



Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Team AK Shining Brightly:

Welcome back to what I call the term of glitter and sparkles, in the build up to Christmas! It has been a lovely return to school and already, the KS1 nativity rehearsals and KS2 Christmas singing for church are well under way. We never miss a minute here, school is always buzzing and full of exciting events and opportunities for the children. I am sharing just a few highlights from around the school this week along with some important information for new parents to the school and helpful reminders for those of us who have been here a while!

### Year 3 and 4 Corinium Museum Trip

Classes 3 and 4 went out on their first trip of the year to the Corinium museum in Cirencester and whilst having an "amazing" time, they also represented the school beautifully! Well done Years 3 and 4.

### KS2 Maths Challenge

A small group of pupils from Years 5 and 6 went out to represent the school in a Maths challenge this week. The children all enjoyed their challenge and spoke clearly and eloquently when presenting their results. The challenges involved 4 challenges using dice and arranging to specific rules and looking for all permutations to meet them. The 4 got harder as the final one involved products of top faces of the dice. The exercise lasted 50 minutes and the team worked hard together to solve the challenge. The group teachers were observing them and scoring aspects such as their teamwork, communication and working notes as well as obviously their written answers and presentations. We will find out next Friday if they get to round two, which would be excellent, but whatever the result they have certainly shone brightly and we are very proud of them.



### Pupil Led Clubs

Children from across the school are meeting with me regularly to plan and lead clubs for all children across the school in lunchtimes. There are a range of exciting clubs coming up including: Christmas art club, Sing your heart out club and many more. Here is a picture from today's Science club led by Samantha and Evie in Year 4.





## Remembrance

Today the 'open the book' team delivered another fabulous worship with our children and we ended with a prayer from Reverend Shirley, some very thoughtful war poetry read by our Year 5 authors and a beautiful large poppy made by Class R which we used to focus on as we did our minute silence and reflection. Some of our pupils are representing the school on Sunday in the village concert party where they will be performing music, wartime poetry and memoirs which they have worked hard to create.



## School Council Elections

Today Miss Boase organised a very official polling station in the hall and following presentations in class by potential candidates, every child had a secret vote. It was a really official and important event to model democracy to our children. Miss Boase is very excited and will announce the results soon. Well done and thank you to all who took part!



## No Nuts- very important

We have a number of children in school with severe nut allergies and therefore we do not allow nuts in school. This is including in sandwich fillings such as peanut butter and Nutella. This way we can ensure our children with these severe allergies are not exposed to nuts in school. Thank you for your cooperation with this very important matter.

## Charity Events

In the term up until Christmas there seem to be a few nationally organised charity events which the children are so keen for us to take part in. I am incredibly mindful of the impact this can have upon parents in terms of providing money for these events. Please know that donations are always voluntary and we fully appreciate that not everyone can give to everything. We collect any money kindly brought in and everyone takes part regardless of donation, we never expect donations, they are voluntary. I do not want any of our families to feel under pressure with this but I also want to enable our children to take part in events which they value for example: Children in Need, Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day.

## Open Door Policy

The relationship between school and home is a real partnership here and I love the fact that we have an open door policy and therefore parents come and share their ideas but also feel they can come and share any concerns or ask questions to help get the best from the relationship. For those of you that may be new to the school, please know that our staff are



always happy to talk should you need to. They always meet the classes in the morning and are there during collection at 3.15pm if you need to catch them for a quick word. The end of the day is always better for a chat but a quick message is fine in the morning circle. If you would like to talk about something at more length then you can also make an appointment with them via the office as we would rather share a concern or try to help if we can. Sometimes something very little which is shared can prevent a big worry developing. We also love to hear your ideas/ positive feedback too and gratefully appreciate this. If your worry is whole school or something you need to share with the Headteacher, then as always, I am here for you, but please don't forget to talk to the class teacher first as they can often solve things at class level far swifter than I can. I felt this was worth a reminder, especially when moving new to the school or during transition to a new year group. The upcoming parents' evenings are a chance to discuss how your child is settling and progressing so far and to set some targets to support with at home. The appointments are only 10 minutes long so if you need to talk to the teacher at greater length about something, please arrange to do this another time. Thank you.

### **Children in Need 'Rickshaw' is coming to Ashton Keynes!**

On Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November, it is national Children in Need day. School council are organising the day. It is wear your own clothes to school with something spotty. If you can donate 50p that is great but if not, just enjoy taking part! It is a really fun day which the children always enjoy being part of. In addition, I hear that the BBC Children in Need Rickshaw is travelling past Gosditch on Tuesday morning on its journey from France via Wooton Bassett to Cirencester and the beyond! I am currently not sure of the exact timing but if in school time, we will aim to walk the school to the top of Gosditch to watch it go past. We will make banners of support just in case. If your child has any Pudsey wear (please do not feel you have to buy anything), they may of course bring it in on Tuesday. I do not mean full on outfits, just school uniform with a headband/ bear/ flag. We will know more on Monday hopefully but if possible, we will get up there to see the Rickshaw as it passes by and give it some luck from TEAM AK. It will be brilliant if timings work out, but we will have to be flexible... fingers crossed!

### **Pantomime whole school trip... oh yes it is!**

We are very excited about our up and coming whole school Christmas treat this year; our return to the Wyvern Theatre to see the pantomime version of Aladdin on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December! Please make sure you return your slip and payment to book your child's place on the trip by Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December. (Letters have gone out via parent mail this week). This has been a very successful whole school outing for the past two years and we can't wait to go again!

### **AK Fireworks- Tomorrow!**

Please be reminded that it is the annual AK fireworks event tomorrow (Saturday) evening organized by FOAKS. This is always such a fabulous, well organized and professional display and event. A massive thank you in advance to all who are helping with this event and to all who can come and support this wonderful community event which provides a wonderful evening but



is a highly valued fundraiser for our village school. I will be on the BBQ so will look forward to seeing many of you there, do come and say hello!

### **Breakfast Club Christmas Party**

The fabulous Breakfast Club Christmas Party is on Wednesday 19th December (not 17th as previously advertised). This includes a yummy breakfast, fun games, a great baking activity with Mel Tim of the 'Kitchen Club', a special visitor (!!!!) and an amazing gift for every child. All this is included in the usual Breakfast Club price of £3. Book early to avoid disappointment!

### **New Sporting APP for sports events**

We always have exciting and varied sporting events happening in TEAM AK. We celebrate these in our weekly 'time to shine' assemblies as there are so many. Recently, the children went out for a girls' football tournament where they were absolutely brilliant and didn't lose a game! A parent pointed out to me how brilliant their support for one another and work as a team was. They also commented on what an asset our sports coach Mr Tanner is and I am sure you would agree with this. We are so lucky to have Mr Tanner as part our staff team. He is an inspirational sports coach and role model and his dedication to TEAM AK is incredible. Thank you Mr Tanner.

Mr Tanner is about to launch a new sports app to make booking onto sporting events much easier for everyone. We are excited to introduce our new app/website based administration system to co-ordinate all school sport events from this point forwards. InstaTeam can be accessed via smart phone app/online and will bring some much needed efficiency to the way we prepare for events outside of school. The app is completely free and all of the necessary features can be used without paying for 'ad free' version. Please can you support Mr Tanner and our school by reading the 'InstaTeam - Info for Parents' Documents which will be available on the school website from Monday. Once you have created your Parent and Child accounts please make sure that any emails do not accidentally get sent to junk folders and that notifications can be viewed. Thank you!

### **Visiting Author on 7th December**

I am so excited that the amazing author Tracey Corderoy is re-visiting us in December. She will be talking to the whole school in an assembly and then working with classes R-3 as this is mainly where her books are aimed. There are books available to purchase (I have sent out a parent mail about this) and she will of course sign these on the day. I will be looking for an amazing author to visit for KS2 next but for now am delighted to be welcoming Tracey back for KS1.

With my warmest regards and thank you for your ongoing support especially at this particularly busy time of year,

*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 2019 to help you plan ahead:

Date	Event
10 <sup>th</sup> November	4.30pm AKPS Firework Evening at Bradstone Fields
11 <sup>th</sup> November	2.30 pm in village hall WW1 Concert Party in celebration of the Armistice involving some pupils
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	3.30-7pm Parents Evening Flu vaccination day for YR-5
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	3.30-6pm Parents Evening FOAKS School Disco Mighty Oaks in Class R from 5-6
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> November	Children in Need day- wear your own clothes and spots- 50p suggested donation if you can!
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> November	9am Y5 Class Assembly to parents/carers
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> November	1.30pm Senior Citizen Tea Party hosted by Year 6
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	4pm Christingle in Church 5.30 Christmas tree lighting at pub—choir to sing if possible
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	Am: visiting Author Tracey Corderoy 1.30pm FOAKS Pocket Money Stalls
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	10.45-11.45 KS1 Nativity Dress Rehearsal for children in school and playgroup/ nursery 1.30-2.30 Nativity - all welcome
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> 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 12 <sup>th</sup> December	School Christmas Lunch 1.30-2.30 Nativity - all welcome
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	5.30pm-6.30pm Nativity (adults/ older siblings only please)
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper Day- 50p for Save the Children 1.20pm leave for 1.40 Christmas Service Holy Cross Church- all welcome
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Breakfast Club Zumba Morning After school FOAKS Christmas Movie Night
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	9-11 AK's Got Talent Christmas Special- pupils only
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> 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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