



Friday 18th January 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Team AK Shining Brightly:

Welcome back! We hope that you have had a wonderful Christmas break; we are so pleased to have both you and your children at AKPS for the exciting and busy times ahead. We are so pleased with how hard they worked last term and how they have already got 'stuck in' this term too. I would like to take this opportunity to again thank you all so much for your continued support and understanding at this time.

Miss Perring

World Book Day Advanced warning

World Book day this year is on Thursday 7th March and following on from the success of the whole school theme of 'Witches and Wizards' last year, we are going to make this year's theme 'Roald Dahl'. So to give you time to prepare, your child can come dressed as any character from any book by Roald Dahl e.g. Willy Wonka, Mr Fox, The Peach, Matilda, Veruca Salt, The BFG etc... the list is endless. Miss Igoe and Miss Boase are working hard to plan some very exciting events. This is really something to look forward to; we wanted to give you the heads up so you can start thinking and to remind you that we do not expect you to buy costumes, home-made efforts are fabulous too- the choice is yours!

Meal times choices

Although most of the children absolutely love their school dinners, we have had a few children of late who have not eaten as much and have stated that they would have preferred other choices on the menu. Please could you have a chat with your child and check that they are happy with the meal choices.

Blue Cross Visit

A representative from the Blue Cross visited us last Friday. She held an assembly for the whole school where she talked about staying safe around dogs, offering advice for dog owners and what to do if worried. She taught the children about a dog's body language and how to look for signs. The children were also told a story which detailed the basic needs for dogs. This was followed by 2 workshops: one in Year 5 and one in Year 6. During the workshop, the children were taught further with more detailed advice about dog management and safety. The children enjoyed asking questions and loved the quiz at the end. The volunteer from Blue Cross stated: "The children asked some amazing questions and had brilliant ideas and empathy."





Class learning

Each class has settled back fantastically well and are working incredibly hard (and having fun)! Please take a look at what each class has been up to below:

Class R:

Class R have had a fantastic start to the new year! Our topic this term is based upon traditional tales and we have spent the first two weeks learning all about *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*. We have designed and built bridges - both big and small - and learnt how to retell the story with great enthusiasm.



Our role play area has become a library and we have a very popular storytelling chair in our reading den.

In PE, our focus this term is gymnastics. We are using the apparatus to develop our jumping, balancing and climbing skills.





Class 1

Whilst reading *The Emperor's Egg*, Year 1 have been soaking up facts about Emperor penguins. Our favourite facts are that they have four layers of feathers to help keep them warm, that they can grow as tall as 1.3m, they huddle together for warmth, the male looks after the egg for two months until it hatches and that they slide along on their tummies when they need to travel long distances!

In RE, we have been learning about the symbols of Judaism,



and comparing them to Christianity; for example the Torah and the Bible.



We have also thrown ourselves back into PE and have been practicing ball skills. We have worked on our positioning, aim and coordination during some awesome dodge ball sessions.

Class 2

In Class 2 we have been focusing on making our writing spectacular for the reader. Our class book '*The Emperor's Egg*' has been fantastic and has really inspired the children. They have loved learning new facts about penguins and thinking about how to share these in their writing.

You can see our beautiful writing displayed in the classroom. Our book has also led us to explore the continent of Antarctica and the other continents and we have done this through atlas work.





Class 3

Since our return ★ REACH FOR THE STARS

to school, Class 3 have been very creative, influenced by the work of Barbara Hepworth.

In computing, we are learning how to animate using stop-motion animation and have already created some impressive short animation films.

We have produced abstract clay sculptures



We have also formed a Roman army and marched in formation with the fantastic shields created for homework. We have some replica armour in class and have had lots of fun trying it on. We were all surprised by just how heavy it was and that soldiers were expected to run miles wearing this.



Class 4

We have started a newspaper topic this term and will be writing our own newspaper reports about the Roman invasions in Cirencester. We will be researching the invasions and the Roman army as well as designing and making our own Roman shields ready to practise battle formations on the playground!





★ REACH FOR THE STARS



Class 4 made kites in Forest School this week! We scavenged around the field for suitable sticks; they had to be a certain length and size to make our kite work.

We then used tissue paper and sticky tape to stick it all together and raced each other across the field, testing our kites. After the initial flight, we



made some modifications and improvements to our models...some of us had to stick them all back together again after they completely fell apart! It was so much fun!

On Wednesday, Class 4 also had an online workshop with 'The Skinny Jean Gardener' to prepare for our Malvern Flower Show competition. We Skyped Lee and asked lots of questions including, "What are your top tips for constructing a flower garden?", "What fruit and vegetables would you recommend growing?", "What flowers will be in bloom in May?"

The children were very well-mannered, polite and asked fantastic questions. Time to get sowing and building! :-)

Class 4 in Ashton Keynes Primary School had a fantastic workshop with @SkinnyJeanGard Lee today. We had lots of questions for our @MalvernShows flower garden linked to VE Day Celebrations. Thank you Lee, we can't wait to get planting and building!



Skinny Jean Gardener @SkinnyJeanGard
The @The_RHS @MalvernShows 'Online with Lee' workshops for The Schools Garden Challenge starts today.. some incredible schools taking part this year!

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Class 5

In Year 5, we have been looking at what engineering is and how it impacts our lives. We've been very lucky to have two Dyson Foundation boxes this term to use. We explored the engineering and designing process by looking at how James Dyson redesigned his wheelbarrow. Engineers identify a problem and then work to find a solution.



In the boxes were parts of a vacuum cleaner that we could take apart and then reassemble. We learned to use different tools to take the carbon fibre brush heads apart. It let us look at how the machines functioned on the inside. Afterwards, we put them back together and we didn't have a single screw out of place! Have a look at what we did.



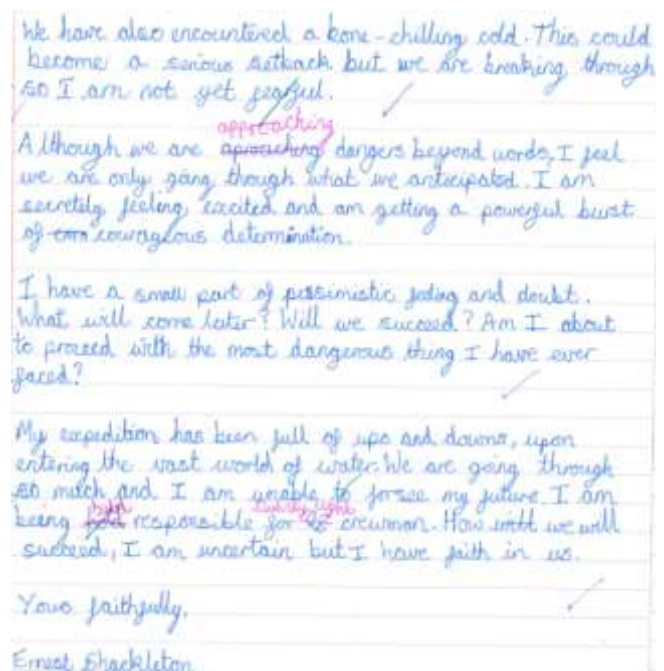
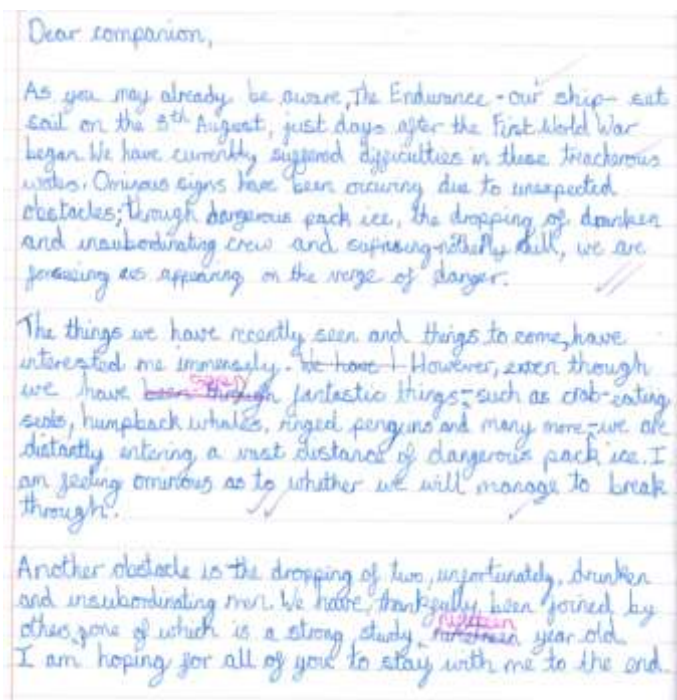


Class 6

I am so immensely proud of Year 6 – they have coped tremendously with changes to their normal routine and have continued to work with amazing learning behaviours and high expectations of themselves and others.

Their first two weeks back have been a real treat and we have already produced some amazing work and had some fabulous lessons, including: Forest School, Science investigations and reading the finale of 'Journey to the River Sea' – which moved us all!

Our new book, 'Shackleton's Journey' by William Grill has proved to be an amazing stimulus for our writing; the children have put themselves into Shackleton's metaphorical shoes and have written detailed, first-class letters. Please see an example from Eva below:



We look forward to even more opportunities and experiences as we move through 2019.

Kind regards,
Miss Perring
Deputy Headteacher





SHINE BRIGHT ★ REACH FOR THE STARS

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:

Wednesday 23 rd January	Magistrate visit for Classes 5 and 6
Monday 28 th January	Evening- Rotary Junior Speaking Competition
Wednesday 13 th February	Zumba Morning
Thursday 14 th February	9.00am Heroes and Heroines End of Term 3
Friday 15 th February	Teacher Training Day - school closed to pupils
18 th – 22 nd February	HALF TERM HOLIDAY
Monday 25 th February	8.50am Term 4 starts
Thursday 28 th February	Swimming sessions restart for Class 5
Monday 4 th March	Parents' evening booking system to go live
Wednesday 6 th March	4.00pm Oasis concert choir rehearsal at St. Mary's, Purton
Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day -Roald Dahl Theme
Monday 11 th March	Science Week
Tuesday 12 th March	3:30-7:00 Parents' Evening
Thursday 14 th March	3:30-6:00 Parents' Evening
Sunday 17 th March	4.00pm Messy Church in school hall
Thursday 21 st March	Mock Trials Y6, New Baptist Hall, Cirencester
Monday 25 th March	1.30pm Y3/4 production dress rehearsal
Tuesday 26 th March	6.00pm Y3/4 production
Wednesday 27 th March	Vista class photographs 6.00pm Y3/4 production
Monday 1 st April	Breakfast club cooking session
Wednesday 3 rd April	Zumba Morning
Thursday 4 th April	Evening Rotary Quiz for Year 6 team in Wootton Bassett 7.00pm Oasis concert for choir members
Friday 5 th April	9am Heroes and Heroines End of Term 4

