



Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the Christmas edition of the newsletter. I am sending this out on behalf of Mrs Saville as she has been unwell. I know she is very proud of our school and of all the wonderful staff, children and parents for their ongoing hard work and support. She is looking forward to getting better and being back with us in the New Year.

We have had another fabulous term together and I cannot believe what the children have achieved already. May I take this opportunity to say thank you to you all for your ongoing support.

Miss Perring

### **Team AK Shining Brightly:**

The term of glitter and sparkles has certainly lived up to its name and your children have certainly been shining brightly. Please read below about all the amazing things we have been up to.

### **Pantomime**

Wow, what an incredible experience! All of our 212 children were beautifully behaved and we absolutely loved watching how much they sang, laughed and danced. It was a great performance and such a wonderful Christmas treat for the whole school to be involved in. We are now booking Sleeping Beauty for next year. Thank you so much for supporting this so that the whole school can take part. Until next year!

### **Visiting Author**

Tracey Corderoy visited us and shared some cheerful Christmas stories. She delivered an inspiring assembly to the whole school before delivering workshops to Years R-3. The children and staff thoroughly enjoyed her visit; she brought her stories to life in such a magical and wonderful way - we were all captivated! The children offered feedback on the visit and stated that she was 'inspiring' and 'funny'.

### **Chelsea Pensioner**

A huge thank you to Val and Roger Threlfall who arranged for the Year 6 children to have an afternoon visit from a Chelsea pensioner, Ray Pearson. It was a wonderful opportunity for the Year 6 pupils who were incredibly mature and respectful, learning all about Ray and what a Chelsea pensioner was. Ray came in full regalia and looked incredible. What a wonderful thing for members of our community to give to the school.

### **Senior Citizen Tea Party**

We hosted another successful community event which we were so pleased to see so many people attend – our Senior Citizen tea party.



Annually, our Year 6 pupils organize a tea party for senior members of the community and this year it was attended by over 50 people! The children baked mouthwatering scones and savory pin wheels (thanks to Mel Tim for giving up her day to bake with the children and to parents for donating cakes). The Year 6 staff team all helped the children prepare the food delights but the children scripted and planned the afternoon themselves.

We were absolutely overwhelmed by how mature and professional the children were when they spoke and what they had to say about their school. They sang so beautifully to entertain and then spoke during tea with our visitors. The feedback was so positive and a wonderful afternoon was had by all.

### **7 sleeps 'til Christmas on Heart Radio**

I'm sure all of you listened intently at 8:33 on Tuesday morning to the sweet sound of pupils from AK performing their verse of Heart radio's '7 more sleeps 'til Santa'. This was a lovely experience and the children sang their hearts out.

### **RIAT 2019**

Last year, we were so sad as we couldn't get tickets for the whole of KS2 to attend the Airshow, so this year we are absolutely delighted to let you know that our application has been successful and the whole of the juniors (Years 3-6) will go to the airshow in July! For those parents in KS1, don't worry, we will continue to apply each year as this is far more appropriate for junior-aged children than infants.

### **School Uniform – order deadline over Christmas Period**

Our uniform suppliers are relocating their premises over the Xmas period. Therefore, any orders received after 14th December will not be dispatched until the week of 14th January.

### **Year 4 assembly**

The Year 4 assembly was exceptional. From their starting performance of 'The Greatest Showman' – where the children sang and danced, to the acting out of their non-chronological reports using Talk 4 Writing actions, the children completely shone. Each child spoke and acted beautifully, working as a team. They truly were outstanding.

### **Breakfast Club Christmas Party**

On Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup>, our wonderful Breakfast Club team and their grotto of helpers held an amazing Christmas party for the breakfast club children. The children had a selection of treats, games, crafts – and even a visit from Father Christmas who delivered a sack full of presents. Thank you so much to all the staff, parents and children who make these events possible.



For the rest of this newsletter, each class would like to share their highlights from the first two terms:

# Class R



What a wonderfully busy and exciting start to the year for Class R! The children settled in beautifully and by week 3 everyone was in school full time.

In early October, we continued what is fast becoming an autumn tradition in Class R: **The Autumn Walk**. We go to Church Walk and collect as many conkers, leaves and other natural autumn treasures as we can. The children were fabulous and so sensible being outside school.



This term we have made a great start to beginning to develop skills which will help us to learn to read and write. We've learnt how to say sounds, how to form letters, how to blend sounds to make words and how to write sounds to enable us to put our ideas on paper.



We have explored numbers to 20, recognising them, ordering them, counting objects and we have even been writing numbers!

We have loved learning about space. We even had some alien visitors (well we think they were!) causing havoc in our classroom. Slime and messages were left which led us to realise that all they wanted was our help. We tried to make them a rocket so they could get back home.

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# Class 1

As Christmas approaches, we are feeling rather tired; not only have we been busy accompanying The Jolly Postman on his deliveries around Fairy-tale Land, we have also been making our own Magical Christmas Journey. If you came to watch, we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did.



We have been spotting 2D and 3D shapes everywhere after learning about them in Maths. We have also been comparing numbers, thinking about which numbers are larger, smaller, or the same as each other, and explaining how we know. We were so good at this that we introduced the greater than, and less than symbols. A greedy crocodile dropped by to help us remember which way around we need to write the sign.



In Forest school, we enjoyed making bird feeders from willow. We found it quite tricky to weave the willow, but we persevered and achieved some great results.

Author Tracey Corderoy made a second visit to our school to share some of her new books. We were all enthralled during the whole school assembly when she read Christmas Extravaganza Hotel, and were then lucky enough to join Year R in a workshop based around Fairy Tale Pets when we all made grumpy baby bear hand puppets. We had great fun at the end joining in with an alternative and chaotic version of Old MacDonald!

Before we said our farewells to Miss Froggatt, she worked on some exciting science investigations with us. Our class favourite was one using, ice, food colouring and salt. We discovered that the salt seemed to make the water melt more quickly.



To commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary from the end of WW1, we created our own wreath, made up of both red and purple poppies to remember the soldiers and animals who gave their lives. We attached it to the pole in our outdoor area, but the very windy weather meant that many of the poppies blew off before we were able to share it with you.





On the 1<sup>st</sup> December we welcomed a new, and somewhat cheeky, member to our class. Snowflake, the Elf has been up to all sorts of mischief since she arrived; partying with her friends, drawing on the fruit, swinging from the ceiling to name but a few! On one occasion, she brought her friend Frosty to meet us, but sadly, by the time we arrived Frosty was a puddle of water, a carrot nose, scarf and a few buttons! Poor Frosty! We can't wait to see what she has been up to each morning. Merry Christmas from Year 1.

# Class 2

Wow! What a term it has been.



We've been incredibly lucky to have been visited by numerous visitors. The term started off with a visit from PC Katie Lang. She came in to talk to the class about her job in the police force and the things they get up to on a daily basis. The class were truly fascinated and especially enjoyed dressing up and looking inside the police car.



Tracey Corderoy was our next special visitor. She is a children's author and truly captivated the entire class with her hands on workshop. The children had the chance to become illustrators which they thoroughly enjoyed. Class 2 have been working hard this term rehearsing for the Nativity. They have worked their little socks off and we can't believe how amazing they have all been. The pantomime 'Aladdin' was a great success everyone loved it and took back lots of tips for acting on stage when they perform their nativity.



# Class 3



galleries tour.

Year 3 have been busy learning about the Romans. We started this topic with a trip to the Corinium Museum. The children had an opportunity to dress up like Romans, make mosaics and play Roman games. They learnt an incredible amount both from the workshop and the

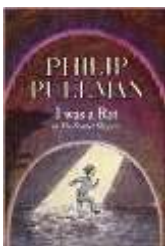


We followed our visit up with a loan box from the museum where the children were historians piecing together evidence to decide who artefacts had belonged to. They have produced some excellent topic homework of mosaic designs, adverts for Roman inventions and Boudicca art work.



In English, we recently completed the story 'A Boy, a Bear and a Boat'. This unusual book about a voyage undertaken by a boy and a bear had us hooked, although we were a little surprised by the way it ended. The children produced some fantastic descriptive writing describing a storm at sea.

We linked DT to the story and the children were given a Dyson challenge to construct a cardboard boat that could carry 1kg. Many succeeded!



We are now reading I was a Rat!! By Philip Pullman. We have loved reading this book so far and have made an interesting connection to the story of Cinderella!

# Class 4

Wow, what an exciting start to Year 4 we have had! We kicked off the year learning all about the importance of water and how lucky we are to have clean water. In Forest School, we created a water filter system using leaves, moss and a plastic pot.





2018 marked 100 years since the end of the First World War and Class 4 created Poppy sun catchers to commemorate the WW1 centenary. We are linking our Malvern show to Ashton Keynes' local links to the World Wars, and have been discussing the impact of the war on our area in lots of detail. We are all very proud of our history and want to show this through our art and designs.



We have also been to the Corinium Museum to kick off our Roman topic. We had the best day exploring the galleries, handling artefacts, creating mosaics and playing real Roman games. We even got to walk down to the remains of the Roman wall in the Abbey Grounds, we were blown away by the remains and could not believe how big it originally was!



The MOST exciting thing ever happened in Class 4 a couple of weeks ago! On a cold, Wednesday night, Mr Jackson was digging in the pond and came across a box of Roman artefacts! Miss Boase and Mr Jackson stored the box in a safe place overnight ready for the class to find in the morning. Inside the box was a letter from a Roman girl who escaped Pompeii in LXXIV A.D, and moved to the Roman capital of Cirencester. She left behind a pair of Roman sandals, a bowl and a spoon! We spent the morning exploring the artefacts and coming up with lots of questions about where they came from, what they were used for, how she made her journey to England, who she escaped with? We then wrote letters to the Corinium Museum asking them to keep the artefacts safe and display them in their galleries.



You will never believe what happened next. The Corinium Museum wrote back to us with a photo of the artefacts we found on display in the Museum!! We are so proud and so happy that the artefacts that were discovered in our school pond are now on display in the Corinium Museum.





# Class 5

In Year 5 we have been reading a book called 'Journey to the River Sea' which is set in the Amazon rainforest. It has inspired all our learning. We have learnt all about Brazil and its environment. We were absolutely fascinated to learn about pink river dolphins and the carnivals. We have painted pictures in the style of Henri Rousseau's jungle scenes.

This has led us onto looking at issues in the Amazon. We have been shocked at the impact deforestation is having on the Amazon and the animals that live there. We have looked at the impact of palm oil in particular.



We started the year looking at water and biblical metaphors linked to it. This inspired us to look at global issues towards dirty water. We created tippy taps in Forest School which are a hygienic way of washing your hands if you don't have access to running water. As well as raising money for Water Aid, as a class, we are going to raise money to twin toilets with communities in other parts of the world.

We really enjoyed looking at the artwork of Hannah Dunnett and used her as inspiration for art in our RE lessons.

# Class 6



Our first two terms in Year 6 have been absolutely fabulous! We have experienced countless enriching experiences including: an author visit, a trip to the pantomime, the senior citizen tea party, a visit from Ray Pearson (a Chelsea Pensioner), Maths competitions and much more besides!

The children's effort, determination and learning have been remarkable and this has resulted in wonderful progress and learning so far – I cannot wait to continue this journey with them. They have not only worked hard on their own learning and independence but have also supported their Class R







buddies so beautifully and have enabled them to become confident, independent members of Team AK.

This Autumn term, we have looked at a fantastic book, 'Journey to the River Sea' by Eva Ibbotson. This has acted as a stimulus for some incredible, creative writing including: diary entries, letters, character descriptions, poems, non-chronological reports, biographies and a range of narratives. The children have also looked at and have applied a range of these skills in other subjects such as Geography, Science, DT and Art.

In November, the children helped to organise the AK Senior Citizen tea Party, where the children shared learning, reading, songs and of course tea and cake with the older community from the local area. I was so proud to see how they responded in a mature, welcoming and kind manner. We have received countless cards and responses from the people who attended which have meant so much to the children. We also welcomed a Chelsea Pensioner, Ray Pearson, who taught us so many wonderful things.



I would like to wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year and thank you for being so positive and supportive of our wonderful school. I look forward to welcoming you and your children back to school on Tuesday 8th January 2019 at 8.50am for the start of another fabulous year together.

Kind regards from myself and the whole AK team.

*Miss Perring*  
*Deputy Headteacher*

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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
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> January	SCHOOL CLOSED - training day
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	8.50am School restarts for Spring Term
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> January	Swimming starts for Class 5
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> - Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	Challenge Partners in school
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	Breakfast Club - Chinese New Year cooking session
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	Zumba morning
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	9.00 am Heroes and Heroines assembly - all welcome
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> February	TD Day - SCHOOL CLOSED
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> - Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February	Half term holiday
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> February	8.50am School restarts for Term 4

