



Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Team AK Shining Brightly:

Wowsers, this has been another wonderful year together! I have just been looking back through our school calendar at all of the exciting things we have been up to and reflecting on our wonderful achievements. From becoming The Pride of the Cotswolds School of the Year, achievements in many areas including: sports, Maths, Writing, Eco, Choir, Engineering and so much more! It makes me beam with pride when I reflect on all we achieve and most importantly by how happy our children and staff are to be in our school! A huge heartfelt thank you for all of your lovely feedback, cards, hugs and gifts, I am ever so grateful; it is a great privilege to be your Headteacher.

### Class Assemblies and Year 5/6 productions

We have been blown away by our children in their class assemblies this term. Class R really impressed us with every single child being confident enough to share their learning and make all of our hearts melt. Year 2 worked so well as a team to share their fabulous learning from this year. Class 3 wowed us with their high level eco-drive and fabulous performance skills, I especially loved the 'Bee's Knees' who sang adapted Bee Gee songs! Our Year 5/6 thoroughly entertained us in a wonderful end of year production 'Ali Baba and the Bongo Bandits' where they all worked so well as a team to deliver a professional show. I would like to say well done to them all as I know how much effort went into auditioning, learning lines and songs and making props and scenery- it was all worth it as the audience loved it!

### Highlights from each class:

#### Class R

Class R have had an amazing year. We have loved watching them grow and flourish into super star learners who are ready for Year 1.

Highlights include our Autumn walk to collect conkers, our visits



from parents who shared with us information about their jobs, the pantomime trip, the farm trip, our now



infamous chicks, our brilliant class assembly many more.

Our class have become great thinkers, writers, problem solvers, readers, friends, sports people, scientists, bakers, builders, mathematicians, inventors, designers and even beginner yogis! Above all we have laughed and had so much fun along the way.



Thank you to all parents for your support this year and thank you to Class R for being fabulous! We will miss you x



## Class 1

What a fantastic summer term we've had! We thoroughly enjoyed 'Aware of our World Week', with a focus on Fairtrade in Class 1. Our gingerbread sale was a success, raising money to send to the Fairtrade cause.

Our class book 'How to Find Gold' took us on an exciting adventure through stormy seas to find treasure. We debated what the characters should do with the treasure and enjoyed talking about what we would do if we found treasure!

Our next book, 'The Storm Whale', took us on another adventure and motivated us to research facts and information about whales.



In music we've enjoyed using our imaginations. We love singing together and talking about different genres of music. Here we are joining in with some warm up and rhythm activities.

## Class 2

What another amazing term we have had in class 2! We thoroughly enjoyed sports week and I couldn't believe how well the children got stuck into the new sports that were on offer. Iris said she loved the rainbow wraps and thought yoga was great. Tad said he loved football at the park.

We then had the most amazing time on our school trip to Cotswold Wildlife Park, the two day old baby zebra was a huge highlight for the class.

The return of Martin, the storyteller was gratefully received by the children; they were asking him for more every time he said that was the end!

We have been working hard in and amongst all of these fantastic wow events with some superb quality writing being produced during our literacy lessons and our afternoon sessions. We have been learning all about materials in science and even made and tested kites. The children even sang 'Lets go fly a kite' as they



prepared for the testing! We couldn't have asked for a better way to spend our final term together as an infant class.



### Class 3

Class 3 have enjoyed a number of special visits during the final summer term. They visited the Fresh Air Sculpture show and then the Air Tattoo. The children also worked hard to deliver their assembly on the importance of bees. They delivered their lines so clearly and confidently showing they are definitely ready for year 4! To end the year, the children were given a DT challenge to solve involving building scaffolding with paper straws to carry a load. They came up with varied structures and the quality of discussion during the construction was impressive. We will be testing the strength of each structure by adding water into a container to see which is strongest. Fingers crossed!



### Class 4

AKPS are so lucky for the amazing opportunities we are given. On Friday 19th July the whole of KS2 went to the Royal International Air Tattoo at Fairford. Even though it was the wettest day of the year so far, we had the BEST day. We completed the innovation trail and earned our 'wings', we took part in engineering challenges in the Tech tent and won prizes for our efforts, we were even able to play with virtual reality headsets! It was an incredible day.

Not only that, some of us even met TIM PEAKE!! We had our photo with him and asked him some questions. Overall, it was the best day ever and the children all said it was one of their favourite trips. Thank you Mrs Saville!



On Friday 28th June, Class 4 had their

annual residential - camping out on the school field! It was a fantastic evening, thanks to the generous donations of tents from parents, the children were all able to camp out and play games together. We had relay races, a disco on the Smooga, games, dinner on the field, ice creams, yoga and massage! The children

were incredible respectful, kind and protective of one another and it was a brilliant evening. We even managed to get a couple of hours sleep :-)



On Wednesday 3rd July we were lucky enough to visit the Fresh Air Sculpture show in Quenington. The children all commented on it being one of the best trips they had been on. It was a brilliant, engaging and imaginative day with all of the children completely inspired by the art they saw. The children were so well behaved that many members of the public commented on their manners. We were even able to make our own natural sculptures in a workshop with local artists and are super excited to continue this passion at home and in school.



Turning the Tide on Plastic Pollution was the focus in Class 4 during Awareness of the World Week this year. After watching Planet Earth 2 and seeing the devastating impact single use plastic has on our world, oceans and people, we have been keen to make a difference! We



investigated 'how long until it's gone?' and discussed the meaning of decomposing materials, explaining

where items that are not recycled end up. We were shocked to see single use plastic bottles are used once but take up to 450 years to decompose! So all of the plastic ever made that has not been recycled is still out there in a landfill, and will not decompose for another 350 years.



Thanks to the incredibly generous donations of the school community, every single child in the school was able to make a T-shirt Bag for Life to help reduce the number of plastic bags in the world. We decorated them with powerful messages to show our support of reducing single use plastics. We also discussed the impact cling film has on the world, and made lots of promises to reduce our use of cling film. Keep us updated if your children feel empowered to make a difference, it all starts with one spark!

## Class 5

Class 5 have had a fantastic year. We have been looking at climate change and the goal for Britain to achieve net zero emissions by 2045 and the children have really impressed us with their maturity and confidence to share their opinions whilst being respectful. Having sent a well written letter to the Minister for the Environment, Class 5 were very pleased to receive a reply which has stated the Government's recent commitment to achieve net zero greenhouse gases by 2050.



The children worked so well as a team and challenged themselves during our exciting residential to Viney Hill which was carried into our STEM workshops where the children built working catapults. From this 4 children were selected to represent our school in the final of the STEM engineering challenge at Fairford RIAT 2019.

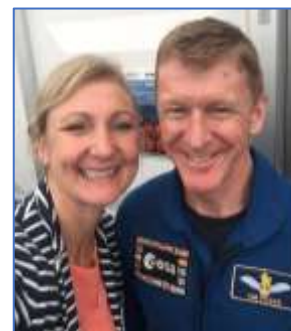


## Royal Air Tattoo, Fairford

On the 19<sup>th</sup> July all KS2 classes were extremely lucky to visit the Royal Air Tattoo. Despite the poor weather and not many planes flying, we all had an amazing day out. The children were very excited to make their way around the show in small teams and many came back with tons of free goodies! I loved seeing each group with their adult leader and they were bursting with excitement to tell me what they had been up to! Meanwhile in the Techno tent, two teams from Year 5 took part in the final junior engineering challenge by designing and building their own catapults which had to launch a projectile. The competition was for 20 local schools and judged by Tim Peake himself. Well, I am absolutely delighted to say that the children were mightily impressive and not only did they impress us with their contribution but they only went and won the



whole competition! We received a wonderful trophy and £500 for our school. Our children's catapult fired an impressive 8.9m and the children presented their design beautifully to the judges. Tim Peake was very impressed! So AKPS are the Champions of the Royal Air Tattoo STEM junior engineering challenge! WOHOOO! (And I managed to get a cheeky selfie!)



## Class 6 Year 6 Superstars

Our school year has now come to a close and we have said goodbye to our fabulous Year 6 pupils. Throughout the year they have been great ambassadors of the school, kind and caring buddies to our youngest children and we are extremely proud of them all. They all made fabulous progress during their time with us and achieved so well! We wish them lots of luck and know they will continue to shine brightly within their new schools.



## KS2 SATs Results- Well above national in every area!

Yet again we have been so impressed with our Year 6 results. Most importantly, the children loved the tests themselves and enjoyed showing how shiny they all are. Furthermore, their results were incredible again, showing the fabulous progress they have all made from when they started their journey here. Percentages are a crude way of reporting things but alongside the fact that every child made great progress and is so happy and ready for the next stage of their education makes it all come together. We are proud of how they have progressed and grown as people as well as learners! We are super proud of them all and of our wonderful staff team who work so hard every day for all of the children in our care.

KS2 data (based on SATs – Writing is teacher assessment)	ATTAINMENT	National 2019
	<b>2019 AKPS</b>	
% Expected standard+ SPAG	90%	78%
% Higher standard SPAG	74%	36%
% Expected standard+ Reading	100%	73%
% Higher standard Reading	52%	27%
% Expected standard+ Writing (Moderated)	87%	78%
% Higher standard Writing (Moderated)	36%	20%
% Expected standard+ Maths	97%	79%
% Higher standard Maths	61%	27%
% Expected standard+ (Re, Wr, Ma)	87%	65%
% Higher standard (Re, Wr, Ma)	29%	11%

### Average Scaled Score

AKPS Reading – 111 National 104

AKPS Maths – 110.3 National 105.1

AKPS SPAG (spelling punctuation and grammar) – 114 National 106

Age related scaled score = 100+

Greater depth scaled score 110+

N.B: 120 is the highest possible scaled score.



Year 6 have impressed us by how cohesive they are and how thoughtful and respectful. They thoughtfully presented their leaver's assembly and final song. They cooked on Monday morning and treated the staff team to a special 3 course lunch, organised by Mel Tim, we are very thankful for that! Class 6, we will miss you all, you have been incredibly special- enjoy your next schools; we know you will all continue to shine!



### **Ashtonbury Festival**

Thank you so much to Liz and the FOAKS team and staff, parent and governor volunteers for organising such a wonderful event. The atmosphere was perfect, very relaxed and fun. I loved having my annual sing of 'Reach for the stars' with the AKSionals who were as awesome as ever. It really was a super event- thank you also for your bottle stall donations- I particularly loved the bottle of gin I won! What a super shiny event! Thank you to all who made the day possible. Next year I hope to have some stalls run by the pupils to further develop their business enterprise skills.

### **Library Book Return- IMPORTANT FINAL CALL**

If you find any school library books over the summer, please keep them safe and return them on the first day back as we are doing an audit of the library stocks.

### **Beeswax wraps Prize**

Congratulations to Toby Branscomb who was our chosen from our school as a runner up for his beeswax Wrap design in the Eco competition we entered! Well done Toby!

### **Writing Competition**

Here is a competition that you and your child can enter into from home over the Summer if you would like to. I'd be delighted to hear from anyone who does take part! You never know, there could be a winner among you! Here are the details:

*This summer we're launching an exciting new competition for children across the country to write a short story inspired by the myths, legends, and folklore surrounding English Heritage historic places for the chance to win fantastic prizes for them, their family, and their school; and I'd like to invite your class to take part!*

*Could your pupils write a winning story in 500 words or less? To enter, they'll need to:*

1. Gather inspiration from stories of the past at one of our [English Heritage sites](#).
2. Write a story inspired by their chosen site's myths, legends, and folklore in 500 words or less.
3. Submit their story on our entry sheet ([download here](#)) by emailing [tellingtales.writingcompetition@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:tellingtales.writingcompetition@english-heritage.org.uk).\*

*From St George to sea monsters, medieval ghosts to buried treasure, and so much more, the stories behind our incredible historic sites offer a fantastic opportunity for your pupils to unleash their imaginations and hone their creative writing skills as part of this competition.*



Need some more inspiration? How many local legends can you name where you live? You might be surprised by the stories right on your doorstep. Illustrated by artist Clive Hicks-Jenkins, our [interactive map](#) lets you explore the myths, legends and folktales of England in your web browser.

We'll be accepting entries from 10am on 5 July 2019, and the competition will close at midnight on 20 September 2019. For further information, please visit [www.english-heritage.org.uk/tellustastory](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/tellustastory).

I wish your pupils the very best of luck, and I'll look forward to reading their stories!

Kind regards,

**Dominique Bouchard**

**English Heritage**

Head of Learning and Interpretation

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to you all for your wonderful support of our school. I wish you a very happy and peaceful Summer where we can all rest and recharge ready for another very exciting year in AKPS starting back on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September at 8.45am.

With my very best wishes and massive thanks,

**S.L.Saville**

Mrs Saville

Your Incredibly Proud 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 to help you plan ahead:



Date	Event
Monday 2nd September	TD DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED
Tuesday 3rd September	8.45 School restarts for 2019/20 academic year
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> September	Swimming sessions start for Class 4
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> September	Classes 3 & 4 to Ashmolean museum
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> September	Pupil photos

# ASHTON KEYNES

Church of England VC Primary School

SHINE BRIGHT ★ REACH FOR THE STARS



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