



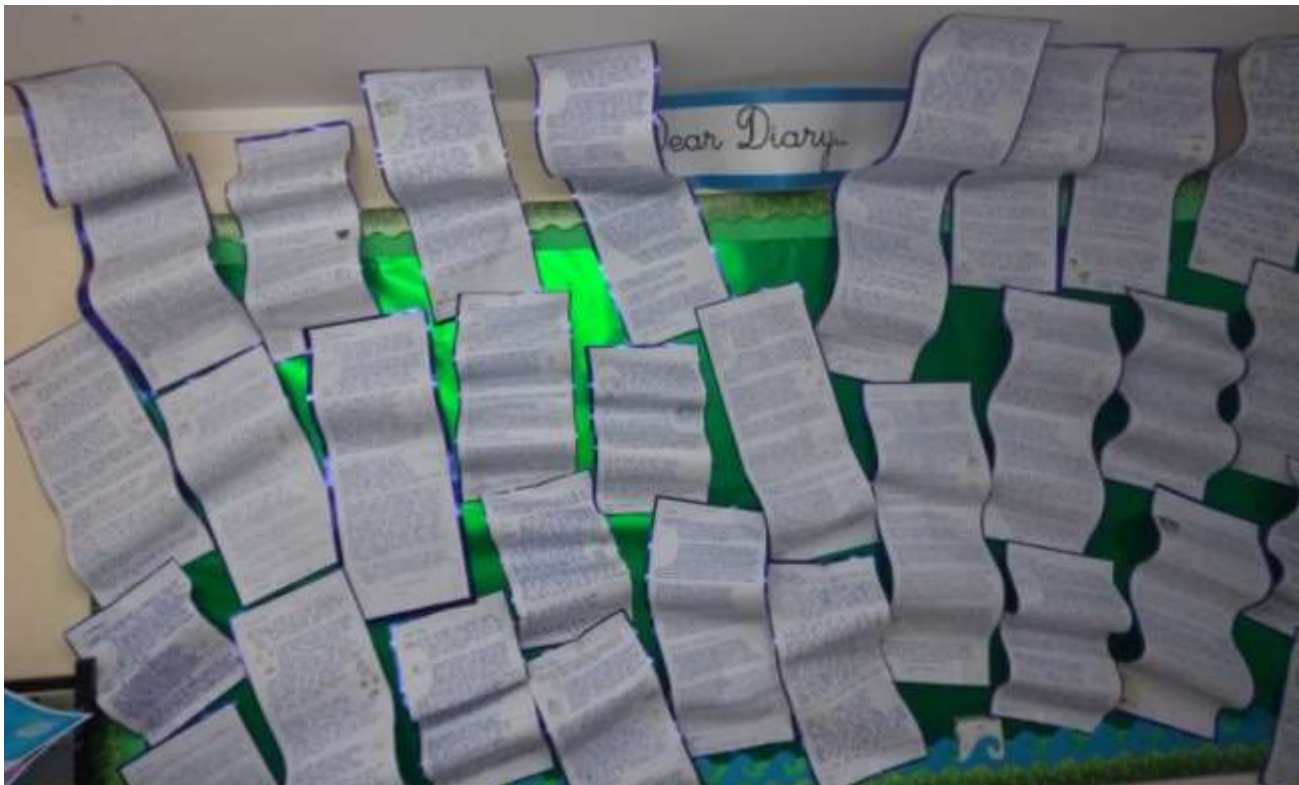
Friday 12th October 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Team AK Shining Brightly:

It really is a pleasure to be Headteacher of this wonderful school. I have in the past couple of weeks witnessed countless positive things about our school including: lots of wonderful learning, beautifully polite children, great clubs at lunch, proud pupils, excellent buddies, excited children and staff and some incredible efforts and achievements outside school at sporting events. I am sorry I have not been around for the past couple of days, I have been really unwell with a nasty virus which is very unlike me so I have been resting and quietly working at home and look forward to returning with gusto on Monday morning!

I really enjoyed doing learning walks around the school over the past couple of weeks and have been so impressed with the learning I have seen in all classes. In staff meeting we had a look at progress across all classes and were really pleased with the writings seen across the classes and the high expectation. Here are some stunning examples I wanted to share from Year 6:





Year 6 have been truly inspired by Eva Ibbotson's, 'Journey to the River Sea'. They have written some amazing diary entries and really taking on the character of Maia. We have looked at high-level language, sentence structure and punctuation. Their use of emotive and figurative language has blown our metaphorical socks off. The children have also continued to work on these skills and apply them to their homework. Please pay a visit to Class 6 to take a look at all the children's fabulous work.



As well as creating high-quality writing, Class 6 have also created extremely high-quality art work. We have been inspired by Henri Rousseau and the way in which he drew and painted tropical plants to create our own oil pastel pictures. The children applied their skills of accuracy and precision

to create some truly stunning pieces of work.



I look forward to reporting on another class in my next newsletter.

With the Government's news release this week about changes with OFSTED to a focus on the whole school curriculum rather than just test results, I feel we are already shining with this as we have excellent outcomes for our children as well as an engaging and deep curriculum which enables our children to explore and deepen their thirst for learning in a range of subjects; not just English and Maths. This is what I see every time I walk around our school; a rich learning environment.

Times Table Rockstars success and thank you!

Miss Redman has introduced a trial for our school of 'Timestables Rockstars'. Whilst it is primarily aimed at children in KS2, we felt it would be useful for parents to have access to it in KS1 to get children going early and when they are ready. It is absolutely essential that children can quickly recall and apply their tables up to 12 x 12 by the end



of Year 4 so the school feels that Rockstars will help with this in a fun way. Miss Redman has been issuing merits for children who are working hard on Rockstars in each class and is excitedly tracking how we are doing against other schools. We are currently one of the fastest local primary schools, even faster than Deer Park! We would whole-heartedly like to encourage children to use Rockstars, especially with the expectation nationally for children to quickly recall their tables and know the inverse up to 12 x 12 by the end of Year 4. With regard to KS1, it is important the children give this a go when they are ready for it, it is designed to be a helpful tool so starting with 2,5 and 10s is really helpful. We have seen as experienced teachers that children fluently learning times tables leads to greater success in Maths, so we are keen for our children to do this as soon as they are ready and aim for it to be in place by the end of Year 4.

Keeping Team AK smart and ready to learn

I have recently spoken with the children about uniform and ensuring we are smart in school, which they totally agreed with. We discussed the problem with wearing hair accessories which were too big, bright and were distracting children from their learning. We agreed that it would be better and smarter for children not to wear these bright bows and that staff would politely remind children that these are for home use and dress down days rather than school. The children all understood this and we have been delighted to see how the children have taken this on board. I also spoke about trainers and reminded children that these should only be worn for PE or if a child has a medical need or a broken shoe and therefore a letter should be sent in from the parent and trainers only worn for a short period of time. Again, your children understood this. We are all so proud of our school, thank you for helping us work together to ensure that our children continue to be proud of their uniform and wear sensible uniform which does not cause any unnecessary distraction.

Clubs

There are a range of clubs happening in school currently and these can change termly. You will be informed of clubs via a letter home as it is difficult to create an online timetable due to the clubs regularly changing. Do give the office a call if you would like to enquire about any particular club. During lunchtimes, the Smooga offers a different activity each day led by members of staff, including a disco Friday! I have been regularly meeting with children from across the school to book in clubs they would like to run in lunchtimes and I am delighted with the range of clubs we have coming from the children. Currently we have 'comic' club and 'individual star craft' clubs with



obstacle course club, 'Sing your heart out' and 'Science' clubs among many others waiting for after half term! I love helping your children run their clubs, it is important for the children to have this experience of leadership and it is open to any children from across the school, there is no age limit!

Book Fair -thank you

Last week, our annual book fair was a huge success. I was absolutely delighted to see it so well attended and I was really impressed by the team of children who worked their socks off with Miss Harrold to organise and run the event. This is what the pupil leaders of the event and Miss Harrold would like to say:

"Thank you for everyone that turned up even if they didn't buy a book or cake because it gave us confidence that we were doing well. Thank you to the team who worked so brilliantly well with Miss Harrold, Mrs Campbell and I. Thanks to Miss Igoe and Mrs Simpson for being there every day after school. The book fair has been a huge success and I am certain that we have raised a lot of money. Thank you to everyone that turned up, bought a book or cake and to the book fair team." Enzo (Book Fair Manager)

"We hope that you and your child/children enjoyed our book fair. It was a huge success. Anyone who bought a book, donated a cake or supported our cafe we would like to say a massive thank you to. To all staff and parents who made this possible, you are deeply thanked. especially Miss Harrold and Mrs Campbell for making it what it was." Zara Maxwell (Accountant) and Anna Branscomb (Deputy Fair Manager)

We've just had the final amounts confirmed. The Book Fair Cafe made £83 and the commission from the Book Fair Sales was...£624! Amazing - Jane xx

My thanks to everyone who supported, to the staff who helped, to those who baked and donated cakes and cups and to the wonderful children for their excellent leadership skills. I really love this book fair as it always brings such great books and good value too. We always end up with some brilliant new titles for our library to benefit all children. This is a tremendous amount of money raised for books- THANK YOU SO MUCH YOU WONDERFUL PEOPLE!

Value in Focus- Our current Christian value in focus is Creativity

Think of your favourite picture. Imagine it in your head. What about it grabs your attention- is it the colours, the shapes, the way the artist has made it realistic or abstract? Think about a building you like. What is it about it that grabs your attention?

The cave paintings at Lascaux, the standing stones at Stonehenge and the beautiful jewellery from Ancient Egypt show that from earliest times human beings have wanted to design and create beautiful things. Each of us is creative in different ways. Some people love to paint, others to cook. Some take delight in building lego models or



making music. Each of us can let our creativity shine. Sometimes it can take a lot of courage to be creative. You might have to share new ideas with people who might think differently.

We have been really impressed with how our children have been showing creativity. Setting up an ideas box for the school, designing and providing clubs for other children. I have a great club list building with children coming and sharing their ideas and booking slots to run their clubs. We have so many brilliant clubs about to be run by our pupils. Your children are so creative!

School Improvement Plan 2018/2019 We will be working on these four areas throughout the year, as defined by staff and Governors. We also have many other things we will be working on to ensure our school continues to shine ever so brightly. As shared on our website, our 4 areas in focus this year are:

- 1. Developing a proactive approach in partnership with parents to positively manage the impact of social media and the internet upon the development and well-being of our pupils (Led by S.Saville)
- 2. Maths- whole school development and embedding of strong number understanding and application in line with new Government expectations (Led by K.Redman)
- 3. Further deepen children's learning across the school through metacognition and self-regulation (Led by L.Perring)
- 4. Pupil Leadership incorporating business enterprise to deepen and broaden pupils subject skills (Led by C.Kibblewhite)

Doggy Family



We have many lovely puppies and dogs joining us in our wider Team AK family one of those being Ted, who I introduced you to in my last newsletter (Here is a more recent photo as promised). As part of my journey with Ted as a school dog, I will be arranging for external visitors to come into school to talk with our children about dog safety and keeping themselves safe around dogs. I have of course done a thorough risk assessment for Ted as he will be visiting school regularly. For safety reasons, Ted will not be on the playground at the busiest times of the day during collection and drop off which is the same rule for all dogs. This ensures a safe and calm



pick up for children and parents. In addition, I have spoken with the children about not crowding the dogs who are waiting outside school at pick up and drop off times to avoid any potential incidents/ accidents. I would really appreciate it if you could reinforce this with your children to continue to keep them safe as we love having our extended doggy family around us and want it to continue to be a successful relationship. I am aiming for Ted to be in on a Friday each week, so do come and say hello if you haven't met him yet, he can be located in mine (and Ted's) office!

I hope you have a lovely weekend and thank you for your continued support and partnership

With my warmest 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 2019 to help you plan ahead:

Date	Event
Sunday 14 th October	11am Church Harvest Festival Holy Cross- all welcome 12.30 Harvest lunch school hall- all welcome
Wednesday 17 th October	Zumba morning
Friday 19 th October	9am Heroes and Heroines
Monday 22 nd October	Sports tournament afternoon with parents from 3.15pm
Tuesday 23 rd October	Water Aid Day- dress down wear blue 50p Unveil pupil pebble display in spiritual garden End of Term 1
Wednesday 24 th October	Teacher training day school closed to pupils
Monday 5 th November	9am Term 2 starts Parents evening online sign up opens for bookings
Wednesday 7 th November	Y 3 and 4 Corinium trip
10 th November	4.30pm AKPS Firework Evening at Bradstone Fields- help appreciated please!
11 th November	2.30 pm in village hall WW1 Concert Party in celebration of the Armistice involving some pupils- organised by the village community
Tuesday 13 th November	3.30-7pm Parents Evening Flu vaccination day for YR-5
Thursday 15 th November	3.30-6pm Parents Evening FOAKS School Disco Mighty Oaks in Class R from 5-6



Tuesday 27th November	9am Y5 Class Assembly to parents/carers (please note change of date) 1.30pm Senior Citizen Tea Party hosted by Year 6
Sunday 2nd December	4pm Christingle in Church 5.30 Christmas tree lighting at pub—choir to sing if possible
Friday 7th December	1.30pm FOAKS Pocket Money Stalls
Monday 10th December	10.45-11.45 KS1 Nativity Dress Rehearsal for children in school and playgroup/ nursery 1.30-2.30 Nativity - all welcome
Tuesday 11th December	Whole school trip to the Pantomime- Aladdin 11.30 coaches pick up, packed lunch on coaches, 1pm production, 3.30 pick up from theatre, 4-4.15 back at school
Wednesday 12th December	1.30-2.30 Nativity - all welcome
Thursday 13th December	5.30pm-6.30pm Nativity (adults/ older siblings only please)
Friday 14th December	Christmas Jumper Day- 50p for Save the Children 1.20pm leave for 1.40 Christmas Service Holy Cross Church- all welcome
Wednesday 19th December	Zumba Morning After school FOAKS Christmas Movie Night
Thursday 20th December	9-11 AK's Got Talent Christmas Special- pupils only
Friday 21st December	9am Heroes and Heroines End of Term 2

ASHTON KEYNES

Church of England VC Primary School

SHINE BRIGHT ★ REACH FOR THE STARS



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INVESTORS IN PEOPLE



Healthy School