



Friday 13th September 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Team AK Shining Brightly:

A warm and shiny welcome back to the new school year. We are really looking forward to another fantastic school year together and have lots to look forward to. Already I have been super impressed with all of the children as they start their new school year. They all look so smart and are working so hard to impress us and they certainly are! We have many new families and children joining us this year in our new Class R and in a few other classes across the school. It is so lovely to be back!

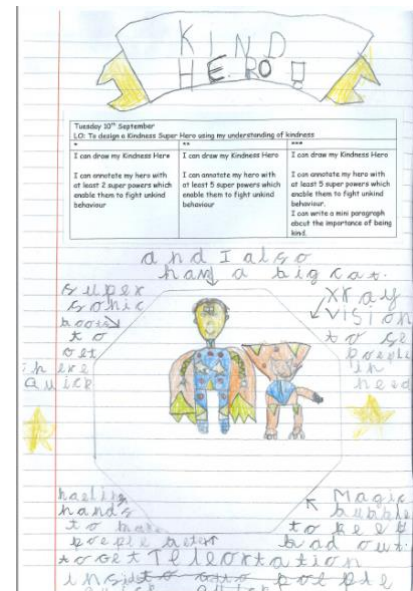
New Classes

I always see it as such a privilege to be at the start of the school journey for our new Class R pupils to the school and we are so happy with how the new class have been settling this first couple of weeks. We look forward to them joining us full time next week! I have been delighted to visit all of the classes each day and see how well they are rising to the challenge and settling into their new classes. Each class will update their class page on the website on www.akps.org.uk throughout the terms and home learning brochures and termly letters will also be stored on here.

Our Christian value in focus this term is 'Generosity' and we have been looking at kindness and how we can show this within school and beyond. I would like to share this wonderful poem that Martha in Year 2 wrote for us. I think there is something we can all learn from the words in this poem:

*Be kind each and every day.
Say kind things hooray hooray!
Do not feel sad or let others down.
Be the happiest one on the ground.
It's called being kind
So you just dance around.
Open doors, be kind to others.
It is the best think you can do.
So you go for it.
You do it to make the world a better place.
It will be hard but you can do it.
So go for it and you will be loved.
Martha (Year 2 AKPS)*

Please also see Sebastian in Year 2's Kindness Superhero. I particularly liked the x-ray vision to see people in need and healing hands to make people better!



NEW SCHOOL BUILDING UPDATE

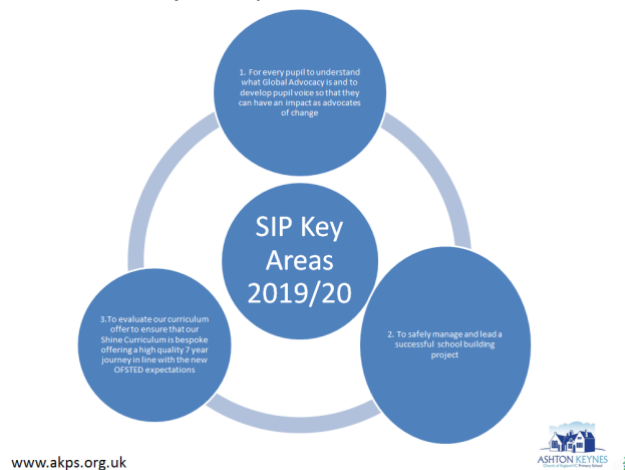
Yippee! We now have planning permission for our new classrooms and will be appointing a building contractor during September, so work is still scheduled to start in October this year. As well as the 3 new classrooms **we want to add an amazing atrium space with shared learning area and library as well as a covered link to the existing hall**, so our whole school will be connected and secure. As you are aware we have the funding from Wiltshire to build for three new infant classrooms to replace the mobiles as well as doing the internal alterations and building a hygiene room. To achieve the atrium area, we will need to raise the extra money



ourselves. We already have around £80k of our own reserves, including promises from local trusts and of course, FOAKS, but we will still need to raise enough to complete this exciting one off project and we will be launching a huge fund-raising effort, starting in October 2019. We will be writing for the village newsletter to appeal for support from the village community in this effort to support their village school in this one off build. There will be lots of ways **you** can help and we have formed a fund raising committee who will be setting up a whole range of projects which you can get involved with and setting the fundraising target once we have confirmation of this from the appointed contractors. If you would like to join us in our efforts, or have any ideas to help us raise money then do get in touch with us at the school, we would be delighted to hear from you. We will be publishing regular updates on the progress of our new building, as well as the events so watch out for these in the newsletter in the coming months.

School Improvement Plan 2019 2020

We have 3 key areas on our school improvement plan this year 1. Global Advocacy 2. New Build 3. AKPS Shine Curriculum and have already been very busy during our teacher training days working on these. Although we are very proud of all the awards we have won and our outcomes (how we are shining), we are always reaching for the stars and striving to continue provide the very best we can for all of our children. We are excited to offer a very unique, tailor made journey for the children in our school.



Art Specialist for AKPS

I am super excited to let you know that I have organised for a specialist Art teacher to come into school on a Monday afternoon and work with every class across the school year. This is really exciting for our children and will also mean that during that time, the class teacher will be able to work with/ tutor every child in the class 1:1 and in small groups throughout the term. This will mean that children will access specialist art teaching but pop out for focused sessions with their teacher throughout the afternoon to work on areas specific to each child. Every class will experience the art provision throughout the year, starting with Year 6 until October half term.

After school on a Monday, the art teacher will be offering a special art club 3.15-4.15 which will focus on different art styles and projects built up over the sessions. Years 1 and 2 started the club last Monday and I also attended and really enjoyed it! If any Year 1 or 2 pupils still want to join, please contact the office as we do have a couple of spaces left. I will change the Year groups for the club each term and send letters out in advance so places can be booked. I will be offering the club to Years 3 and 4 after half term via parentmail.



Wiltshire Air Ambulance First Aid Day- Tuesday 5th November

Safety is always at the forefront of our minds and my staff team have first aid training and I have been keen to provide some basic life-saving first aid training for our pupils too. I recently discovered that Wiltshire Air Ambulance offer a special day which does just this so I got straight on to them over the Summer and got us a day booked in! So Classes R-2 will focus on how to call for help in an emergency and how the emergency services work and classes 3, 4 5 and 6 will do an hour workshop to learn about emergency first aid and simple CPR. The air ambulance is such an important charity and it runs on charity funds. Therefore I am keen to give them a donation from our school during their visit. I would like to suggest that children bring in on 5th November, a minimum donation of £1 or whatever families and staff would like to donate to this brilliant charity and I will present this direct to them on the day. This is a really important life-saving workshop for all of our pupils so thank you in advance for your support and donations.

Boogie Bounce Wednesday 9th October

I am ever so excited! As you know we are always thinking of different experiences to help our children enjoy and participate in a range of physical activities and we do many of these throughout our dedicated sports week. Well this one I could not wait until June to do. I have booked a specially qualified 'Boogie Bounce' teacher to come with her trampolines and enable each of our pupils and staff to experience a work out on a trampoline to some really cool music and disco lights! I honestly cannot wait to see how much our children enjoy this experience. We will be one of the first primary schools to do this so of course that makes me extra excited. I hope your children love it.

Life Education Van/ classroom Tuesday 15th and Wednesday 16th October

The Life Education van and Harold the Giraffe will be visiting us again soon. Each class has a session in the special classroom learning about PHSE (Personal Health and Social Education). We always find the lessons engaging, interactive and really important for our pupils, they are planned age appropriate and stimulate lots of discussion which continues back into classroom learning. We do not charge per child (It costs about £3 a child) for this but instead, FOAKS fund this resource for every child as a result of fundraising events so thank you FOAKS. The mobile classroom will be arriving a day or so before the designated days and they are always open at the end of the day should parents want to visit to find out more.

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Fencing for Years 5 and 6

I have been really lucky to be able to secure some free in school fencing lessons for Upper Key Stage 2. I will update you with how the children get on, I know they will enjoy it and it may lead to some of them taking up a further qualification in fencing in the future.

Well-being- Zumba, Yoga and Massage in Schools

Well-being of our pupils and staff is so important here. With that in mind, I have arranged for the children and staff to continue to have Zumba each term with Meryl and Yoga with Sharon, both excellent experienced and qualified teachers. As a massage in schools (MISP) instructor, I continue to train classes and staff with the massage in schools peer touch programme which I know children and families really enjoy. There are many more things we do here as we are mindful of the busy world we live in and the time to stop, look and listen and take time for ourselves.



FOAKS Fireworks Evening- Saturday 2nd November- please save the date!



The annual AK fireworks evening organised by FOAKS will be on Saturday 2nd November at Bradstone in Ashton Keynes. This is always an incredible evening and display and a key fundraiser for our school, providing much needed learning resources/ activities for our children such as the Life Education van, cooking workshops for all children, Maths Rockstars and Wiltshire learning interactive resources. Led by Liz Nicholls and her FOAKS team, we always need a team of wonderful volunteers from our parents and staff family. No matter how small your offer is, it really makes a difference. I know Liz will be in touch for helpers soon but please approach her and offer if you can. This is our annual biggest fundraiser of our school year and biggest event for the local and wider community. Thank you so much, my staff team and I really enjoy volunteering and have our annual favourite jobs we like to help with, mine is the bar and singing in the band when I can!

Annual Flu Vaccination- nasal spray Information

We will soon have our free annual flu vaccinations (via nasal spray) in school for our pupils provided by Virgin Care. We do not as yet have the dates for this but parents need to give their consent if they would like their children to have the vaccination so please see the poster below for the web address to do this as we cannot do this for you. All information about the vaccination can also be found on the website below. We will of course send a parent mail when we have the dates.

For further information and to complete a consent form please access:

<https://schoolimms.virginicare.co.uk/flu/2019/wilts>

Safety Reminders

Safety of our children and school community is paramount. As we start a new school year together here are a few important reminders:

Nut allergy

We have children and staff in the school who have **severe nut allergies** and therefore we ask that **no nuts, including sandwich fillers such as peanut butter and nutella** are brought onto the premises to keep everyone safe and avoid these people coming into contact with nuts. Thank you for your cooperation with this matter of safety.

Playground Safety

We ask that all scooters and bikes are wheeled on/off the playground before/after school to avoid any accidents with pedestrians; please encourage your children to do this. We do not encourage children to stay after school and play on the outdoor equipment as there are no staff to supervise them. After school club is a separate club in Hi-Viz jackets and have permission to use the equipment and scooters fully supervised by their club leaders. Again this is just to keep everyone safe. The village park is a great place to meet and play after school rather than at school.

When parking or dropping off, please keep clear of the yellow lines outside school. We are currently working hard to relocate staff parking from the roads outside school to avoid congestion but the yellow lines are put there to keep our children safe, so please avoid parking/ pulling up on them.

Sickness

If your child is unwell please telephone the office before 9.30 so that we are aware of where your child is (please do not do this via email as we may not get to it in time). If your child has vomiting or diarrhea please keep them off school for 48 hours from their last episode in line with our policy to help prevent viruses spreading. Thank you!



We have so much to look forward to together- here's to another successful and shiny year at TEAM AK!
With my very best wishes and thanks for your support,

S.L. Saville

Mrs Saville
Head Teacher

All dates for the year are on the calendar on the school website on www.akps.org.uk to help you plan ahead

Date	Event
Thurs 19 th September	Y4 swim starts
Friday 20 th September	International Day of Peace
Wednesday 25 th September	Y 3 & 4 Ashmolean Trip
Wednesday 9 th October	Boogie Bounce Day for all classes- in hall with Sally
Friday 11 th October	1.20 leave for church Harvest Festival at Holy Cross – please send in food bank donations for children to take to church
Sunday 13 th October	11am Church Harvest Festival Holy Cross- all welcome 12.30 Harvest lunch school hall- all welcome
Tuesday 15 th October & Wednesday 16 th October	Life Ed van Visits Life Education Van Day 2 World Food Day Zumba with Meryl- for all classes
Thursday 17 th October	Yoga with Sharon in all classes
Tuesday 22 nd October	9am Heroes and Heroines Children's last day
Wednesday 23 rd October	Teacher training day for staff- school closed to pupils End of Term 1
Saturday 2 nd November	*AKPS FOAKS Firework Evening at Bradstone- volunteers –please*
Monday 4 th November	Term 2 Starts 8.50am bell on playground

ASHTON KEYNES

Church of England VC Primary School

SHINE BRIGHT ★ REACH FOR THE STARS



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