



Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Christmas Edition



#### Team AK Shining Brightly:

The KS1 Nativity was just brilliant. I cannot believe that some of those children have only been in school with us for a couple of months! Every one sang their hearts out and spoke so clearly and the costumes were incredible, now we are really in the festive mood! We ended the term with a lovely festive Church Christmas service this afternoon with Heroes and Heroines in the Church! This is a super way to end this busy but brilliant term. Also a huge well done to everyone for taking part in Christmas jumper day and raising money for Save the Children. Even Ted, our school dog made an appearance in his Christmas jumper! He also joined us in

church this afternoon and he loved it!

#### AKPS is one of the best in the country- newspaper report!

I hope you felt proud of your school in the newspaper this week. It was a super write up and I feel so incredibly proud to be your Head teacher. What a TEAM we are! TEAM AK

<https://www.wiltsglosstandard.co.uk/news/18108511.ashton-keynes-primary-school-named-one-best-country/>

#### Whole School Panto Trip

It always makes me so proud to take the whole school tot the pantomime. Our children are always so beautifully behaved and grateful for the trip, they are a credit. Zack Thompson in Class 4 was chosen to go up and represent our school on stage and he did it really well! This is what the children told me: *'We had the best time! I love panto, it is so exciting! Please can we go next year. I am so sad this will be my last AK panto as I am in Year 6'*. The staff sat and watched the panto for 50% but for the other 50% we were all smiling just watching your children absolutely loving the show, it was priceless! Jack and the Beanstalk next year!



#### Building Update

School Council Team AK Roaming Reporters

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2019

Wow! What an exciting week it has been for the school build. Exciting for two reasons: first, we had bricks delivered and put into the foundations! Then, Mrs Saville panicked and thought it was the shape of the new building but was quickly put at ease by Andy when he told her it was just the floor, not the floor plan! ☺ It is so exciting to see just how quickly it is all coming along. We are patiently waiting for

the concrete to be poured and the building to start taking shape.

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The KS1 mobile classrooms have now been lifted by crane and moved (it was rather like returning to a scene from the Wizard of Oz on Monday morning, I was looking for a pair of ruby slippers under the house! After a weekend of working in the pouring rain, our team of builders managed to successfully move the classrooms and make a new set of steps to access them. Despite our slight hiccup with a combination of power surge when the power went back on, the separate boiler problem in old school house and a wiring problem, we did manage to get our children back into their classroom and phase 2 can well and truly start happening now! We are all still smiling!

## **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2019** **School Council Team AK Roaming Reporters**

As if last week wasn't exciting enough, this week we found out phase 2 of the school build was given the go ahead! Woohoo! This means we get our learning hub in the centre of the new school, with loads of extra learning space for groups, music, drama, clubs and so much more! Because of the changes, Classes 1 and 2 had to be moved to make space. This was so interesting to see happen. The whole building was picked up and moved a few metres back! This is because the new class 2 will be attached to the hall to make space for the learning hub.

We are so excited to see the developments when we come back in the New Year. Merry Christmas everyone! See you in 2020 ☺



### **Class Highlights form the first two terms:**

#### **Class R**

Class R have had an amazing start to their school journey!

In early October we continued our autumn tradition by going on an Autumn Walk. We went to Church Walk and collected as many conkers, leaves and other natural autumn treasures as we could. This time we included a short visit to the church where Mr Tarr welcomed us. The children were fabulous and so sensible being outside school. On our return we enjoyed making some natural art work with the treasures we had collected.



When asked about their highlights from the last 2 terms lots of children said they enjoyed playing with friends, playing in our ever changing role play area and Henry S said he especially enjoyed lunchtime.

Otis said that he liked seeing the diggers and the building of the new classroom and Laurie summed up the enthusiasm of the whole class when he said "I like learning."





Alien visitors arrived in our classroom when we were learning about space. Fortunately, they were rescued and made their way back to where they came from... we think!

We found out about the sun, the moon, the stars and other planets.



We have been spending lots of time learning about sounds and numbers and we are all enjoying learning to read and write.

Our Nativity this year was "The Christmas recipe" and we all enjoyed singing, dancing and becoming stars, presents and air guitar playing robins! It was great fun!

Class R wish you a very Happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in 2020!





## Class 1

Wow what a busy term we've had in Class 1! We've enjoyed listening to, reading and writings all sorts of different stories. Halibut Jackson was one of our favourites. He camouflages against his background so we designed a new outfit for him. The teachers were amazed by our designs!



In forest school we used leaves and natural materials to camouflage sticks – some of them were so well hidden Miss Smith couldn't find them!

In the lead up to Christmas we worked hard on our nativity performance. In class we created some wonderful 3D Christmas cards. We can't wait to give them to our friends and families!



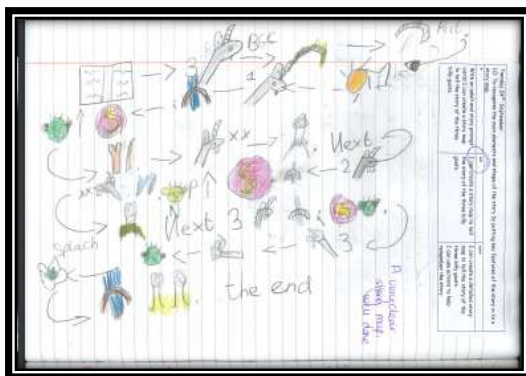
Looking forwards, we are excited to begin our Spring Term topic – Superheroes! We will be reading and writing superhero stories, as well as learning about real life superheroes who have had a significant impact on our lives.





## Class 2

What a busy few terms we have had in year 2 so far! In literacy we started off year 2 by looking at Traditional Tales. We used Pie Corbett 'Talk for Write' style teaching which gave the children opportunity to learn lots of different traditional tales orally using actions to support them. From this the children were then able to rewrite the tales in their own words.



We then moved onto look at the book Halibut Jackson, this allowed to explore feelings of shyness and how we can help people feel comfortable. The children wrote some super diary entries and even designed their own costumes for Halibut Jackson to sell in his shop.

More recently we looked at the story of Elmo's Christmas Tail, this was a lovely Christmas themed story all about kindness. We talked about showing kindness to one another over the festive period. The children then wrote their own Christmas tales about an animal that is given something special.

During our topic sessions we have looked at the role of Guy Fawkes in English history. We looked at his role in the gunpowder plot and why such decisions were made. We looked at how technology has changed too because Guy Fawkes needed a lantern but nowadays we would use a torch. In forest school we then tried to make our own lanterns. The children said it was tricky trying to hold the different pieces of willow together so they had to help each other out.

Alongside all of this amazing learning we have also been working incredibly hard to put together our Nativity with Classes R and 1. It is always a magical time of year and it is always enjoyable to watch the children rehearsing on stage, learning the songs and trying to deliver the best performance they can. They all did a wonderful job and I am sure you would agree, delivered a fabulous performance 4 times in just one week!

To top all of this wonderful learning off we have also had a visit from Avon and Dorset Fire and Rescue, the Life Education Van with Harrold, Boogie Bounce, Zumba and of course our trip to Swindon Theatre to watch 'Sleeping Beauty'.





## Class 3

Class 3 have worked really hard this term. It is great to see an improvement in so many children's handwriting, we are really pleased with the class and with how well they are settling into the juniors now. We have enjoyed reading 'Stig of the Dump' and the children have recently planned and written their own Stone Age stories inspired by

Stig and also Stone Age Boy.



In Forest School the children

realised just how difficult it must be to have lived in the Stone Age. They had to forage for dry kindling and enough wood to sustain a fire. Lighting it using flint proved to be quite a challenge! We enjoyed our Stig inspired 'trashion' show where children showed off designs for clothing and accessories made from rubbish. There were some very creative designs.



Class 3 have been busy designing and making Christmas biscuits, we hope you enjoy them! Happy Christmas from Class 3.

## Class 4



Class 4 have had the most incredible term. Mrs Thomas and I are SO unbelievably proud of all of their hard work and determination. We have researched and written non-chronological reports on climate change around the world after being inspired by David Attenborough's documentaries. Not only that, we have even written a letter to Sir David asking for advice and top tips on how to tackle climate change. We have loved learning how countries across the world are fighting the climate crisis and what they are doing to help

in their own countries.

When learning about non-chronological reports, we used Talk 4 Writing to learn the features, layout and language of an NCR. We learnt an entire NCR off by heart without reading a single word and performed it to the whole school and our parents and carers during our class assembly. As our focus was climate change, we



had a big poster in our room of Sir David Attenborough with, 'DO IT FOR DAVID' written on it, so whenever we needed extra inspiration to do our best, we look at the poster and do it for David! In class 4, we are not your average kids, we are SUPER KIDS! We have worked all term on becoming global citizens, dedicated to protecting our beautiful planet. Through NCRs, we have researched climate change around the world and all we can do to help others. We have loved using T4W in our literacy and can't wait to continue it next term in our new topic.



**ASHTON KEYNES**  
Church of England VC Primary School

SHINE BRIGHT ★ REACH FOR THE STARS

This term in school we have been learning about climate change. In class we have been watching your interesting programme, 'Save the World one Planet at a Time'. If you were eight how would you react to climate change? Also we have thought about big companies that are burning fossil fuels and creating carbon dioxide.

We want to inspire change although we don't want to lament and shout out. So we do our own part at school. In forest school we cleaned up our compost bins and we found and we found an unacceptable amount of plastic and rubbish. Also we made low wax wraps that are made out of natural materials. You use them for jobs like that cling film do.

Yours sincerely,  
Jacob

Headteacher: Ashton Keynes, Nr Swindon, Wiltshire, UK. Tel: 01285 861436. Fax: 01285 861435. Email: office@ashtonkeynes.wilts.sch.uk

**ASHTON KEYNES**  
Church of England VC Primary School

SHINE BRIGHT ★ REACH FOR THE STARS

5 Park Road  
Richmond  
Surrey  
TW10 6NS  
Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December  
2019

Dear Sir David Attenborough,

I am writing to you to thank you for raising awareness of our world and only home. You have inspired me as you are trying all you have got to defeat climate change. My name is Jacob, I am eight years old and I think that everyone can be like you if they try as hard as they possibly can to save our only Earth.

Headteacher: Ashton Keynes, Nr Swindon, Wiltshire, UK. Tel: 01285 861436. Fax: 01285 861435. Email: office@ashtonkeynes.wilts.sch.uk





**Class 5**

Year 5 have really enjoyed reading Floodlands - a novel set in a dystopic future, flooded Britain- and imagining that they are some of the characters in the story. We've been writing letters as if we are Zoe - the main character- as she tried to plot her escape from Eel Island (Ely). We drew maps and wrote informal letters between Zoe and Munchkin discussing the details and items needed to safely escape to the mainland Britain.



After that we have started to look at writing formal letters and have written to Coca Cola as part of the Tearfund Plastic Campaign to ask them to reduce the amount of plastic they are using in their packaging both here and abroad.



Cliff.

This term we have also enjoyed making clay pots learning a range of different construction techniques ranging from coil construction to slab construction. We have been inspired by the work of many different artists including Clarice



**Class 6**

Our first two terms in Year 6 have been Wowzers Trousers! We have experienced countless enriching experiences including: an online webchat from inside the rhino enclosure at Whipsnade Zoo, a trip to the pantomime, the senior citizen tea party, and much more besides!

The children's effort, determination and learning have been top notch and this has resulted in wonderful progress and quality learning so far. They have not only worked hard on their own learning and progress, but have also supported their Class R buddies so stunningly and have enabled them to become confident, independent members of Team AK.

This Autumn term, we have looked at a fantastic book, 'Floodland' by Marcus Sedgewick. This has acted as a stimulus for some incredible, creative writing including: diary entries, letters, character descriptions, stories and dystopian narratives. The children have also looked at and have applied a range of these skills in other subjects such as Geography, Science, Art and Global Advocacy.







In November, the children organised the AK Senior Citizen tea Party, where the children shared learning, reading, songs (and of course tea and cake) with the older community from the local area. I was so pleased to see how they responded in a mature, welcoming and giving manner. We have received countless cards and responses from the people who attended which have meant so much to the children. December soon came upon us. We visited the pantomime and the Year 6 pupils were absolute ambassadors for the rest of the school. We have also had French lessons this term, delivered by Mrs Felipe. The children have really developed their linguistic skills and are using French phrases more readily. Thank you to Mrs Felipe for volunteering her time, working across the school to deliver French. Alongside the usual festive cheer of December, we have had two visits and workshops from Wiltshire ambulance service. The children are now proficient in first aid, choking prevention, CPR, the recovery position and so much more! The Year 6 team would like to wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year and thank you for being so supportive of our wonderful team.



### Thank you...

There are so many. Thank you to everyone for your support and thank you to those who were able to join us in Church this afternoon and to the Church for welcoming us.

Thank you to all who are working so hard with the fundraising/donations for the school. We are keeping a spreadsheet of all donations so that we can thank people afterwards as this is really important.

### Thank you Harrison in Class R

For giving of your time to be a local advocate of change and be environmentally friendly whilst raising money for our school build by collecting and chipping village Christmas trees with his Dad after Christmas! What a super idea, I am so proud of you!

**Well done to Bess in Year 4** for working so hard to raise money to build a well in Nepal, I know how much this meant to you and how hard you personally worked for this and how it really made you aware of need in the world and how you can help make a difference. Global advocacy in action!





### Thank you Mrs Felipe!

We are very grateful to one of our parents Mrs Felipe for giving up her time to come in and teach specialist French lessons from years 1-6. The children are all taught French but learning from an actual French person is incredible for developing the children's pronunciation and accent. Thank you so much Mrs Felipe!

### FOAKS pocket money stalls

FOAKS helpers are amazing. Thank you for refreshments at the nativity and for providing another brilliant Christmas pocket money stall for our children.

### Goodbye and Good luck Miss Kibblewhite

Miss Kibblewhite has given 15 Years of her life to TEAM AK and has worked with so many children over that time. I would like to wish her the best of luck in her new adventures and I look forward to hearing all about what she has been up to beyond education! We will really miss her!

We welcome Mrs Wilkinson to the staff team temporarily until the end of the Summer term and into Year 1 with Miss Smith and already they have been starting to work together and Mrs Wilkinson has been in getting to know the children.

We wish Miss Redman luck as she has her operation after Christmas and wish her a speedy recovery. We are lucky to have Mrs Cleaver covering her class whilst she is away and Mrs Cleaver has already been in working as a supply teacher within the school.

### Formal Consultation on Co-ordinated Schemes 2021/22 and Admission Arrangements for VC and C schools 2021/22

I am sharing this on behalf of Wiltshire council... Wiltshire Council would like to hear your views on:

1. Proposed Co-ordinated scheme for Primary Admissions 2021/22
2. Proposed Admission Arrangements for VC & C primary schools for 2021/22

Full details of the proposals can be found at: [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/schools-learning-admissions-consultation](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/schools-learning-admissions-consultation)  
Should you wish to provide any comments, please email [admissions@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@wiltshire.gov.uk) before Friday 17 January 2020.

The results of the consultation will be considered before the Cabinet Members of Wiltshire Council are asked to adopt them as the determined policies. This will be at the meeting prior to 28 February 2020.

### Procedures for Emergency School Closure

Although many of us may be wishing for a white Christmas, if the white stuff does fall and falls enough/ temperatures drop to create problems which would mean that we would need to close the school at the start of term, we will follow our Emergency Closure procedures. We will announce school closure on Heart radio, our website and will parent mail as soon as a decision is made. We will not close the school easily but as in previous years, we will assess safety and ratio of staff to pupils first. We will do our very best to keep our school open, as long as it is safe to do so. Thank you.

### Reminder:

Please no bikes or scooters in school until the build is completed as we do not have the space. Thank you.

Wishing you all a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and New Year and I look forward to welcoming you all back to school on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January at 8.45am as we move one more step closer to our new school building!

*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](http://www.akps.org.uk) to help you plan ahead

Date	Event	
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	11.00am	AK Festive Fun Run – White Hart pub
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2020	8.50am	Start of Term 3
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> January		Deadline for applications for school entry Sept 2020
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> January		Swimming starts for Class 5
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	.	Young Voices, Wembley for choir
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February		TD Day – School Closed



# ASHTON KEYNES

Church of England VC Primary School

SHINE BRIGHT ★ REACH FOR THE STARS



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