



Friday 24th November 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Team AK Shining Brightly:

We have lots to be thankful for in school and lots of opportunities to shine.

Success for Team AK in recent sport events

We have been busy taking part in many sporting events outside school including: football, netball, athletics and sports hall athletics recently. We have had some great success and have been delighted to receive some compliments on our children's attitude, manners, behaviour and team work. We celebrate the children every week in 'time to shine' for shining in sports.

Classes 1 & 2 Busy baking bread and making sandwiches!



We have been incredibly lucky to have been visited by Warburtons for two free workshops. Class 1 got to make healthy sandwiches and class 2 made bread! It was absolutely fabulous.



Super Science

Year 6 have been carrying out a series of experiments to investigate a series of forces. They have been hypothesising, predicting and explaining. They have been working on developing their measurement skills, taking measurements using a range of scientific equipment with increasing accuracy and precision. They have also learnt to take repeat readings where appropriate and explain their reasoning. We had great fun creating our own 'seeds' with varying surface areas and recording our results using scientific diagrams and labels, classification keys, tables, scatter graphs, bar and line graphs.





Soroptomist Writing Competition Success



We are absolutely delighted to announce that for a third year running we were awarded the 1st place trophy in the Year 1 and 2 category for writing, plus a second place in the Year 3 and 4 competition and special commendation award. These children won out of over 1,000 entries from 13 local schools. Well done to Archie Manning, Enzo Watson-Ganivet and Max D., we are so proud of you!

This is all in preparation for Malvern show 2018, which I am delighted to inform you that we have been accepted for again this year. The theme is Great Britons. I won't disclose what we are designing for our entry but judging by last year, I know it will be superb. Again, thank you to Mr Jackson for making this possible for us and I thank in advance the tremendous help from the AKPS Malvern show team of helpers. Class 4 will be developing the garden design both in school and via their home learning. How exciting!

Pupil Leadership

Leadership- e-cadets: We received this message to say: *Congratulations. Your eCadets have done fantastic work and passed the challenge Autumn: Safe Profile (eCadet) and been promoted.* The e-cadets are a newly formed group of pupil IT leaders from across the school working with Sarah Igoe to lead IT and Computing focussing currently on e-safety (as part of our school improvement plan SIP Area 2).

Year 6 Sports Leaders shining We have been super impressed by the pupil sports captains and leaders in Year 6. They have been putting their training into action by planning and leading lunchtime sports skills sessions for our pupils. Mr Tanner and I went out to observe them and were blown away by the quality of the session and the level of professionalism with which they delivered the session. The children who took part were clearly engaged and enjoying their sporting skills sessions. It was excellent to see them awarding merits in time to shine assembly to the children in their sessions who they had seen trying hard, persevering or challenging themselves.

Drama Specialist Provision

As you know, we have put into place a new drama specialist since September, working for one afternoon for a whole term with each class across the school. During this time, the class teacher gives every pupil some 1:1/ tutoring and small focus groups so that all children access both high quality drama provision and quality tutoring from our teachers which is proving to be incredibly impactful. After school, we provide a drama club AKPS Glee Club which is well

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attended and after Christmas in Term 3 it will be happening for KS1 pupils. Letters will come out shortly and those who have already signed up in KS1 from my earlier correspondence will be given places. The children say they love the Glee club with Miss Parish.

Engineering Club

In January, we will be launching our very first engineering clubs for KS1 and KS2 which are already over-subscribed so will be running throughout the year to involve as many pupils as possible. Miss Redman organised this initiative in her DT leader role and has got STEM coming in to deliver these after school clubs which is very exciting!

I know she has been busy arranging for those on the waiting list to be included in the next round of clubs, further correspondence about this will be out in the New Year. Please contact Miss Redman if you would like to know more.

Community Links

I am absolutely delighted that we are now hosting a Scout Group in our school hall so that Ashton Keynes can have its own Scout group again after a few years without. I am looking forward to working with the Scout group so that our children can benefit from being part of this excellent group should they wish to, and for the Scout group to benefit from using our fabulous outdoor facilities and learning spaces.



Senior Citizen Tea Party

We are super proud of our Year 6 pupils and staff who worked really hard and welcomed 40 senior citizens from the local community to a wonderful tea party. The feedback was 100% positive "I wish school was like this in my day", "I want to return



to school", "I can't believe the quality of writing and confidence of the pupils", "We are proud to have this as our local school", "I can see why people will come to this school from other villages". We sang happy Birthday to 2 centenarians Alice and Gill (100 in February). The children were in awe of Alice who started at this school aged 4, 96 years ago! The children baked, sang, presented, welcomed, hosted, conversed, shared their work and LOVED the company of the senior citizens. We were asked if we could do this more often. This is now an annual event for Year 6 pupils to arrange to show community spirit, friendship, respect and generosity.

We will look at building in another carol sharing event for choir with mince pies and tea next Christmas.





Children in Need- Well Done!

School council are proud to let you know that we raised a brilliant £293. Thank you for dressing up so well, bringing in donations of money and cakes. The cake sale alone raised a staggering £140! Well done to the school council for organising an excellent day and to everyone who gave so generously.



Surprise visitor to our school - World's Tallest Basketball Player!

On Wednesday 15th November, we were delighted to unveil our surprise visitor, Paul Sturgess, Harlem Globe Trotter, World's Tallest Basketball player and Britain's Tallest Man came to our school! What an absolutely brilliant day it was and one I know your children will never forget. As part of national anti-bullying week, I arranged for Paul to visit to speak to the children about celebrating individuality and difference and making the most of our talents. He was incredibly inspiring and the children LOVED the basketball skills workshops he provided. We were absolutely over the moon to be featured on BBC Points West, the link can be reached from our website. I hope you felt proud of your

school on National television, I certainly did. There was also an article in the Swindon advertiser which was brilliant. We have just been interviewed by Schools Week newspaper as they would like to run an article on this in their newspaper for children & schools! Go TEAM AK!

Class 5 Assembly

Class 5 delivered an excellent assembly to parents sharing their learning from the year so far. They played music, sang their hearts out, shared their excellent writing, Science and learning inspired by Marcus Sedgwick's *Floodlands* book and so much more. It was a reflection of the high quality learning which is taking place in their class and what a brilliant team they all are. Well done Year 5!

Pocket Money Stalls

Pocket money stalls will be taking place on the afternoon of Friday 8th December. Every item for sale is £1 and there are many excellent value items. The idea is that the children can shop and choose gifts for their families. The gifts are wrapped and labelled ready for children to give to their chosen people. If you would like your child to take part, please send in correct change on the day in a named envelope. For children in the infants, please also write on the envelope who the gifts are for, to help your child and us. Children will visit the pocket money stalls with their buddies to make their purchases. Your children absolutely love this event,

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thank you to all volunteers who help FOAKS with this wonderful opportunity for our children. If you can spare some time to help at the event or with shopping for/wrapping the gifts, please contact Suus Paris suzyrak@hotmail.com Thank you!

Pantomime Reminder

Please be reminded that today is the deadline for payment so if you have not yet paid please make sure you bring payment on Monday. The children and staff are really looking forward to going to *Peter Pan* on Tuesday 4th December. They have all been putting in their ice cream/sorbet orders for the interval!

Class 4 assembly for parents/carers reminder

Please be reminded that Class 4 assembly is on Wednesday 6th December 9am in the hall. We look forward to seeing parents/ carers/ grandparents of Year 4 who can come to this.

Breakfast Club Christmas Special- Tuesday 12th December

How exciting! Our annual visit from Father Christmas is here again. 8am- 8.50 Breakfast club Christmas Party- visit of Father Christmas with a gift , party games, Christmas Breakfast. £3 per child. Booking in advance is essential. First time visitors very welcome. Thank you to our brilliant breakfast club team for organising this wonderful event.

Thank you, we are having a super time in school, have a great weekend,

Kind regards,

S.L.Saville

Mrs. Saville

Head teacher

Here are some dates until the end of term 2 (Christmas). We have now fully updated the school calendar on the website www.akps.org.uk with dates up until the end of this academic year 2018 to help you plan ahead:

Date	Event
Thursday 30 th November	8.00am Forest School breakfast session - £3 payable in advance
Monday 4 th December	8.00am Christmas breakfast club cooking session - £3 payable in advance
Tuesday 5 th December	Annual whole school visit to the pantomime 'Peter Pan' 11.30 leave 4.30 return.
Wednesday 6 th December	9am Class 4 assembly to parents/carers
Friday 8 th December	Afternoon Foaks Christmas pocket money stalls. Helpers would be really appreciated. Please contact Suus Paris suzyrak@hotmail.com if you can help at the event/ with the wrapping. It is £1 per item, children to bring money in a named envelope with a list of who they would like to buy for.
Tuesday 12 th December	8am- 8.50 Breakfast club Christmas Party- visit of Father Christmas with a gift , party games, Christmas Breakfast. £3 per child. Booking in advance is essential.



	1.30-2.30pm EYFS/KS1 Nativity
Wednesday 13 th December	1.30-2.30pm EYFS/KS1 Nativity
Thursday 14 th December	8.00am Crepe breakfast club session - £3 payable in advance 6-7pm EYFS/KS1 Nativity
Friday 15 th December	Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children organised by School Council 1.40- 2.55 Christmas Service Holy Cross Church 3.15-4pm AKPS Annual Christmas Market where classes will be selling goods they have created as part of an entrepreneurial challenge to raise funds for their classes to spend. This was a great success last year, please come this year!
Tuesday 19 th December	9-11 AK's Got Talent Christmas Special-children. 3.15pm FOAKS Christmas Movie night
Wednesday 20 th December	9am Heroes & Heroines End of Term 2

Interested in working in childcare?
Wiltshire's childcare workforce needs YOU!

Have you considered working with children, either in a nursery/pre-school, or as a childminder?

Wiltshire needs people like you to become a positive role model and inspire children and young people. If you have the right blend of skills and qualities a job in childcare could be just what you are looking for.

For further information visit
www.wiltshire.gov.uk/child-care-jobs-training

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