



Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Team AK Shining Brightly:**

Your children are brilliant. I am the lucky one who gets to visit all of the classes every day and see them in action both in learning and at play. I am always so proud of how well-mannered they are and I am particularly impressed with how they have really developed their reasoning and questioning as the result of work we have been doing across the school. Visitors to our school have particularly noticed this too. We have been really busy in school and here are just a few highlights of what we have been up to and a few notices:

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

WOW! I am so impressed by our visitors, some parents and some older siblings who have come into school to share with our children their roles in engineering. We are incredibly thankful to them. Recently, Evan Haigh a Materials/Project Engineer for Jaguar Land Rover visited the whole school last week to share more about his role. He worked with every class and the feedback was so positive. The children were fascinated, inspired and were really impressed, as were the staff!

Today, Mrs Liz Rivers is visiting us to share her engineering role and wealth of experience with the children. I have just been in with Years 3 and 4 during their session and I was blown away. Liz totally inspired them and the questions they had for Mrs Rivers were exceptional, all listening carefully and deepening their questions. We are so lucky to have this for our children, it is so important. I look forward to welcoming more parent/carer/ family visitors sharing their experiences and roles with our children in the future.

**Message from Class 1**

Our second Year 1 enterprise 'Sweetie Friday' was planned for today but with the opening of the Smooga and Mother's day stalls the Year 1 team felt they would postpone it and do it next week instead. Remember, like the cake sales, this is just a little treat event after school and as a healthy school we like to ensure that our children eat healthy snacks throughout the day rather than cakes/ biscuits/ sweets. Thank you!

**We are entering a National Writing Competition judged by David Walliams!**

Your child should come home buzzing today after our very exciting assembly this morning in which we were introduced to a national writing competition which we will be taking part in. During the coming week, each class will have a special workshop with our visitors in which they will be thinking about their piece of writing. The theme is Heroes. This can be any Hero, real life, everyday life, professional, super etc. or even your child in the shoes of a hero. The



writing will be 500 words maximum and can be any genre: story, description, news report, diary entry etc etc. The children will plan, write and enter in school and time has been planned for this in lessons. All I ask of you is that you might like to talk through your child's ideas with them as they are all very excited about it! David Walliams is very quirky so I am sure when reading thousands of entries, he will be looking for one that really stands out and captures him. The prize is sensational... A trip to Disneyland Paris for the family of the winning entry, 500 pounds worth of books for the school library and a very special visit from David Walliams himself to meet the winner in their school! PLEASE can we do this! Let's write our socks off and try our best. How exciting would that be? The visitors who led the assembly today left saying what a wonderful school this is, how enthusiastic and exciting we all are and how impressed they are by our children. I also noticed that when they asked the children to put their hands on their heads if they liked writing, 100% of children did this, which is fabulous feedback for the importance of teaching writing well and engaging our pupils in our school. The visitors cannot wait to return next week. What lovely feedback!

### **Smooga- Opening**

Weather permitting, today at 3pm we officially open our SMOOGA. The gates will open at 2.50pm and there will be complimentary snacks kindly provided by Edwards and Ward, our caterers. We will gather on the playground over towards the Smooga and the children will join us at 3pm. We will then open the Smooga and there will be some activities which Mr Tanner and the Sports captains have arranged for you. We then have so much activity planned for the SMOOGA and already just as an additional space for our children at break times it is proving invaluable. Thank you!

### **Year 2 Eggterprise! Easter Egg Enterprise! Final details and reminder...**

Class 2 would like to request...please don't bring in your eggs until 23<sup>rd</sup> March along with your entry fee of 50p per egg. After this they will be judged. 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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!



2

cont...



## **WORLD BOOK DAY BRILLIANCE**

Despite the snow, we managed to do our World Book day last Thursday and it was incredible. The children and staff made such an effort with their Witch and Wizard themed costumes and were able to share which book they were from. We had a wonderful assembly in the morning where we shared our outfits and did our DEAR challenge where every time the whistle blew, we had to read! The day consisted of a special treasure hunt in the reading corridor, photo booth and story-time in the library. We were interviewed by the Swindon advertiser and you can see the report in our reading corridor and here: <http://www.swindonadvertiser.co.uk/news/16060688.Gallery/> A great day was had by all, the snow didn't stop us!

## **Parent Pay for Breakfast Club**

I am delighted to let you know that from 16<sup>th</sup> April, we will be in a position to take online payment for breakfast club via parent pay. A more detailed letter will be coming home via parent mail soon.

## **Slapped Cheek Syndrome**

We have had a few cases of slapped cheek in school. The guidelines for this are that the child does not need to be off school. It is particularly contagious before the red rash comes out, making it very hard to detect at that stage. There is a risk to children with a weakened immune system/ diabetes/pregnant people particularly under 20 weeks and they are asked to contact their GP/midwife for advice if they have come into contact with someone who has this. We are as always, encouraging hand washing and good hygiene measures to limit this and other viruses being passed around. Here is the NHS guidance: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/slapped-cheek-syndrome/>

## **Parents evenings**

Further to our parent mail, the live online booking system has gone live since Thursday so that you can make your appointments for either next Tuesday or Thursday evenings. Dates for this went out in September and onto the school calendar to make sure you had them well in advance to avoid other dates having to be made. Please be reminded that teacher led clubs such as choir will not be on during these evenings as the teachers are in parent consultation meetings, thank you.

## **Thank you to FOAKS helpers with the pocket money stalls**

A massive thank you to everyone who has been involved with the Mother/Carer/Gran day stalls today. Whether purchasing, wrapping, promoting or selling, thank you. Our children and parents love these pocket money stalls and it is lovely for the children to have some ownership and responsibility for choosing gifts to say thank you to their loved ones.



Thank you for your continued support of our wonderful school.

With my kindest regards,

*S.L.Saville*

Mrs. Saville

Head teacher

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

Date	Event
Tuesday 13th March	3.30-7pm Parent Consultation Evening
Thursday 15th March	3.30-6pm Parent Consultation Evening
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	Class 1 sweetie stall after school
Sunday 18th March	Pm Messy Church in school hall
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Group of Year 6 pupils to mock trials
Friday 23rd March	9am Open the Book- Easter for the community if you would like to pop in 3.15pm Messy Church after school session for KS1 Deadline for Easter egg Eggterprise Competition
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
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> March - Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter Holiday