



Friday 23rd November

Dear Parents and Carers,

Team AK Shining Brightly:

As the evenings draw in and we start to see signs of winter, the children here have been busily preparing for the festive season! The Nativity is well under way and the Junior children have been signing their hearts out and learning festive songs for our Christmas Carol service. The children and staff are certainly making the most of every minute here in Team AK. Here are a few highlights:

Maths Challenge Team have made it through to the next round- Congratulations!

This year AKPS is competing in the National Young Mathematicians' Awards. This is a team maths challenge run by the NRICH project at the University of Cambridge and Explore Learning. Participants must work as a team to tackle a never-before-seen mathematical problem. Our team of four pupils, Anna Branscomb, Sam Buckle, Gilbert Tim and Jess Winson took part in the first round on 7th November and we are absolutely delighted to report that they have made it through to the second round. The team were praised for their 'brilliant communication throughout the challenges with each member of the team clearly sharing their thinking by applying their reasoning skills.' They also commented on their team work and systematic approach to the challenges. The next round will be held on the 5th December. If they are successful, they will make it through to the grand final which is held at the University of Cambridge! We wish the fantastic four the very best of luck!



Children in Need Thank you!

As you will see on our website, a few of us managed to catch the Children in Need Rickshaw as it passed by the top of Gosditch last Tuesday. Miss Baose and Class 4 had kindly made some banners which we held up and it was great to cheer the Rickshaw on, despite it being 15 minutes ahead of schedule! After this, the children and staff enjoyed a spotty day in school on the Friday and were really happy to be able to donate money to this wonderful charity which supports so many children who face such great challenges in their lives. Thank you to all who were able to support. Two of our Year 6 pupils, Lucy and Sophie B used their own initiative to come dressed in one large t-shirt and spend the day joined together for money. They organised the fundraising themselves and made £151 for Children in Need. Well done!

New AK FOAKS Team

During my time here I have been so incredibly lucky to work with three fabulous FOAKS committees, who have all worked so incredibly hard for the school and community but have also been an absolute pleasure to work alongside. We will officially say thank you to our current outgoing FOAKS team, Suus and her team, in the Heroes and Heroines assembly at the end of this term but until then, I am delighted to let you know that the new FOAKS Team Committee roles have now been filled. I know the new team will write to introduce themselves in the near future, but for now, I am so grateful that these roles are filled and the FOAKS committee can continue. Thank you!



AK Fireworks- THANK YOU!

This was another incredible event. Every year, I am so incredibly proud of how brilliant this event is organised, run and what a wonderful evening it is. There is so much hard work goes into this event which provides so much happiness to the local community. From overall organisation, risk assessment, skilled firework planning, safety training, electrics, ordering of goods and food, cooking, collecting and transporting, setting up stalls, loaning things, serving and giving of time, performing wonderful music, delivering a wonderful firework display, the list goes on! I am thankful to all who worked their socks off both behind the scenes and at the event. I have to say, the atmosphere was brilliant, I found a whole new skill and enjoyment for serving mulled wine as I promoted myself from BBQ to Bar! I have received some lovely feedback about the evening including about what a brilliant display of fireworks, what a great atmosphere and how well-mannered our pupils are! Thank you for helping, supporting and especially thank you to Suus and her team for such wonderful organization. Until next year!

FOAKS Disco- Thank you!

This was fabulous but was sadly our final AKPS disco as the wonderful company we use have now finished doing children's discos. Unless we can find another disco team who actually work with the children (dancing with them, getting them to join in with singing/ dancing) we will not put on discos as we want to provide a well organised and structured evening for our children to enjoy rather than just lights and music! Thank you to all who helped provide this evening and the great food and glow items. Thank you!

An afternoon Concert Party- Ben Winson, Aimee Cooper & Evie- may Herbert & Zack Manley

I was very fortunate to be at the concert party to celebrate the end of WW1 which took place in the village hall on Sunday 11th November. A super, varied afternoon consisting of singing, dancing, readings not to mention the cakes, sandwiches and tea! The children in Years 4,5 and 6 were asked to take part and they produced beautiful music, war poetry and memoirs from the war and we were so proud to be able to be part of this wonderful community event. Four children who dressed in costumes from that era performed beautifully. Amy and Evie May from Yr 5 and Zack from Yr 6 read their poems and monologues with poise and confidence. This was followed by Ben from Yr4 performing 'Oh when the Saints' brilliantly on the piano. It was a memorable afternoon and I received many lovely comments about the children's performances. Thank you and well done. Mrs Crowley



Football- Y6 and Dylan- gracious medal

There have been so many sporting events recently, I lose track of all the wonderful ways AKPS have been out representing the school in sports but we do celebrate them in 'time to shine' assembly each week. Recently our Year 6 (plus Dylan from Year 5) performed amazingly in a football tournament

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missing out on gold by 1 goal! They were incredible and showed such good team work! A special mention for Dylan who graciously dealt with the fact that there were not enough medals for him, he was just lovely about it, so we managed to provide him one from us instead! Well done Team AK!

AK Science Leaders in Action

Our fantastic science leaders did their first 'pop up' science experiment on Wednesday lunchtime. They each had a bottle containing soda water and raisins which they took around the playground to show children at lunchtime. Children were amazed to see the raisins 'dancing'! Here is the link if you want to try the experiment at home



<https://funlearningforkids.com/dancing-raisins-science-experiment-kids/>

Look out for more pop up science to come over the next few weeks and

of course our science leaders are busy thinking about plans for Science week in March 2019. Thank you to Mrs Serle, our Science leader, and her mini pupil leaders for providing these exciting opportunities for our children!



Y5 assembly

We were all wowed this week by an absolutely stunning class assembly by Class 5. They showcased their high quality learning in all areas of the curriculum, especially as we have only been in school for just after a term, it was incredible how much deep learning had taken place. Amazing and spiritual artwork, whole class instrument playing, wonderful writing, science and using forest school lessons to make tip taps (from Africa) for washing their hands hygienically outdoors was really very insightful. Their thought provoking messages about global advocacy and their project to twin toilets and support others across the world to have toilet facilities was really powerful. One parent has already signed up and provided a twinned toilet inn Africa as he was so moved by the children's assembly. This is wonderful, what an impact our children and their learning is having upon themselves and others. Well done Year 5, you have set a very high standard of class assembly for others to follow! The next class assembly is Class 4 on Tuesday 4th December which we are really looking forward to.

Urgent information needed for Malvern show garden

Plans are already afoot for next year's Malvern show garden. The theme is 'A Moment in Time': a snapshot of an important historical event with links to local community, British Values and History. Class 4 have chosen to make links to the War in Ashton Keynes and to focus on a more positive aspect we are going to focus on VE Day. Therefore, we are asking if anyone in the village knows anyone, or has any photos/information/letters/anything from VE Day in Ashton Keynes or any links to the War. Please send any information to Miss Boase in Class 4. Many thanks.

Writing Competition winners- Well done TEAM AK!

Congratulations are in order for eight of our pupils who were winners in the annual Soroptomist writing competition in Cirencester. We have been really fortunate to have success each year and for the past 3



years we have held the trophy for best Year 1 and 2 writer out of 14 schools in Gloucestershire! The competition involves 14 local schools in the Cirencester areas and is excellent, all entries are judged by an independent judge to make it completely fair and this year there were 1,400 entries. This year our school maxed out with 8 winners out of 27 in total from 14 Gloucestershire schools! This clearly shows the impact of the excellent work with writing we are doing in school. The winners are: Year1/2: Erin Byles and Zack Thompson, Years 3/4: Izzy Rogers, Abigail Claridge, Samantha Kelly and Alex Felipe Years 5/6: Aoife Saville and Jason Orchard. We attended a special awards evening on Friday evening where AKPS will certainly shine brightly among those other schools for our writing success! We look forward for Years 1-6 taking part again next June. Well done to every pupil in Years 1-6 who took part and especially well done to those who were prize winners.!

Breakfast Club Christmas Party

Reminder- 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 Time 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!

I am so proud of our school, thank you for your partnership,

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
Tuesday 27 th November	1.30pm Senior Citizen's tea party - please inform office if you know someone who wants to attend
Wed 28 th November	8.00am Breakfast club session with Mel Tim
Sunday 2 nd December	4pm Christingle in Church 5.30 Christmas tree lighting at pub—choir to sing
Tuesday 4 th December	9am Y4 Class Assembly to parents/carers
Thursday 6 th December	Last swimming session for Class 4
Friday 7 th December	Am: visiting Author Tracey Corderoy 1.30pm FOAKS Pocket Money Stalls
Monday 10 th 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 th 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 th December	School Christmas lunch - book online by Wed 5 th Dec 1.30-2.30 Nativity - all welcome
Thursday 13 th December	5.30pm-6.30pm Nativity (adults/ older siblings only please)
Friday 14 th December	Christmas Jumper Day- 50p for Save the Children 1.20pm leave for 1.40 Christmas Service Holy Cross Church- all



	welcome
Wednesday 19 th December	8.00am Breakfast Club Christmas Party - book online Zumba Morning After school FOAKS Christmas Movie Night
Thursday 20 th December	9-11 AK's Got Talent Christmas Special- pupils only
Friday 21 st December	9am Heroes and Heroines - all welcome End of Term 2



ASHTON KEYNES

Church of England VC Primary School

SHINE BRIGHT ★ REACH FOR THE STARS



Gosditch, Ashton Keynes, Nr Swindon, Wiltshire SN6 6NZ Head Teacher: Mrs S Saville Tel/Fax: 01285 861436 Email: office@ashtonkeynes.wilts.sch.uk www.akps.org.uk