



Wednesday 20th December 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Team AK Shining Brightly:

Woweeeeee our school is certainly shining brightly!

We are ranked 1st out of 238 schools in Wiltshire!

I was super proud last week when I saw us named in the Times top 10 Best Primary Schools in Wiltshire but understood that this league table is based purely on % attaining the standard in KS2 2017. Whilst this is excellent, I am more concerned about the distance our children travel from their starting points, the progress they make, during their time at our school. Therefore for this reason, I am even more proud and excited to tell you that our overall performance in 2017 placed us 1st in Wiltshire out of 238 schools and 2nd nationally compared other primary schools who had similar starting points. This is an incredible achievement for our school and I believe is down to the high quality teaching and learning, the wonderful opportunities our children have to learn and grow and be inspired thought their 7 years with us and high aspirations from our clearly shared TEAM AK vision.

I hope you feel as proud of our school as we are, we have certainly been on a journey over the past 3 and a half years and it is fabulous to see it paying off. This is a truly outstanding position for our lovely school to be in. I would like to take this opportunity to praise my staff who are incredible and all work so hard for your children and this school; to my Governors who are brilliant in their support of my leadership and giving of their time so freely to help us thrive; to our wonderful children who are just brilliant and the reason we all want to do our best and to our parents, carers and friends of the school who support this school and help it shine in its community.

We want the community to be proud of their school so I was really pleased to receive this from Dave Wingrove on behalf of the parish council when they heard about us being the top primary school in Wiltshire:

That is great news – congratulations. On behalf of the village, I would like to thank Mrs Saville and her staff for all their dedication and hard work.

What a brilliant Christmas present for our school, recognition of our hard work, the clarity and effectiveness of our shared vision- shine bright, reach for the stars! I could not be more happy and proud as your Headteacher, thank you for your continued and positive support, the school is buzzing!

See: <https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/schools-by-type?step=phase®ion=865&geographic=la&phase=primary>

1

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Success for Team AK in recent sport events

Please see Mr Tanner's brilliant TEAM AK sporting newsletter for Terms 1 and 2. Thank you to Mr Tanner for inspiring our children and helping us provide such wonderful sporting opportunities for all of our children.

School Christmas Enterprise, Christmas Church service and Nativity

The Christmas enterprise market was excellent and a real success with children absolutely loving selling the items they had made as part of their business enterprise and raising money for their ticket to Charlotte's Web in the Summer and money towards their class rewards. The quality of the items was excellent, I tried to buy something from every class and I purchased some beautiful items. The atmosphere around the school was very Christmassy, and so happy. We will definitely continue this initiative as an annual event. This was a perfect follow on from the incredibly special Christmas service in church that afternoon where the children sang so beautifully and the KS1 Nativity that week where KS1 performed to such a high standard and made us all smile and feel super proud of them all. The quality of singing from all of our infant children was stunning, and I was so impressed with how brave and engaged all of the children were and by how the Year 1 and 2 children supported and guided our Reception children so beautifully and responsibly. Thank you for your excellent feedback telling us how much you enjoyed the Nativity, how impressed you were with the props, scenery and the high quality of the performance and that our children wowed you. It certainly started Christmas for me!

Compassion in action

This term our Christian value in focus has been Compassion and we have been thinking about putting other's needs before our own. On Friday we all wore Christmas jumpers and raised money for Save the Children which is an excellent example of compassion in action. We have also been thinking about compassion in our daily lives. We have learned a beautiful song called *My Prayer tonight* which is a song about compassion and will be performed in Heroes and Heroines assembly on Wednesday morning.

Generosity through the Santa fun run

In true AK style, some of our parents organised an excellent Christmas fun run in the village to raise money for Alzheimer's charity and also very generously for our school towards our *Smooga* project. I was absolutely staggered to hear that they raised £300 for the school. Thank you Caroline Hukins and Beck Buckle for your generosity and kindness in including the school in your fundraising and for organising an excellent village community event.

Ising pop is back! Yippee!

I am ever so delighted to let you know that I have booked ising pop to return on the week of 16th April with the concert taking place during the afternoon and evening of Friday 20th April in Holy Cross Church. Please save the date! Ising pop have a new set of 7 songs to teach us and



for those of you who were part of it before, you will know how brilliant it is, for those who it will be your first time, you are in for a treat!

For the rest of this newsletter, each class would like to share their highlights from the first two terms:



Class R

For a group of children who have only spent two terms in school Class R have been amazing!

The book 'A seed is sleepy' was the whole school theme at the start of the term and as a metaphor for learning so far in Class R it has been perfect. All the children have been growing and flourishing in all the EYFS areas of learning. Friends have been made through the discovery of shared interests and the expression of empathy and kindness towards each other.



Highlights for the EYFS team and the children have been numerous but particularly memorable for us all were baking bread for Harvest festival, meeting the tallest man in the UK,



travelling to space in our space rocket, going to see the pantomime Peter Pan, and most recently, our snowy day!

Alongside all the fun experiences we have had, Class R have been making great progress in the exciting skills of reading and writing. A whole new world is opening up to us in the form of stories that we can read ourselves and the ability to record our own ideas. Our number knowledge has also grown and we are all becoming super confident with numbers up to twenty and beyond.



The term finished on a high with our wonderful Nativity and Christmas sale. We were fabulous angels and sheep. Looking forward to next term's delights and thank you to all for your support this term.

Team R.



Year 1

We've had a really busy term in Year 1! Our learning has been based around 'The Story Tree' and we've enjoyed reading and retelling all sorts of different stories. We used drama techniques to develop our understanding.

In computing we've learnt about e-safety and logging onto the network. We really enjoyed using the laptops and increasing our computing vocabulary.



It was so much fun when the Life Bus came to AK! We found out all about how to keep fit and healthy with Gerald the Giraffe. He taught us how important it is to make healthy choices and exercise regularly.





2

Class 2

Wow! What a start to Year 2! We have had so many fabulous visitors and extra special moments that I'm not sure I can mention them all. One of our favourite visits was from Paul Sturgess during Basketball Wow Day; we had so much fun learning different tricks and listening to Paul. We hope we can have something like this in sports week!

Class 2 have also had a free visit from Warburton's, we got to make bread from scratch. It was a little messy but great fun. We learnt about eating healthy and making the right food choices when we can.



Alongside all of these amazing moments we have also been working incredibly hard in class. We have learnt lots of new things and discovered new challenges that we have faced together. Our nativity was extra special as it was the class's last one. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed taking part and I was so proud.



3

Class 3 have thoroughly enjoyed reading the Iron Man by Ted Hughes. They have written some fantastic poetry and descriptions using impressive vocabulary. They have also produced some super Iron Man themed homework including models of the Iron Man (see photos). Do have a read of their writing in the Year 3 corridor and on the class 3 webpage.





In Science they have learnt about forces and magnets and have carried out a number of exciting experiments with Mrs Bond for example testing the friction of various surfaces using a ramp and cards. The children have learnt the importance of fair testing, testing each surface 3 times.

Here are some quotes from the children about what they've

enjoyed this term.

Isobel "I've really enjoyed drawing and painting the flowers in art."

Evangeline "I've really enjoyed making the Iron Man for homework."

Harry "I particularly liked the Space Bat Angel Dragon contest with the Iron Man."

Amelia "I liked writing the recipes for the Iron Man."

Ben C "I've enjoyed learning how to do column addition and subtraction in Maths."

Millie "I enjoyed making baskets for the Christmas Market in Forest School."

Thomas "I am enjoying Maths and PE because we do fun things in these lessons."

Lara "I liked making Iron Man silhouette to go with our writing."

Freddie B "I enjoyed writing my Iron Man poem because I was able to use interesting vocabulary and used some new words."

Alice "I have science because it has been really fun learning about forces and magnets."

Evie "I loved meeting Paul, the basketball player because I enjoyed him teaching us how some basketball moves."

Max "I enjoyed meeting Paul and his assembly."

Samantha "I have enjoyed Science and I like writing about the experiments."



Year 4 have thoroughly enjoyed our Iron Man topic this term. The children used what they had learned about the Iron Man to: make puppets, write newspaper reports and diary entries, role played part of the story and sketched pictures of the Iron Man in charcoal.





In Maths, we have been learning about length and perimeter. The children used their skills to measure lengths precisely for their Christmas cards.



Year 4 are still very keen to continue thinking about how to improve recycling at school. Their table top sale raised £89 which is fantastic and goes a long way towards the compost heap they wish to purchase for the whole school. During forest school the children learned how to tie secure knots and then used these skills to produce beautiful Christmas decorations from recycled



elderwood in the shape of stars which they sold at the Christmas enterprise market along with other fabulous handmade gifts.



In Class 5, we have been reading a brilliant book called Floodland by Marcus Sedgewick and we think it is ace! We have used this book to write newspaper reports and letters.



The book has inspired us to learn about Global warming and reducing our carbon footprint. We have even worked out our food miles!

Class 5 have taken our enterprise challenge very seriously by setting up our very own hot chocolate business through which we provided beautiful quality hot chocolate and raised an impressive £140.



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We further developed these entrepreneurial skills through our Christmas market where we sold hot apple juice and beautiful handmade Christmas decorations made during forest school.

We were delighted to be able to share all of our wonderful learning with parents and carers at our class assembly. The feedback from this was excellent and made us feel very proud!



Our first two terms in Year 6 have been amazing! We have experienced countless enriching experiences including: an author visit, a trip to the pantomime, the senior citizen tea party, a visit from Paul Sturgess (Britain's tallest man), poetry readings and much more besides!



The children's effort and learning behaviours have been remarkable and this has resulted in wonderful progress and learning so far - I cannot wait to continue this journey with them.



They have not only worked hard on their own learning and independence but have also supported their Class R buddies so beautifully and have enabled them to become confident, independent members of Team AK.



In November, the children helped to organise the AK Senior Citizen tea Party, where the children shared learning, songs (and of course tea and cake) with the older community from the local area. I was so proud to see

how they responded in a mature, attentive and kind manner. We have received countless cards and responses from the people who attended which have meant so much to the children.



8

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This Autumn term, we have looked at a fantastic book, Floodland by Marcus Sedgewick. This has acted as a stimulus for some incredible, creative writing including: diary entries, letters, character descriptions, poems, newspaper reports and stories. The children have also looked at and have applied a range of these skills in other subjects such as Geography, Science, DT and Art.

The children have also made great strides in Maths and have improved their understanding and application of number, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, fractions, decimals and, of course, reasoning.

Team AK is buzzing at the moment and I am overwhelmed daily by the positivity and hard work of all our children, staff and parents. I am overjoyed by what I have seen around the school and we are all looking forward to so much more next term. Have a great Christmas. Thank you for being fabulous. Team 6.



Talent Show Shining

We were incredibly impressed again by how the children confidently performed their acts and we were delighted to see some new faces performing! Our children are so lovely and support one another so beautifully, it is a fabulous event, so enjoyed by all and an excellent example of TEAM AK in action, shining together. I was joined by 3 visitors who came to watch the show - two Governors: Mr Munroe and Mr Powell and our lovely volunteer Mrs Monroe. I have had such positive feedback from them all.

Thank you so much for today. Ron and I thoroughly enjoyed the Talent Show, we were really impressed by the confidence of the performers and the attitude of the children who supported and encouraged them. Margaret and Ron Munroe

Mr Powell said he absolutely loved it and was so impressed with how inclusive the talent show is and how the children help one another grow in confidence. Well done children, the next one is in the Summer.

Mr Tanner's Christmas Holiday Multiskills club

Tomorrow (Thursday) and Friday, Mr Tanner will be running his holiday sports' club from 10am-3pm. If you would like your child to attend, please contact Mr Tanner on clive@icansportscoaching.co.uk

I would like to wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year and thank you for being so positive and supportive of our wonderful school. I look forward to welcoming you



and your children back to school on Monday 8th January 2018 at 8.50am for the start of another fabulous year together.

Kind regards from your super proud and fit to burst Headteacher,

S.L. Saville

Mrs. Saville

Head teacher

The school calendar on the website www.akps.org.uk is loaded with dates up until the end of this academic year 2018 to help you plan ahead:

Date	Event
Monday 8 th January	8.50am Term 3 starts for children. (Tuesday 4 th and Friday 5 th January are teacher training days for staff only).
Thursday 11 th January	Swimming starts for Class 5 (letter to follow)
Friday 20 th April	Afternoon and evening iSing pop concerts in Holy Cross church- please save the date!