited to let you know that we have booked author John Dougherty to come and



visit our school in February and work with the whole school. Shortly you will receive a separate parentmail order form for the books John has available for signing on the day which you will be available to purchase beforehand. The deadline for ordering books is Friday 3rd February. I would encourage you to buy books for signing through this system if you would like to as it will benefit the school by helping us to pay for John rather than asking for a contribution from parents.

I had the chance to see John present his work before Christmas and he is so inspirational, I just had to book him for our school! He has written poetry books, picture books and his well-known 'Stink bomb and Ketchup face' books which are so entertaining! On Tuesday 28th February, after a day of workshops for all classes, I would like to invite you to a special assembly for children, staff and parents with John at 2.40pm until the end of the day in the hall. I do hope lots of you can join us!

Our Christian value in focus is COURAGE

The children have been thinking about people in their lives and in the Bible who show courage and then have been reflecting on themselves. We have been thinking about being brave and doing the right thing, not the easy thing. We have been learning a brand new catchy song about courage called 'Build up' which you may already be hearing your children singing at home! If you would like to support with the value at home please visit our website in the resources area for the helpful home guide to Courage.

Breakfast Club Pancake Cooking

On Tuesday 28th February it is Shrove Tuesday and Breakfast Club will be having a special pancake cooking session with Mrs Mel Timm and the Breakfast club team. If your child would like to attend, you will need to get them booked in as soon as you can. It will be a yummy way to start the school day!

Advanced notice for your diaries- parent consultation evenings in March

To ensure a full turn out on these specified dates, I am sending out the dates super early so they can be put onto your calendars - **Tuesday 14th March 3.40-7.00pm** and **Thursday 16th March 3.30-6.00pm**

AKPS Year 5 & 6 Sports Hall athletic team thorough to district level!

On Tuesday 17th January our Years 5 & 6 sports hall athletics team are representing the

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school at district level after doing so well locally. I know they will give their best, be proud and look super smart in their kit, be beautifully behaved and compete to try and win. We are super proud they got this far. I cannot wait to accompany them with Mr Tanner and show our support for them. I know they will do us proud. Go Team AK!

Wednesday 18th January afternoon until Friday 20th Mrs Saville away on Head's conference

I am away next week on a Headteacher's conference for 2 and a half days. I am really excited as this is a fantastic time to work with other heads locally and nationally through Challenge Partners and share best practice. We are so lucky to be having a bespoke workshop with Jim Smith who is a very well-known educator and who has published an inspiring book about teaching and learning, lots of which we already draw upon in our approach to teaching and learning in school. I look forward to reflecting and learning so that I can continue to provide the best for my team and our children. During my absence, my Deputy Miss Perring will be very happy to help should you require any support at senior leadership level. My whole team are always happy to help you too.

Challenge Partner Review at AKPS

Just to let you know that from the afternoon of Wednesday 1st February until lunchtime on Friday 3rd February we have our annual Challenge Partner review of the school. This is an excellent annual opportunity for us to present our school and work alongside a current OFSTED inspector and senior leaders from other national schools in a partnership for school improvement. Miss Redman and I have learned so much from going out to review other schools and we really benefit from when the review comes to our school. It is a professional partnership which challenges us all to ensure we are providing the very best for all of our pupils in our school. I am so glad we chose to be part of this, it has such a positive impact on school improvement. During this time you may see 3 new faces around school who you will now know are our visitors from Challenge Partners.

Ashton Keynes Pre-school auction

In support of our village pre-school, we would like to share with you that they are organising a special 'Big auction' with over 50 fabulous items for you to bid on. All money raises funds for our village pre-school. It is well worth a look, please visit:

www.bhgreen.wixsite.com/auction



Safe Parking Please

We totally understand that Gosditch is very narrow and the weather is not good at the moment, but the yellow lines are put there for the children's safety. Cars parked on the yellow lines block the road for the minibus and school bus, they block vision for children and parents who walk down the road to and from school and could cause an accident. Please be mindful of where you park for the safety of all of our children.

Below is a comprehensive list of dates for your diaries, all of which will go on the calendar on our website. I just wanted you to have the dates well in advance so you can plan them in. Additional dates will be added to the calendar and in future newsletters.

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
Sunday 15 th January	Messy Church 4pm School hall- all very warmly welcome
Tuesday 17 th January pm	Afternoon (back by 3.15pm) Year 5 & 6 sports hall athletics team through to the district competition- Wo-hoo! Go Team AK! (letters sent home to team via Mr Tanner)
Friday 27 th January	Classes 3 & 4 Roman WOW trip to the Corinium Museum
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
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.
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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 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	4.00pm Choir rehearsal for Oasis concert at Royal Wootton Bassett
Thursday 16 th March	3.30 - 6pm 7pm Parent Consultation evenings- online booking system will open in advance and we will parent mail to let you know when it will open. 5.30pm onwards School Disco
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)
Monday 27 th March	Bikeability starts for Class 6
Tuesday 28 th March	Class 2 assembly to parents and carers 9am in hall
Thursday 30 th March	7.00pm Concert at Oasis, Swindon (choir to leave school during afternoon)
Tuesday 4 th April	Am Zumba with Meryl for every class
Wednesday 5 th April	'Global Christianity' Workshop Day
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 1 st May	Bank Holiday - School closed
Tuesday 2 nd May	9am Class R assembly to parents in the hall
Monday 8 th May	Year 6 KS2 SATs week every day
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
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