



Friday 23rd February 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Team AK Shining Brightly:

What a lovely start back to Term 4 at AKPS. The sun is shining and so are your wonderful children!

Church and School Partnership Award

Engineering at AKPS- visiting parents/carers sharing their skills and experiences with our children

We have been so lucky to have had parents take up our plea for them to come in and talk with our children about their skills and experiences in engineering. We are incredibly thankful to them. Recently, Mr Branscomb visited KS2 on Tuesday afternoon to share more about his role as a technical architect, choosing the right computer hardware and software to make computer systems that work for people. He talked about his specialism Geographic Information Systems, which are computer systems that use geographical data.



The children got to experience some of what is involved in designing a new computer program for school children called Mathlotics. They had a number of problems to overcome with their planning which they enjoyed solving! Thank you Mr Branscomb, the children and staff really enjoyed your visit.

Next week we have Even Haigh, a Materials/Project Engineer for Jaguar Land Rover, visiting all classes and we are also looking forward to a visit from Mr Hockley, a Lead Mechanical Design Engineer, in the coming weeks. We are very lucky indeed.

Back in class, Classes 1-6 are entering an engineering design competition which is new for us and part of our school improvement plan, it is very exciting too.

Smooga- It is installed!

As you may have seen/heard, the Smooga is now here! The children were delighted to start using it on Monday and it really has already had a considerable impact on our children at play.



Mr Tanner is buzzing as it has dramatically improved his PE sessions by providing an excellent space and surface on which to work on. Today I saw the whole of year 6 split into 3 groups having a really productive handball tournament where the whole class could join in at all times, rather than limited space in the hall. It was brilliant.

For the next week or so, we are encouraging all of the children to visit the Smooga at lunch and play and use it as an extra playground area to run around and play in. This is important to help the special flooring embed into the grass. During this time, we are working on a set of safety rules for using the area ready for the launch. We are also working hard behind the scenes to get all of the parent donation stickers and local school based companies who work with the school donations printed and then put onto the panels ready for the opening.

Once all of the stickers are in place (we are trying to do this asap), we will book in the opening event in a few weeks' time, I will let you know a date as soon as I can but it will be at the end of a school day.

In terms of fundraising, we have not quite reached the final amount but wanted to get it installed so our children, especially those in Year 6 who will be leaving and have contributed, can benefit this year. We will continue to fundraise for this and if you would like to donate for a special sticker, there is still time, just see the office ASAP. The school has saved up and arranged to buy all of the sports equipment for the SMOOGA including a Tchoukball set with rebound nets so that we can introduce this new sport to the school which will be excellent. This is our school contribution to the project and means we can use the smooga effectively from the start.

The Smooga will be open every break and lunch time with organised sports sessions at lunch led by our sports leaders and Mr Tanner and used throughout PE lessons by all classes. Mr Tanner and I are also planning termly after school parents and child team events in the Smooga to raise its profile and use. I think the first event is planned to be handball. I am also keen that it is a multi-use area, not just a football pitch so that all children can benefit and be involved.

Our children already love the Smooga and it is a lasting legacy for the school, one that contributes to the active lives and fitness of all of the children. Thank you all for your donations to this project and to the FOAKS teams for their incredible hard work at events to raise this kind of money, you should be so proud of what you have made possible, this is amazing for TEAM AK!



Success for Team AK in recent sport events



We have been taking part in a diverse range of sporting events and Mr Tanner has been working incredibly hard behind the scenes to organise all of this for the children. As always thank you to all parents/carers who



offer help with transport in order for these events to happen. Just recently, many of our children from Years 3-6 attended a Hockey festival.

Mr Loveridge was at the tournament and gave me this feedback:

I looked after years 5-6. They played very well working excellent as a team – what shone through was not just the play but the team spirit of being happy to be substituted – with one or two offering. Dan I must say was gracious at being a sub as he instructed me he had a job in taking photos but was also keen to give the sport a go – I must say he did himself and the team proud.

We had one or two injuries and I was most impressed with the support and compassion shown by rest of the team towards them, and the resilience of the children who took a tumble.

They all played with spirit and commitment as they always do against some good opponents and they all appeared to really enjoy it. Well done Team AK!

GWR - rail safety talks



We are very lucky as a school that we are able to offer our children some exciting visitors. At the end of last term and the beginning of this term, Years 3 - 6 were visited by two workers from Network rail.

They shared lots of information with the children about rail safety and even carried out an exciting quiz afterwards. The children were even given lots of rail-themed goodies to take away. We hope these important messages will remain with the children and



help to keep them safe.

Year 6 Practical Science This term Year 6 have been looking at practical Science and getting hands on with our materials. This week, we made facsimile blood using ping pong balls, foam pieces and red water beads to act as the different components of blood. It was a great (messy) experience and the children thoroughly enjoyed it.



Assembly times for 1:1 or small group work for our pupils

Challenge Partners in their recent visit have praised our interventions in school, particularly during assembly time, making the most of every minute and creating really important 1:1 or small group time for all of our children across the school. The focus of these sessions varies greatly and is based upon the work done in lessons, sometimes it could be a 1:1 conference supporting next steps or a small maths group to challenge next steps. What we are finding is that it is an incredibly useful time of day to work with our children outside lesson times. We vary who we have each week so that children fairly access this time and do not miss the same assemblies each week. We are very lucky to have such dedicated teachers and teaching assistants who are keen to use every minute to give your children what they need and this is having a positive impact on the outcomes of our children. We work with children across the week but Thursdays are dedicated *time to shine* assemblies where everyone attends.

Year 2 Eggterprise! Easter Egg Enterprize!

For their part in our *Shine Enterprise*, Year 2 are having a competition. You will receive a parent mail today with more information and will see the posters up around school. The competition is open to all children in each class and there is even a parents/carers entry category! For 50p, please design a hard boiled egg (no runny eggs) character and enter it with your name so I can judge it (Year 2 have asked me to be the judge). Deadline is 23rd March and you can design an egg or a whole scene! Class 2 will announce winners and there will be prizes too! The money raised will go towards Year 2 enterprise to raise money to attend the Charlotte's web performance in July. So get thinking, be creative and I look forward to seeing your children and your entries!



WORLD BOOK DAY Next THURSDAY 1st March

Please be reminded that it is a Witches and Wizard's theme (or cat/ frog witch related pets). The children should dress up and be aware of which book their character is from. We have booked a visit from the press as we are confident the school will look fantastic! We have lots of activities arranged for the children including DEAR - where the children and staff have a book with them at all times and when the whistle blows, they drop everything and read! This will be fun! So please send a book (with name inside) for your child to take around with them.



Mrs Hancock also has a number of wonderful events planned for the children throughout the day. How exciting?

Dress down day

I can confirm that the last day of term on Thursday 29th March is a dress down day where children can dress in their own clothes/ wear something with stars on. A 50p donation per child will go to the Type 1 Diabetes charity JDRF which Miss Noonan has been swimming her heart out to raise money for. A wonderful charity helping children with type 1 diabetes and *working to fund Type 1 diabetes research to improve lives and one day eradicate the condition for good.* Thank you for your support with this.

Polite reminder about having PE kit/ forest school kit in school

If you don't already do so, please can you ensure that your child has a PE kit in school every day. Also forest school dates are on the calendar and on these days your child will need a change of clothes otherwise they will wear their PE kit. If they had some joggers and top in their PE kit, this could be used for forest school too. Phoning home for PE kits and forest school outfits is taking far too much time each week so unfortunately we will no longer be able to do this. Many thanks for your support with this.

Have a lovely weekend and thank you for your wonderful support of our school.

With my kindest regards,

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 |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Thursday 1st March | World Book Day- Witches and Wizards theme School Disco (FOAKS) - 4.45-6.00pm KS1, 6.15-7.30pm KS2 |
| Friday 9th March | Mid-year reports out to parents Pocket money stalls (mothers' Day) |
| Tuesday 13th March | 3.30-7pm Parent Consultation Evening |
| Thursday 15th March | 3.30-6pm Parent Consultation Evening |
| Sunday 18 th March | Pm Messy Church in school hall |
| Friday 23rd March | 9am Open the Book- Easter for the community if you would like to pop in |
| Tuesday 27th March | Special breakfast club session - Easter theme 9am Class 2 assembly for parents and carers in the hall 6pm Year 3/4 production |
| Wednesday 28th March | Zumba morning for pupils 6pm Year 3/4 production |
| Thursday 29th March | 9am Heroes and Heroines End of Term 4 |