



Friday 6th December 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Team AK Shining Brightly:

The term of glitter is certainly upon us! As I walk around the school I can hear the ambient sound of children singing Christmas songs accompanied by a chorus of diggers! All very exciting. We have a wonderful window display in the Coventry Building Society in Cirencester, the build is coming along very nicely, the children are working their socks off in class and I have seen two fantastic class assemblies to parents from Classes 5 and 4, both conveying important messages from our Global advocacy learning. The feedback on these assemblies was so positive regarding the quality of the children's learning and understanding and the brilliant level of performance. I am super proud of the class assemblies to parents and they have come a very long way from when we first started them 5 years ago!

I am ever so thankful to our whole school family for their patience, positive attitude and support with our building project, the site is so different at the moment and everyone is having to be so flexible and patient and I am so grateful for this. It is a super exciting time for us and actually the constricted space, different entrances, blocked off areas all give us a real test of one of our core Christian values, perseverance. We keep going even when it is a challenge and the added wellies in the mix and brilliant behaviour and attitudes of our children during this period of change is just awesome. What a team!

TEAM AK is one of the Sunday Times TOP 250 schools!

I wanted to let you know that Ashton Keynes Primary School is one of the Sunday Times top 250 State Primary Schools! We are ranked at joint 212 which, when you consider there are 16,769 state primary schools in England (<https://www.besa.org.uk/key-uk-education-statistics/>), puts us in the top 1.5% of all English primary schools!

Last year we were awarded the Pride of the Cotswolds School of the Year 2018 which we were incredibly proud of and for the past two years we have been in the top 3% of all schools nationally. We have so many other awards alongside this and are so proud of them all.

We are having a whole school photograph and will appear in the Wilts and Glos standard soon as we the only school in this area to get into the top 250!

I am so incredibly proud of our school and we are delighted to be in the top 250 schools nationally. This outstanding achievement is real testament to the hard work of our staff and pupils. We are delighted with our children's achievements every year and believe that the unique seven-year journey which we provide for children in our school; the rich, exciting and engaging curriculum along with the warm and caring happy school ethos ensure that all of our children learn and achieve so well. Our children leave this school having made the best progress possible, had the most enriching and engaging school experience and are empowered learners who are more than ready to make a difference in the next stage of their educational journey. I am incredibly proud of my children and staff team every single day. Children and staff at Ashton Keynes CE Primary School always work incredibly hard, our children make excellent progress, have a love of learning and achieve outstanding results year on year and we are very proud to have our successes recognised in this way. Mrs Saville

Writing Challenge

You know how much we love writing and reading in our school. Well I just wanted to share how impressed I have been with our children's writing. We have organised for classes to visit one another to share their wonderful writing across the curriculum from every class. I have set the whole school a challenge and they have two weeks to work on it. After this I will be having a 1:1 with every child as a chance for them to proudly show me their writing and what they have managed to achieve and improve during the two week period. The children are really excited and I am being inundated





by pupils from across the school telling me how proud they are and how they can't wait to show me what they have done. Of course I have a special Mrs Saville scented 'smelly' sticker for every child. I hope they will be keen to show you their writing too!

Year 4 have been hot on the heels of this and wanted to share with you...

In class 4, we do not settle for 'good'! We work really hard at making our writing our very best. This week, we have been using our whiteboards to draft our first 'good' paragraph for our non-chronological reports on climate change. After this, we read them aloud and swap with our partners to look for any mistakes and anything we could improve. We also share our favourite sentences with the class and create a 'shared write' by the whole class. Finally, we then make final changes to make our writing our very best. The quality of writing produced has been amazing, our focus this term is also handwriting and we can see the impact already! Keep it up class 4!



Building Update - Tuesday 3rd December 2019

School Council Team AK Roaming Reporters

This week, the builders have poured loads of cement into the foundations of the building. If you look carefully, you can see the string separating the different rooms, classrooms and hallways of our new school building. When it is finished, it will be one big building joined to our main school so we will all be together and won't have to go outside to visit the different classrooms. There are lots of teams working together to make our new building, including people drilling into the ground to help each other create the foundations. It is so exciting to see it all coming together.

Since this report, foundations have gone down to form the floor which will soon be concreted! It is super exciting!

Awesome, Amazing, Exciting Building News!

We have been given news that Phase 2 of the building will now go ahead alongside Phase 1! This means that we are able to go ahead and build a Learning Hub at the centre of our school and this is truly awesome! This whole build is a one off chance for our school and therefore if we can make the most of it by building the school we want and need, then we must try to do this. Learning space is so precious and with Phase 2 going ahead we can now create more space for our children. We are not increasing the pupil numbers by doing this, just improving the facilities and creating more space for our existing children to learn.



Wiltshire Council funding is to build the three classrooms (EYFS, Y1, Y2 with outdoor learning space, Y1/2 toilets and hygiene room. Beyond the LA funding, the school has already committed to providing necessary additional extras within the build: specific toilets for Class R off their classroom, a music space, smaller partitioned rooms for quiet group work/



1:1 sessions including ELSA(Emotional Literacy), Speech and Language, an extended staff room by knocking through to the other room and links through the building to ensure all parts are linked with secure doors throughout (essential).

The Fundraising team, with your help will focus on raising funds for the Phase 2 Learning Hub. This is just fantastic as it can now be built at the same time as Phase 1. This space will be at the heart of the school and will provide the school with: invaluable space for learning, a new library/reading space, break-out areas for small group learning, multiple class learning area so that classes can work together at times, specialist teaching zone, music and relaxation space, lunchtime clubs, choir, After School Club, IT facilities and so much more! This space will make a huge difference to all children. But we need to raise a total of £110k in the next 18 months to make this happen. We are confident that this target can be reached and we've already made a great start to fundraising, but are seeking the help of **every** family in the school to achieve the target in a wide variety of ways including, helping at events, reaching out to businesses, giving ideas, donating materials, donating and helping out in any way possible. The staff team are all committed and working hard on this too. We totally understand that we have a big fundraising effort to achieve but we are all so focussed and already onto this. We are reaching out to local and national businesses, organising events and much much more. We have an incredible fundraising team of parents and Governors who have a strategy in place and will share this in the near future. FOAKS already work super hard each year to provide our school with incredibly valuable resources such as our Wiltshire library interactive learning resources for every class and enabling children to take part in the life education van, rock stars maths and travel to the pantomime but beyond this, they raise money for legacy projects such as the Smooga. The legacy project from this point forward is the Learning hub and therefore this means we are focussing our fundraising efforts together for the same aim. For now, please enjoy watching the build progress and with the addition of Phase 2, know it will make a massive difference to all of our pupils now and in the future. If you have any thoughts or would like to get more involved then please let us know! Together we will do this- one united family!

Food bank

Thank you to those who have brought in donations for the Cricklade foodbank. Christmas can be such a challenging time for some, and it is brilliant if we can help where we can. The Christmas list is: tinned puddings (rice/sponge), UHT milk, tea, coffee, tinned meats, baby foods, Christmas chocolate selection boxes. Thank you for your kind support. We have a blue box in school for donations, please bring in via the office.

Fun Run

Please join in on The Ashton Keynes Festive Fun Run on Sunday 22nd December at 11am at the White Hart if you are able. Everyone is welcome and cakes and snacks will be on sale when you finish. Part of the proceeds will be donated to the school's FOAKS.

FOAKS Xmas Fabios fun night out-What a night!

This was a brilliant night! So much fun was had, the food was incredible and we were joined by 65 people! Our thanks to Fabios for providing the reduced cost meal and to all those who donated raffle prizes and those who took part. Our incredible FOAKS team, with this event being led on this occasion by Nicola Harris (Sophia's Mum) did an absolutely amazing job! You will be truly astounded to know that £1200 was raised on the evening for our wonderful school! I can say first hand that a lot of fun was had too! I am hoping they will do this event again in the Summer. A heartfelt thank you to the FOAKS team and to all who help at FOAKS events.

Breakfast Club Important Message

Please can Breakfast club sessions be booked using the Parent Pay cashless system. We have an increasing number of children attending without booking which makes planning for correct staffing ratio numbers difficult and for safety reasons this needs to be correct. We will, obviously, still help out in emergencies. Many thanks.





My next newsletter, out on Friday 20th December, will be the Christmas special edition where each class shares the highlights from the last two terms.

Thank you as always for your continued support and partnership, this school is one incredibly special place to be.

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	
Tuesday 10 th December	11.30am-4.00pm	Whole school pantomime
Wednesday 11 th December	1.45-2.45pm	KS1 nativity performance – all welcome
Thursday 12 th December	9.30-10.30am 6.00-7.00pm	KS1 nativity performance – all welcome KS1 nativity performance – adults and older Siblings only please (Sorry sold out)
Friday 13 th December	Christmas Jumper Day – 50p per pupil for Save the Children please AK's Got Talent – pupils only	
Wednesday 18 th December	8.00am	Christmas Breakfast Club session with Father Christmas Christmas lunch – make sure you order online by Wed 11 th Dec.
Friday 20 th December	AM 1.40pm	Pocket money stalls Christmas service in Holy Cross Church including Heroes and Heroines
	End of Term 2	
Sunday 22 nd December	11.00am	AK Festive Fun Run – White Hart pub
Monday 6 th January 2020	8.50am	Start of Term 3



ASHTON KEYNES

Church of England VC Primary School

SHINE BRIGHT ★ REACH FOR THE STARS



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