



SHINE BRIGHT ★ REACH FOR THE STARS



Wednesday 25th July 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Team AK Shining Brightly:

What a year! I could not be more proud of this school and all who are part of it. A huge personal thank you for your very thoughtful and kind messages and gifts, I am always ever so grateful and never take anything for granted, thank you.

Amazing Outcomes

Wow, what another wonderful year this has been for TEAM AK! We continue to always do our best to provide a wide range of exciting and enriching opportunities for our children so that they have a rich seven year journey through our school. We have been so proud of the fact that our school was judged as the top performing school in Wiltshire this year and continue to reach and aim high to ensure we are consistently performing well and providing the best for all of our pupils. I am absolutely delighted to let you know that we have achieved another set of incredible academic results for our school this year in all areas of the school and particularly in our Year 6 outcomes, which we are judged by nationally. These results show the brilliant progress our children make during their time with us and this year are the best we have ever had in school! Results are available on our website. The progress measures, from each child's starting point, is incredible and this will be analysed and published officially in December. I could not be more proud of our school. Your children are wonderful and deserve the very best, the whole staff team are so committed to giving the children the best, they are just brilliant and the Governors support our school so brilliantly. I am proud of our partnership with our parent and our links with the local community. Thank you all- we are certainly shining very brightly.

Winners in STEM engineering challenge

Every year, Class 5 take part in the STEM engineering design challenge and each year the top team represent the school at the RIAT. We are always so proud of the children. This year we had a winning team who won a prize for the school! Congratulations to Theo Taylor & Enzo Watson Ganivet for winning the Presentation Award at the Royal International Air Tattoo Junior Engineer Challenge on Friday. The boys were incredible and really impressed the judges with their outstanding presentation skills about their construction. As part of the prize the STEM team and representatives from the RAF Charitable Trust came and presented the trophy to Enzo and Theo and we celebrated how well they both did. The boys were presented with Lego for the school and a kit for themselves along with a cheque for our school which will be used to purchase some technical Lego for the whole school to benefit from.

Year 5/6 Production 'The Adventures of Super Stan'

We have recently performed our Year 5/6 production and WOW what a performance it was. It was a real laugh out loud show and the level of acting and singing was just incredible. We take the whole school to the Pantomime every year, have theatre groups in to perform and provide specialist drama and music for our children which I know really helps with this developed confidence. All of the children shone and some are naturals and born for the stage. The collective singing from the whole group blew us away, it was excellent. Well done to Teams 5 and 6- thank you for a truly memorable and jaw dropping performance.

Charlotte's Web was brilliant

For our end of year treat, we experienced the return of a wonderful theatre company to perform Charlotte's Web. We had all raised £2 each through our school business enterprise and the school treated us to the rest of the show. It was absolutely incredible and everyone was in giggles, awe and wonder. A lovely treat for our children and staff and so well deserved for achieving their whole school TEAM AK award.

Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Voss

I am delighted to inform you that baby Dexter Bailey Voss arrived safely on Thursday 12th July at 15.19 weighing 8lb 9. All are doing well and completely over the moon!



Highlights from each class:

Class R have had a truly fabulous year. All the children have made a really promising start to their time at our school and we look forward to seeing them flourish in Year 1. Good friends have been made, new skills learnt, mysteries solved and above all we have

had lots of fun!



We've had eggs hatching, caterpillars metamorphosing, we've cooked, we've been to the panto and Adams's farm. We had a reading breakfast, a cake sale after our amazing assembly, and even a visit from a very tall man called Paul!

Along with the whole school we've taken part in Sports week, World Awareness Week and Science week.

And along the way we have become mathematicians!



become superstar readers, writers and

Class 1

Wow what a year! All of the children have grown so much this year and we are so proud of them. This term we have been especially busy enjoying World Awareness Week, Sports Week and the Storyteller's visit.



Computing

Class 1 have enjoyed using the laptops to learn how to log on to the network, open applications and save their work. It was tricky getting used to the keyboard and mouse, some of us wanted to touch the screen but we are all superstars on the laptops now! We also know how to keep safe online and have learnt where to go for help if we feel unsafe.



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Visit to 'We the Curious'

On 6th July, along with Class 2, we visited 'We the Curious' Science Museum in Bristol. We all took part in a Space Mission; building our own rockets and launching them into space, selecting and discussing suitable materials to create a space suit to wear whilst venturing out to make repairs to the space station and positioning the solar panels to capture the most sun light. We also had time to get hands on with the exhibits. Two of our favourites were the large 'hamster wheel', and the parachutes.



Class Assembly This term we had our class assembly. We told the story of The Snail and The Whale, and shared some of our writing and art work prompted by the story. We sang two of our favourite songs from Charanga and shared a prayer. We enjoyed it, and hoped that our parents did too.

Our class artist is Andy Goldsworthy, and we enjoyed spending time outside creating our own sculptures using natural materials.





Class 2 Wow, what a year! The children and the team in class 2 have had a truly superb year. We've had tears, fun and whole lot of laughter. The children have worked incredibly hard and



every single one of them should be so proud of everything they have achieved and tried this year. As a team we could not be more proud and I'm sure there will be a few tears by the end of the day from us. We have enjoyed the topics we have covered, teaching one another and sharing thoughts and understanding. We have taught one another so much; the



children have shared their experiences with me as well as me teaching them. I have been blown away by their knowledge on Space!

We have recently had our trip to 'We are the Curious' this was a truly amazing trip and the children enjoyed the day so much. They were so well behaved and inquisitive throughout. This has led on to some fabulous pace themed work which has finished nicely with a DT project based on moon buggies.



World Awareness week was great, the class enjoyed moving around the school and working with the different adults. The countries were super and the whole was thoroughly enjoyed. Class 2 enjoyed Germany and Costa Rica the most!



Sports week was also another fantastic week, it gives us a great opportunity to see children experiencing new things and testing new skills. Class 2 loved the whole week but their favourite was Football. This was topped off with a fabulous but rather hot Sports day! Thoughts from the children:



I would like to take the opportunity to say a massive thank you and we hope you enjoy the summer! Miss Igoe and the Year 2 Team





Class 3

have danced, skipped and run into their final term, starting with Sports Week. What a packed week. On our busiest day the children played tennis, football, skipped for half an hour then had a martial arts session and that was just the morning! They were all so positive and gave every sport a go. Every single child also completed a mile run and gave it their all even in the searing heat!

In class the children have written some exciting stories for the Soroptomist story writing competition. Fingers crossed we have a winner! The children have been really enjoying trying coding using Scratch. They have used a variety of different blocks to create a sequence adding movement, changing appearance, colour, adding music and speech. What's been particularly lovely is the enthusiasm of children who have gone home and created their own projects which



they have then showcased to their classmates. They are teaching me new programming techniques!

Here's what the children have enjoyed:
Olivia: *I liked using*



Scratch because you can use the blocks to do what you want.

Evie: *I liked skipping it was so exciting learning new skills.*

Evangeline: *I really enjoyed skipping because it's made me better at it and now I can really skip.*

Archie: *I've really enjoyed using Scratch to program and then use those skills at home too.*

Harriet: *I have enjoyed learning about shapes because now I know names of shapes I didn't know before such as dodecahedron!*



Max B: *I've enjoyed playing the Home Safety game and learning how to recognise dangers in our homes*





Class 4

Class 4 had a fantastic time exploring the different countries during World Awareness Week. They collected data the following week by voting for their favourite country. This data was used to introduce our statistics topic in maths. The children collated the data onto bar graphs to identify the most and least popular. We investigated different ways to represent data and how we could find out information from different graphs and tables.



During our literacy lessons we were able to explore and use our imaginations by writing a short story for the Soroptomist Writing competition. The titles we could choose from were "Invisible for a day," or "Things will never be the same again." We discussed what features make a good story and what techniques make the reader want to read on to help us with ideas for our own stories. The children have produced some really creative writing with excellent vocabulary and imagination.



We all loved sports week! The variety of sports on offer for us to either improve a skill or try for the first time was excellent. We really enjoyed zumba, martial arts and archery, but



taking part in the 'bopathon' with our own glowsticks was brilliant, especially when 'Booyah' came on. The children should now be able to teach you all the moves! Although very



competitive, sports week ended with a fantastic example of teamwork during our whole school Sports morning.

Shortly after our Sports morning the children arrived back in school with their camping gear ready for our sleepover on the school field.

We all enjoyed sitting outside eating burgers and hotdogs before making whistles during a forest school activity. After dinner we toasted



marshmallows over the campfire and then squeezed them between two chocolate biscuits to make smores. They were delicious! All of this





sugar before bed time may have contributed to the late night chatter, but the children behaved beautifully and enjoyed their first experience of an AK residential, preparing them for their residential trips in Years five and six.

Thank you

I would like to thank you all for your continued support during this year. As many of you know, it was my first year teaching a key stage two class. I was extremely nervous back in September but you, your children and the AK team put me at ease. I have loved every minute of my time with your children and AK and wish you all the best for the future. I will of course be popping back to see the children in their future productions and events and will miss them all immensely. They really can reach for the stars because they are all amazing!
With lots of thanks, love and appreciation, Mrs Boswell x

Class 5

has had an action packed last term. We have had World Awareness Week, Viney Hill residential, the Air Tattoo Engineering Competition, Sports Week and Superstan- our school play.

We really enjoyed visiting the other countries during World Awareness Week. All of the different countries had something different to offer: lotus blossom folding in Sri Lanka, weaving in Peru and food tasting in Germany were just some of the things we did.

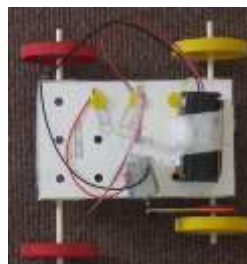
As part of the Air Tattoo Engineering competition, we had to build little model cars and race them. Each car had to be able to drive 5 m in a straight line. The car with the fastest time won.

We built them from scratch using tech-card and battery packs. There were some design challenges on the way but it was great fun!

Viney Hill was almost everybody's favourite activity this year. We took part in some incredibly challenging activities like abseiling down a 90ft cliff and caving at Symonds Yat.

The abseiling was nerve-wracking but once we went down most of us couldn't wait to get back to the top and start all over again.

When we were in the caves, we learnt about the geography and geology of Symonds Yat. We were amazed when we were told that some of the rocks in there are almost 40 million years old!





Canoeing and den building followed. The Forest of Dean was a fab place to build a den. Have a look at some of ours.

We LOVED doing our school play with Year 6. It was called *Superstan* and is all about a boy called Stanley Marvel who dreams of deeds of



daring do and saving the world- sadly for Stanley he is very clumsy which sets the whole story in action. Eventually Stanley and his alter ego Super Stan save the city of Megaville from the



clutches of the evil Candy King

We sang, we danced and we acted our hearts out.

Doing a superhero play made it much easier for us to write our stories for the Soroptomists competition. We chose to do the 'If I was a hero' story. We looked at how to do time slips and flashbacks in stories. We found that writing short stories is actually harder than writing long ones!

Year 6

What a fabulous final term and a fabulous year we have had in Year 6! We wish every child success and happiness in their future endeavours.

Our production

Last week, the Year 5s and 6s performed the Year 5/6 production of 'The Adventures of Superstan' and we were so impressed with them all. They worked tirelessly to learn their lines and performed like they were on the West End! The excited parents and teachers couldn't believe how well the children acted and how funny they were. Every child in Year 5 & 6 performed their roles brilliantly singing and dancing was stunning too. The attitude and enthusiasm of the children was exemplary. One grandparent stated: "The children were born to do these roles." and another added, "The children showed real determination from start to finish - shame the same couldn't be said for the





football!"

Air Tattoo

On Friday, Class 6 - along with staff and governor, Jon Hughes - visited the Air Tattoo. The red arrows display was phenomenal and groups enjoyed the opportunity to explore. Every zone was fantastic and groups explored helicopters, planes, Chinooks, tanks and other military vehicles. Some groups even learnt the Charleston in the vintage tent. We left coated with stickers and armed with posters.



SATs

As many of you will be aware by now, last week the Year 6 pupils received their KS2 SATs results and we have been busy celebrating with everyone. Although we recognise that SATs results are only a small part of the children's successes at AK, we are so proud of them and their amazing results. The children have worked incredibly hard and we are so proud of them.



What a wonderful year our children have had, each class creating unique opportunities for your children to grow and learn. Thank you to my staff team for going above and beyond to ensure your children have these wonderful opportunities and with such enthusiasm.

Reminder-WI village show September 15th- get your creative hats on over the Summer!

I am ever so excited about this year's competition. Get your children collecting their best pebble over the summer and get them thinking. This task is to be completed outside of school. Here is the task:

Children (Please state name and year group on the back- so judges cannot see them)

Use your creativity to decorate a pebble. This can be painted or decorated in any way.

Extra challenge: You could submit a short piece of writing alongside your pebble to either: describe what it is, a character description for your pebble, poem for your pebble or an idea of your own. It is the pebble itself which will be judged.

I have worked with Chris from the WI to come up with the task and I think this is a brilliant one for your children to really enjoy and pebble painting is very popular at the moment. If you would like some inspiration, google pebble painting and there are some incredible images to get your child's creativity flowing. The extra challenge of a piece of writing to go with the pebble would be really lovely because we really value writing here at AKPS and it is fabulous for the community to see our children's wonderful writing. I wonder if they have a Headteacher category for this, I am so excited about it that I would like to enter!



Can you offer to our school?

Next year, as part of our school plan, we would like to get even more people in from the community to share their experiences/skills with the children in order to broaden their horizons and aspirations. This year we had a focus on engineering and are keen to develop a range of skills next year, including business. Please contact the school office if you are interested in coming in.

May I take this opportunity to say thank you. To wish our leavers all the very best and hope that they keep reaching and shining: our Year 6 superstars, Mrs Hancock, Mrs Boswell and Mrs Bond, thank you for being such a special part of Team AK. Those of you who were able to join us this morning heard how brightly our school is shining and that I gave TEAM AK a golden Headteacher merit. Thank you all for your continued support of our school: to my whole staff team who work tirelessly and positively every single day; to my Governors for their fabulous support in the leadership of this school and to you the parents for your wonderful support- we all have one shared aim, to provide the very best for your children. Thank you!

Have a lovely Summer, keep safe and I really look forward to welcoming you back to another fabulous year starting on Monday 3rd September,

With my kindest regards,
your very proud 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 3 rd September	9am Welcome back to school- everyone in as Term 1 starts.
Tues/Wed 17/18 th Sept	Life Van in school
Thursday 20 th Sept	Swimming starts for Class 4
Thursday 27 th Sept	School photos

ASHTON KEYNES

Church of England VC Primary School



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