



Thursday 13th February 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Team AK Shining Brightly:

If you had been in school on the morning of Friday 7th February you would have felt a buzz of excitement around the KS2 classes. Members of the choir were so excited to be going to Wembley Arena to perform in the 2020 Young Voices concert. This was to be the first time Ashton Keynes Primary School had taken part in this amazing event and after months practicing of song words and dance moves, the children and staff were full of anticipation for the day ahead.



We left at 11 am for the coach trip to London and spirits were high. On arrival we entered the arena and the children were in awe at the size of the venue. At about 2.30 the rehearsal started led by the conductor, Mr David Lawrence. He led the 4000+ children and adults beautifully and everyone sang and danced their hearts out. Joining us for parts of the rehearsal were the three singing stars who were also taking part in the evening concert: Ruti, the winner of the Voice 2018, country music band, The Shires, and Tony Hadley from Spandau

Ballet. Also wowing us were street dance act Urban Strides who helped us perfect our dance moves!

After a break for tea and an opportunity to rest our voices, the concert itself began at 7. With our neon stars shining out amongst the thousands of children, the parents who had come to watch us perform could easily spot us. Thank you to all parents who travelled to watch and be a part of such an incredible experience.



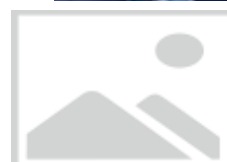
The atmosphere for the evening concert was incredible! The combination of the lights, music, audience and energy in the arena meant that our performance was incredible. Just as in the



rehearsal we sang and danced our hearts out and loved every second. Team AK shone so brightly!

Arriving back at school at just before midnight meant we had to wake a few children up but after a such a long and exciting day that was no surprise!

As always the children of Ashton Keynes Primary School behaved impeccably at all times. They put their all into the performance and did





themselves proud. We received such wonderful feedback from parents and carers as well as the children themselves. My huge thanks to Mrs Crowley and Mrs O'Neill for their patience and determination with organising and preparing the children and to Miss Harrold, Mrs Serle and Mrs Smith who volunteered their time to come along. I was truly delighted to be part of the experience too. Roll on Young Voices 2021 which no doubt will be even more special as it will be the event's 25th year.

Our Annual Challenge Partner Review

As you may be aware, every year we have the Challenge Partner team in to review our school. Whilst this does not replace Ofsted, it does involve a lead reviewer who is an OFSTED inspector and two other leaders from national schools who spend 3 days reviewing your school. This is our fourth review and we have been outstanding for the past two reviews.

The bar has now risen and it is even harder to achieve the top score which is now termed 'Leading' so there are fewer leading schools nationally. I am delighted to inform you that after three rigorous days, our school is now a 'Leading' school in every area. We also have been accredited a second National area of Excellence for our 'Culture of Challenge' which will encourage other leaders from National schools to come and see what we do here. Honestly, I am super proud and to think that we did all of that with blocked off corridors, mud everywhere, a building site and minimised space but we still all shone our socks off. I cannot wait until next year when we are reviewed with our new Learning hub in action! The lead reviewer said our children's books were the best she had seen in a long, long time!

I will of course send you the final report once I have received it and put it onto our website. Your children are just incredible and wowed the visitors, my staff team were brilliant and I remained totally calm and confident in what I see of my school every single day!

I am bursting with pride

Mrs Super Proud Saville ✨

Messy Church led by our pupils

We have just featured in a Diocese newsletter sharing the strength of our pupil leaders in worship and especially in Messy Church which is brilliant. The next date for Messy Church is Wednesday 26th February 3.15pm in the school hall. Please save the date and we hope to see you there- our pupils will again be getting very involved in planning and leading the session for the community, supported by the team from Holy Cross.

Art Club

I have received such great feedback about our specialist art club from parents and children. Further to my parent mail we are running the art club again after half term on Monday afternoons for KS2. Please book in via the office. Many thanks!

Drum Kit Urgently Needed

We are delighted that so many children have drum lessons in school. However, we are sorely in need of a new school drum kit. If anyone hears of unused or unwanted drum kits, please let Mrs Crowley know.





School Council Team AK Roaming Reporters Tuesday 4th February 2020

What a difference a week makes! The builders have built the structure of the learning hub out of metal beams, we can't wait to see it all come together. The outside of the new building has also had the beautiful stones added to make it fit in with the rest of the school building. It is going to have such a huge impact on everyone in Ashton Keynes and we are so excited to see it all grow.



Today on the TD day, I popped out from my staff training and I put on my pink hard hat and went inside the build with the site manager and it was very exciting! It is going to be truly amazing. After half term, there will be some of the roof being put on and various windows going in too!

Fundraising

There is now a brilliant AKPS development Trust Facebook page which we would encourage you to visit (if you use Facebook) and give a like to! This page details lots of exciting events coming your way. One of our pupils, Ivor in Year 3, is showing our Christian value in action (courage) as he plans to ride 100 miles to London with his family! Truly brave and inspiring and all to raise money for our new learning hub! There is also a group of parents from the school running the Paris Marathon on the 5th of April. They are trying to raise £10,000 towards the School Learning Hub and would really appreciate your support. Please see the link to their sponsorship page. https://www.gofundme.com/f/paris-marathon-2020?utm_source=customer&utm_medium=copy_link-tip&utm_campaign=p_cp+share-sheet There are many more wonderful fundraising events and efforts, all of which are detailed on the Facebook charity page.

Staffing update

This is to confirm that Miss Perring's last day with us will be Friday 3rd April (just before the Easter holidays) as she starts her new role after Easter. I will of course take time to celebrate Miss Perring in our Heroes and Heroines that day but wanted to let you know her last day. For the Summer term, Miss Chomicz will return to us and teach Monday and Tuesday in Year 6 and Mrs Voss will teach Wednesday until Friday to provide



continuity for the children until the end of the Summer term. The Year 6 children were really excited about this.

I am so proud of my staff team. We have had a few short term changes due to illness and they have all been incredibly calm and ensured that your children have continued to have great teaching, stability and are happy. I look forward to both Miss Redman and Ms Smith returning to us after half term.

I am busily showing people around for the Deputy Head post which has had the interest it deserves and I am truly excited about appointing our next Deputy Head. Interviews will take place in early March for a September start. The year group they teach in will be dependent on who we appoint and my staff are so flexible to accommodate the right person.

The team effort from our school is just incredible and I thank everybody for their efforts and dedication to helping us build our new AKPS Learning Hub. It was absolutely wonderful to see so many of you in Heroes and Heroines again yesterday morning. Thank you also for your support and patience with the build. It is going brilliantly and we are all looking forward to seeing the new school evolve. Thank you also for supporting us with smoother morning routines to make morning drop offs calmer for everyone.

With my very best wishes for a peaceful and restorative half term. I look forward to welcoming you all back to school on Monday 24th February at 8.45am and to what the next exciting term has in store for us all.

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
17 th – 21 st Feb	Half-term holiday – School Closed
Mon 24 th Feb	Class 4 trip to Cheltenham Synagogue
Wednesday 26 th Feb	3.15pm Messy church in school hall
Thursday 27 th Feb	Swimming restarts for Class 5
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day – dress as a character from a poem
Monday 9 th March	Science Week starts
Tuesday 10 th March	3.30 – 7.00pm Parents' Evening
Thursday 12 th March	3.30 – 6.00pm Parents' Evening
Tuesday 17 th March	Class 5 trip to Swindon Gurdwara
Friday 20 th March	Pocket money stalls – Mothers' Day
Tuesday 24 th March	6.00pm Years 3 & 4 Production
Wednesday 25 th March	6.00pm Years 3 & 4 Production
Wednesday 1 st April	Class Photos
Friday 3 rd April	9.00am Heroes and Heroines assembly – all welcome



ASHTON KEYNES

Church of England VC Primary School

SHINE BRIGHT ★ REACH FOR THE STARS



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