



Friday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Team AK Shining Brightly:**

Welcome back to the final term of this academic year and this very special *Round the World* version of my newsletter.

Firstly, I have been bursting with excitement for this next newsletter to be able to let you know some very exciting news about one of our pupils:

**Ruby shines brightly as she tops Swindon Region in Writing competition!**

As you may be aware from my previous newsletters, our school took part in a brilliant national writing competition organised by Explore Learning. The children received workshops and then entered the competition by writing a story about Heroes.

Just before the end of term, I learned that one of our Year 6 pupils, Ruby Dorricott, was not only selected for our school as a winner of this competition, but she was selected out of thousands of entries as winner for the whole of the region! There were a total of 39,000 entries from across the country and our Ruby is in the final 150! This is what they wrote:

*I am delighted to announce our regional winner for Swindon is Ruby Dorricott from your school! Her entry will now be put forward to our head office and David Walliams.*

This is a tremendous achievement and puts Ruby through to the next national level now alongside 150 from other regions. WOW!

We already know what a great writer Ruby is and we are so happy for and proud of her, what an achievement! We are looking forward to the writing competition team visiting us to present Ruby with her trophy and certificate in the coming weeks and then I would like to present this to Ruby in the final Heroes & Heroines assembly of the year so you can all help her celebrate. Well done Ruby, we are all super proud of you.

**Shining Brightly around the world.**

As you will be aware, this week we have had our World Awareness Week and each child has teamed up with their Buddy, taken their passports and visited 7 different countries across the school. They were also so fortunate to cook a beautifully tasty Costa Rican meal with Mel Tim and her kitchen club to bring home for you to try. I thought it tasted amazing, I hope you enjoyed it too. Thank you to Mel and to FOAKS for funding this opportunity so that every child could cook for an hour and make their meal. Here are the highlights from each country:



## Costa Rica

In Class 6, the children travelled to Costa Rica. They looked at a variety of flora and fauna that fills the many rainforests and up and down its coastlines. With some year groups we



looked at the sustainability and protection of their country's forestry areas and with other year groups we learnt 'Head, shoulders, knees and toes' in Spanish. We also created pointillism pictures of Costa Rican animals such as sloths and tree frogs.



### What our children say

One Year 6 pupil stated, *"I loved learning about pointillism and the variety of animals which live in Costa Rica."* Another pupil added, *"I didn't realise that there was so much diversity on Costa Rica. I can even say, "Pura Vida - it means pure life."*

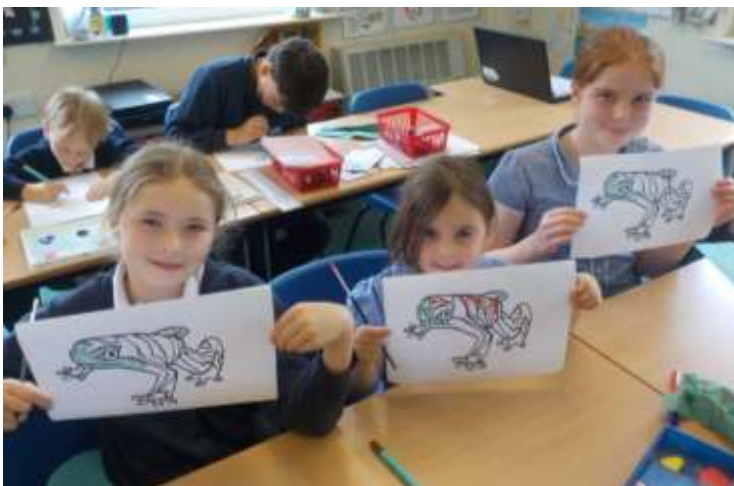
A Year 2 pupil stated, *"I loved singing 'heads, shoulders, knees and toes' in Spanish. I didn't know before that people from Costa Rica spoke Spanish but they do."*

A Year 1 pupil explained how he imagined he was in Costa Rica and stated, *"I can taste the fruits and smell the trees."* Another Year 1 pupil wanted to wow us with their number knowledge, adding, *"I have learnt that 2 million people visit Costa Rica every*



*year."*

A child from Year 3 said, *"We watched a video where two children zip-lined through the rainforest. It was amazing to see how high up they were and the boy and his sister really enjoyed looking at the sloth."*





## Peru

In Class 5 we have been looking at Peru. Peru has lots of different environments from mountains to rainforests. We have learnt about the different peoples of Peru and the art they produce. We have made Spanish inspired *retablo* pictures which are decorated with flowers using oil pastels. Inca achievements have been discussed from their road and bridge system to early brain surgery. We were especially impressed with the gold work and masks produced by them. Have a look at our ones. We used lolly pop



sticks to represent the elaborate headdresses you see on them.

Bright colours are used a lot in art work from Peru.

Retablos shine with bright blues and greens. Peruvian weaving is packed with pinks



and purples.

We used card hand looms to give weaving a go- it's not easy. You have to really concentrate on the over and under pattern especially when you reach the last of the threads on the board and have to go back in the direction you have come. Practise makes perfect though!

Of course no visit to Peru would be complete without a certain young bear! We've been spotting

Paddington all week whilst we've worked. Year R and 1 have had fun deciding the types of things that Paddington would need to pack if he was going back to Peru on holiday to visit his relatives. Marmalade sandwiches are an absolute must!





## Sweden

Class 4 became Sweden. Whilst visiting Sweden we learnt about the types of food that are popular there. Lots of children didn't like the idea of pickled herrings, but were very happy to taste cinnamon buns.



We found out about the importance of Dala Horses and how they have been sold for hundreds of years. We designed and decorated our own Dala Horses either on paper, or sewing our designs onto felt.



We also studied Pippi Longstocking and discovered that walking backwards made her feel happy. The children designed their own 'longstocking' with things that make them feel happy.

Finally, we reproduced some Swedish landscapes using water colours. We learnt the techniques of colour mixing, white washing, outlining using perspective, creating mirror images as reflections and using different types of brushes to get the best effects.



## Germany

In Class R we enjoyed finding out about Germany. We tasted a selection of German foods and even looked at a piece of the Berlin wall. It was interesting to learn about the German artist Paul Klee and many children re-created pieces of artwork in a similar style. We all made Schultüte, a cone which is traditionally filled with sweets and given to children on their first day at school. We learnt some German and sang heads, shoulders, knees and toes in German. "We tasted some of the food that they have in Germany" Evie C



"I like the pretzels" Harry  
 "I liked the German salami" Ella D  
 "I liked making the Schultüte" Wilf



words

## Jamaica

Whilst in Jamaica in Y1, we channelled our inner Usain Bolt! Out on the field, we timed each other sprinting 30m. We had several attempts to see if we could improve our time. Unsurprisingly, none of us came anywhere close to breaking a world record! We learnt about hurricanes and built shelters, using junk, or a net. We also used oil pastilles and watercolours to create pictures in the style of Stafford Schliefer, a self-taught Jamaican artist. As we left, we were able to sample Ginger Beer, spicy honey bun and plantain chips. This was like playing Russian Roulette as some were garlic flavour, but others were Jungle Chilli, and certainly made our eyes water!



The photos are of building hurricane shelters and painting in the style of the Jamaican artist Stafford Schliefer. This is some feedback on the week from Class 1 pupils:

Ivor – "When I was in Peru I learned that leopards hide in the trees and pounce down on their prey."

Ruben – "I really enjoyed packing Paddington's suitcase so that he could travel to Lima to visit his Aunt Lucy."

Iris – "In Sweden they have ice bars. Even the chairs and tables are made from ice!"

Rosie – "The ice never melts on the Andes Mountains, so even in the summer you can go skiing."



### Sri Lanka

Class 2 became Sri Lanka. Meditation was so nice and quiet. It was lovely to think about how it would feel to do this in Sri Lanka looking at the beautiful country. Making the water lily flowers was good fun but a bit tricky, there were so many things to cut out and piece back together. The wax resist batik style art was really magical; we didn't know what the pictures would look like until they had completely dried. We also liked trying volleyball; it was a lot harder than we thought it would be to hit the ball correctly when we started each game. Most of class 2 would now like to visit Sri Lanka to see if they can see any of the things we have talked about during our sessions together!

### Ireland

When you visited Class 3 you entered a magical land of giant, music, myths and Celtic knots. We started our journey from Ashton Keynes, made our way down the M4, over the Severn Bridge entered Wales and finally arrived at the port to catch the ferry to Dublin, the capital of Ireland.



We found out that Dublin had road signs in Gaelic and English, a river called the River Liffey, it was very busy and had a tourist viewing point at the top of a tall tower called the Chimney. We now know that Stone Age man lived there and they left burial mounds as well as the Vikings and Normans



invaded. In the 1800's there was a terrible famine and hundreds of people left and emigrated to Liverpool, Cardiff, Swansea and America. We found out about the maiden voyage of the Titanic which took its last passengers from Ireland before it set sail.

We worked with our buddies to name and colour countries and we wrote facts about Dublin. We danced Irish jigs to Irish music and noticed they played fiddles and accordions. Millie and Alice loved doing this dance and Freddie and Caleb showed such rhythm.

We read the story of Finn McCool who was an Irish giant and Years R, 1 & 2 painted pictures of him. Ben said, "I really liked the ingenious plan that Finn's wife made up to fool the Scottish giant", while the KS2 children made Celtic Knots which involved lots of careful measuring, cutting and weaving. Josh said "I loved making the Celtic knots" while Max commented that "they were complicated to make but I tried hard and made it". Caleb created the design below and said, "I loved the beautiful decorations.



Freddie B summed up our wonderful week by saying, "This year was great and I'm looking forward to next World Awareness Week!

The children have all had a very stimulating and interesting week in which they have learned a lot about the culture of different countries and taken part in so many activities such as: cooking, singing, speaking in different languages, dancing, creating beautiful art work, writing. In addition, they have now visited every classroom across the school and worked with every



member of staff which will help with a smooth transition to their next year group in September. I have been so impressed by how well the buddies have supported one another. Thank you to all of the staff for putting together such a wonderful week for our children, to the families who have helped by sending in resources, to Mrs Tim for the cooking and Mrs Gray for her assembly on Guatemala, showing us where our cake sale money went to and the difference working together can make for communities across the world. Another successful world awareness week for Team AK.

### **Other ways we have been shining brightly:**

#### **Year 6 shining in London**

We had the best time in London; all of the children were incredibly happy and safe. The feedback from children and parents has been so positive and as a staff team, it was an absolute delight to take such a fabulous group of well behaved, polite and respectful children. We experienced a wonderful range of special activities including: raft building, canoeing, climbing to the golden gallery at the top of St Pauls to take in the incredible views, watching the Lion King in the theatre, sightseeing on foot and by boat to experience the capital city first hand, the London eye, imax 4d experience and the incredible visit to Shrek Adventures! It was an educational and action packed week in which the children all grew in many different ways. The few children who didn't join us on the trip did a really exciting school based London project that same week so they were fully included in the London learning and they were brilliant. Well done Team 6!

#### **Sporting success**

We are so lucky that we have so much sport to offer to our pupils and every time they go out to represent our school, your children continue to make us proud. This week alone we have performed brilliantly in the KS2 rounders tournament, won some events in district sports with some children going through to area finals and our 2 tennis teams came first and second in the tennis competition and go further to represent our school in tennis. We are currently, as I type, attending a cricket festival. These achievements are excellent and coupled with that is the excellent sporting attitude our children have whether they win or lose. I could not be more proud. Thank you so very much to Mr Tanner and to all of the parents who volunteer to help make these events possible.

#### **Church fete 3pm Sunday- come and join us as we open the fete with 2 ising pop songs!**

This Sunday in Church walk (if the sun shines) or the village hall (if it rains), our school will be opening the church fete at 3pm with a couple of upbeat ising pop numbers performed by the choir with Mrs Crowley. Please come and join us, you are all very welcome to bust some moves and sing your heart out to help us open the church fete on Sunday in true AKPS style. I really hope to see lots of you there if you can make it. Thank you!



Have a super weekend, may the sun shone on us all for the Church fete.

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
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> June	Class R trip to Cotswold Farm Park
Mon 18 <sup>th</sup> June	10.45 visiting author Eamonn Rielly
Wed 20 <sup>th</sup> - Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Year 5 residential trip to Viney Hill
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> June	9.00am Class 1 assembly
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> June	Sports morning (Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> July if wet)
Sat 30 <sup>th</sup> June	AK Fest- please see Sus Paris if you can help.