



Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Team AK Shining Brightly:** Thank you to all who were able to join us in our wonderful Heroes and Heroines assembly today, it meant so much for us to all be together again and celebrate our wonderful children and staff. As this is the final newsletter before Easter, I will be including news from the school, along with highlights from each of the classes to show how we have been shining in school and outside. As I said this morning, this newsletter is a long one so grab a refreshment, sit back and make an evening of it (or just skip to the subheadings). It is great to be back!

### **Incredible news for our school**

Finally, after many years of waiting, hoping and praying, we have been given news by the Local Authority that we have secured funding from them to replace our Key Stage One department with permanent buildings! This is not to increase the capacity of the school, just to provide quality permanent classrooms for our children and staff. As you are aware, we do the very best with the buildings we currently have but they are 23 years old and gradually falling apart! The governors and I have already appointed a project manager who originally worked on building the school hall and Classes 5 and 6 in 2006, so knows the school and area well. This is so exciting for our school and what we all deserve! There will be an information meeting in the school hall on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April between 6-8pm where the project manager, architect, governors and myself will be able to share plans for the project so far. We have a strict budget to work to, but we are determined to get the best we can for our school from this especially in terms of linking the whole school together on our site and improving facilities for all, but especially for the Infant department. This really is an excellent project for our school and one that is a necessity and will improve our school for all to benefit. I am one very happy Headteacher to be helping lead this project for our school, I honestly cannot tell you how excited I am!

### **Window Wanderland Thank you!**

A huge thank you to everyone who helped make Window Wanderland in Ashton Keynes last month such a special event. I loved wandering around the village spotting the different displays and all the lanterns the children at the school decorated. It really was a very special evening. Thanks to your support, our school shone brightly in the community yet again.

We'd be really grateful if you could take a few minutes to fill in this short survey about Ashton Keynes Window Wanderland 2019. Your feedback will be really useful in planning future Window Wanderlands. <https://goo.gl/forms/uMM5LGC4khXHOa3t2> Thank you!



## Y4 schools Maths Challenge 3/11 schools

Four children from Year 4 made us incredibly proud when, accompanied by Miss Redman, they competed in a Maths challenge against ten other local schools. I am absolutely delighted to announce that they came third and Miss Redman was so impressed by their team work, resilience and effort. Very well done to Freddie B, Archie, Ben and Thomas. The boys wanted to write for you to tell you about the competition experience so here it is:



### Maths Competition

4 boys from class 4, Archie, Thomas, Freddie and Ben H, went to a maths competition at Kingshill. We did round 1 and 2 together and R. and T. were pers.

### Round 1:

Round 1 was when we had 14 questions and we had to complete them to get points. We did 12 of the questions, we thought this was like a harder round because they were challenging and on time.

### Round 2:

We all agreed that round 2 was the easiest because they were all we had to do. That was a packet of cards with 3 or 4 numbers coloured red, orange or yellow in order of difficulty. We completed all of the red, all of the orange and 3 out of 4 yellow. There was a target number to make by doing addition, subtraction, multiplication or division.

### Round 3:

Round 3 was a relay round. We were split into pairs; Freddie and Ben were team A, Thomas and Archie were team B. Either Freddie or Ben had to run up to get a question and then solve it. After that, you would run to the front. If they got it correct, they would run to the back and give it to Thomas and Archie. However, if you got it wrong, you lose another chance but only 2. I'll update with team B.

We managed to come 3rd! Minster Hampton were 1st and Sapperton were 1st. We all thought this was really fun and we want to do it again!

## Plea for used plastic bottles to recycle for an art project for Malvern Show

The children will be creating poppies from recycled bottles to feature in the garden. Please can you save and bring in any CLEAR plastic bottles (1 litre or 2 litre sized) that you may have used so that we can recycle them for this art project for Malvern show garden. Please bring in



any bottles to the office. We will be doing the project on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April. Any bottles which are not used will be properly recycled. We do not want to encourage the use of plastics but instead are finding a way to recycle through art, those that have already been used. Thank you so much!

### Malvern Skinny Jean Gardener Visit

On Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March, the whole school took part in a workshop with the 'Skinny Jean Gardener' Lee as part of our Malvern Flower Show competition. Mr Jackson organised the day with Lee, and the entire school spent up to an hour outside in the glorious sunshine with Lee. We planted seeds, painted walls, potted on vegetables and plants, weeded the flower beds, made willow walls, used recycled newspaper to make plant pots and so much more! It was a fantastic day and such a brilliant opportunity for the children to get outside, get muddy and learn all about gardening.



### Zumba

Yesterday morning I joined Year 3 and 4's Zumba session with Meryl and it just made me reflect on what a benefit this is to our children. We provide 6 Zumba sessions a year at the end of every term for all of our pupils and staff across the school. The children have become so familiar with the routines (which are quite challenging) and the vibe in the room is so positive with everyone giving their best. I just see how much the children and staff gain from this session: emotionally and physically and wanted to share this with you. Meryl always tells me how much she loves coming to our school and how brilliant our pupils are, which is excellent. Well done Team AK and thank you Meryl.

### Well done to our charitable pupils

We are so aware of how kind our pupils can be and have celebrated various charitable events organised by our pupils. The latest ones are Rhys in Year 3 who is swimming 2 miles to raise money for the village hall- well done Rhys, this is incredible! Rhys is a talented swimmer but also good at thinking of others. In addition, Gilbert and Zack are doing a sponsored silence all day today in aid of CCS. CCS is an adoption centre and Gilbert wanted me to share with you that the reason they chose this charity is because Gilbert went through this process and therefore wants to support this adoption centre. Thank you for supporting either of these causes if you were able, but I am so proud that our pupils want to think of others and make a difference.

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## Class Highlights:

### Class R

*Dinosaurs took over our classroom when we came back from the half term holiday. We measured them, compared their sizes, learnt facts about them, and even opened a dedicated dinosaur museum.*

*We've learnt to double, halve and share and we have been learning all about the properties of both 2D and 3D shapes. We are particularly proud of how hard our class have all worked on learning their words! We have*

*never given out so many word merits!*

*We've brought the roles of firefighters, nurses and doctors to life with visits from parents who do these jobs. The children loved hearing about what they do. Thank you to those parents who gave up their time to talk to us. Look carefully at the photos and you will also spot some grown-ups taking a fully interactive part in the visits too!*



### Class 1

*Our learning this term has been based upon Shirley Hughes' poetry collection 'Out and About'. We've had great fun getting 'out and about', especially in forest school! As a class treat we enjoyed hot chocolate and s'mores – delicious! We also enjoyed our time helping The Skinny Jean Gardener and Mr Jackson making preparations for the Malvern Show Garden. In the classroom we've been learning to recite poetry and writing our own poems. We've thought really carefully about each season and the best words and phrases to describe them.*

*In science week we focused on making predictions and observations. We loved watching the colours travelling from pot to pot along the tissue paper, and noticing how the colours mixed to make new colours.*

*Our dancing raisins soon got tired and came to a standstill!*





We also spent time learning about recycling and how the different materials get sorted, and made into new products after they have been collected. We enjoyed reusing glass jars when we transformed them into beautiful treat jars for our mums on Mother's Day.

This week we have been busy preparing for Easter. We've made cards, chocolate nests and woven eggs. Class 1 shone brightly at the FOAKs Creativity Competition. Nearly all of the class put in entries; the children baked, decorated and crafted their way to a jaw dropping number of victories. Congratulations to all who entered.

## Class 2

'Forest school'

We had a bonfire to link to our Outdoor literacy learning. We thought about the sights, sounds and feelings we had as we sat around it. It was very exciting. Mr Jackson said if we were really good maybe next time we could toast marshmallows!

The Fire brigade was super! They let us have a go at using their hoses. They are very heavy but super fun. Miss Igoe nearly got Mrs Saville!

The synagogue trip was really good. The children were able to see inside the lovely building and experiences something new and different.

Science week was great fun, we did three different experiments and for each one we thought carefully about what might happen. We have been really busy in Class 2!



## Class 3

In Term 4 Class 3 have worked hard on their production of Roald Dahl's Little Red Riding Hood. The children have learnt lines, many songs, including two part harmonies and produced props for the performance. They also wrote their own rhyming couplets in the style of Roald Dahl, some of which were added to the play. All the children worked incredibly hard and the two evening performances were a fantastic success. The children all shone brightly and the feedback from the audience was glowing!

This week, we have turned our attention to a DT project. The children have constructed and wired a moving vehicle. They have measured, sawed and constructed the vehicle very capably. It was lovely watching their delight as they made their vehicles move forwards and backwards for the first time. Next we plan to test which can climb the steepest slope!





## Class 4

Class 4 have had a fantastic term rehearsing and preparing for our production of Roald Dahl's Little Red Riding Hood. The children in Classes 3 & 4 were absolutely magnificent both evenings and put on memorable performances. We had fantastic feedback from all who attended and loved the opportunity to do some art, DT and drama. We even wrote our own additional lines for the script to ensure the play was perfect. How do you think we got on? :-)

(Note from Mrs Saville here- the performance was incredible, the singing, acting, scenery, technical work and team work from both classes of children and staff was exceptional. Well done, I am so proud of you all!)

During Science Week, our Science leaders decided to run a lesson on making lava lamps to look at the different densities of a range of liquids. We made predictions and were all amazed to see that the oil floated on top of the water because it is less dense than water. We used alka-seltzer tablets and food colouring to create an eruption of bubbles in our DIY lava lamps. We have been super busy but had so much fun in Class 4!



## Class 5

Last week, Year 5 visited the Shri Guru Nanak Gurdwara in Swindon as part of our RE topic. In RE we are looking at how Sikhs show their commitment to their faith. Going to the Gurdwara enabled us to see how Sikhs put their beliefs into action.

When we got to the Gurdwara, we took off our shoes and washed our hands. Everybody who goes into a Sikh temple covers their heads. We visited the prayer hall and listened to a talk about what Sikhs believe. In the prayer hall we could see the Guru Granth Sahib (the Sikh holy book) which is kept on a raised platform under a canopy. Afterwards, we all went downstairs to the Langer hall. In the Langer hall Sikhs serve food to each other after a service. Anyone is welcome to come and eat the food for free. We had freshly





made pakoras- yummy! We really enjoyed our visit!

Here are some quotes..

Zara "I learnt that Sikhs believe that all religions are equal."

Rosie "I learnt about the Gurus who are really important to Sikhs."

Abi "We really enjoyed the food. They were really kind and made us fresh pakoras. It was delicious."

Rebecca "It was really enjoyable and I learnt a lot!"

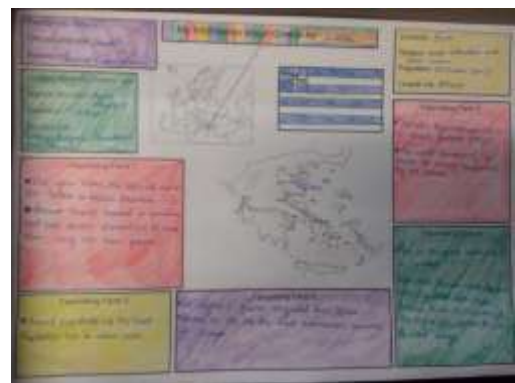
**Class 6**

**Greek topic**

This term we have been using the book, 'The Adventures of Odysseus' by Hugh Lupton and Daniel Morden as our stimulus. Using this text, we have created our own first-class myths using high-quality vocabulary and features. Please take a look at some of our myths below:

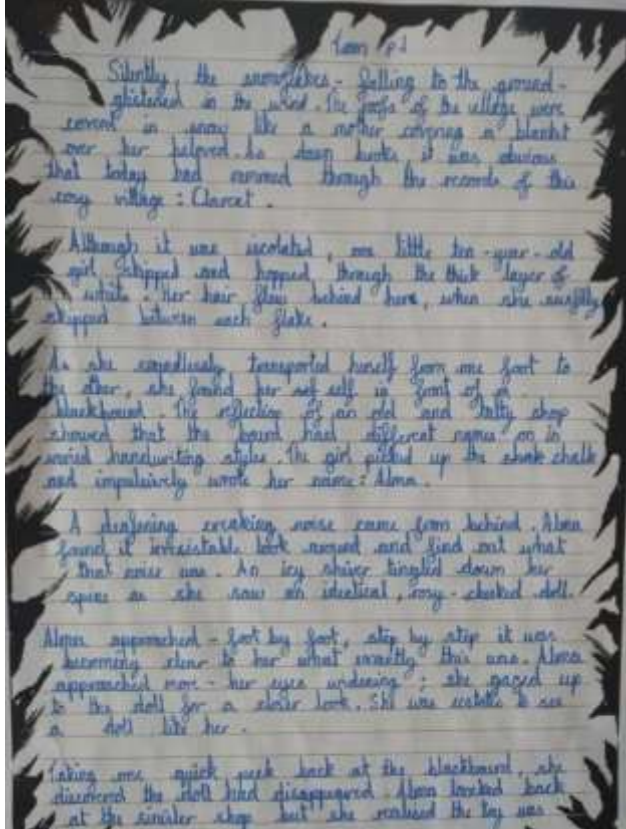


We have also used the text and linked it to our Geography and History, studying and comparing ancient and modern-day Greece. We have used atlases, fact books and the internet to research and share our ideas.





Class 6 have looked at suspense stories. Our first of which focused on the character: Alma, who visits an eerie shop, and suffers disastrous consequences.



**Science week**

During science week, Class 6 explored gravity and air resistance - we experimented with different materials to discover if we could create a parachute that would drop an egg safely to the ground. To do this, we needed to work together to create our parachutes, thinking about which was the best material to create air resistance.







### **. Mock trials**

*This term, Year 6 took part in the Cirencester Mock trials. Our Mock Trial team went to court in a trial against Northleach Primary school. Team 6 worked tremendously hard and did themselves proud, both those at the trial and those in school who have all played an important part in preparing for the trial together as a team. Our prosecution team managed to win the case and find the other team guilty! A special prize was awarded to our 1<sup>st</sup> prosecutor, Jessica Winson.*



### **A few photos from World Book Day**

*In Class 6 we love reading and celebrating! Team 6's creativity really shone out on World Book Day and their costumes were immense.*



### **Staffing Update**

We welcome Mrs Voss back as she joined us this week after her maternity leave. After Easter she will teach in Year 6 Wednesday and Thursday afternoons to give Miss Perring some Deputy Head release time (previously covered by Mrs Dearsley.) She will also teach every Friday in Class 3, replacing Ms Smith who will continue to teach in Year 1. I would like to thank Mrs Dearsley for teaching Year 6 in the afternoons over the past couple of years and although she will be here in school as a grandparent, she will also continue to do supply teaching for us, just like Mrs Bond does. Miss Harrold will move to into Class 3 asTA to replace Mrs Tromans who leaves us today.

**We still need your help.** If there are any parents who can spare some time on either Thursday 2nd May or Sunday 5th May to help build the garden, please let Mr Jackson know. Many thanks.



## North Wiltshire Music Festival - Well done!

WOWSERS- this was such a special evening. Our school was represented beautifully by our choir alongside many other primary schools in the cluster. This really was a lovely event; to be part of one big choir of primary aged children. The children all sang in harmony, four parts, unison and in canon. It really was incredible. I saw most parents there and the feedback was incredibly positive. It was an excellent evening and one which will create special memories for our children. A very special thanks to Mrs Crowley, Miss Boase and Miss Igoe for supporting the choir in this event and giving so much of their own time to do so, we are so lucky to have you!

I would like to wish you all a lovely Easter holiday and I look forward to welcoming everybody back fresh and raring to go on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April at 8.50am. Thank you so much for your wonderful support- TEAM AK!

With my warmest regards,

*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
8th-22nd April	Easter holiday
Tuesday 23rd April	8.50am Start of Term 5
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> April	Classes 3 & 4 to Bristol Zoo
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> April	4.00pm Parents' information meeting re London trip
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> April	4.00 pm Parents' information meeting re Viney Hill trip
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	TD Day - School Closed
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank Holiday - School Closed
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> May	Author visit
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> May	Class 4 to Malvern Show
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> May	Class 5 to Malvern Show
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> - Thurs 16th May	SATS week - no medical appointments (if possible) please
Tues 21 <sup>st</sup> - Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 6 residential trip to London
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	FoAKS quiz night
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Year 5 engineer challenge
Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> - Fri 31 <sup>st</sup> May	Half term holiday
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	8.50am School restarts for term 6 World Awareness Week

# ASHTON KEYNES

Church of England VC Primary School

SHINE BRIGHT ★ REACH FOR THE STARS



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