



Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is so wonderful to be back. I know we are faced with some very different circumstances but I have to say, the school is feeling amazing and the children are so settled back into school. A huge thank you for your support with drop-offs and collections at the start and end of the day; this was always going to be a challenge but I am incredibly thankful for everyone working together on this to keep our children and families safe and ensure a calm, swift arrival and collection time. The build looks stunning, we are still not completely finished but we are almost there! We are so incredibly thankful for our build - it has totally transformed the whole school.

I have been sending parentmails recently to update on COVID-19 and today have send out a really helpful poster from the LA which is a really good quick reference guidance.

**Christian Value in Focus**

Our school is focussing on 'Thankfulness this term. We are also exploring our school Christian vision of 'The journey to life in all its fullness'. We have so much to be thankful for!

**Classes Shining Brightly:**

Here are a few messages from the teaching teams about the start of term:

**Class R**

We are delighted with the way Class R have settled into school life so quickly. The children have had great fun exploring our shiny new classroom and outside area. They have created, investigated, problem solved, made friends, listened to stories, sung songs, got messy and generally had an awful lot of fun! There are smiles all round both from the adults and the children. One child even skipped into school this morning. We are looking forward to having all the children together next week.

Thank you x      The Class R Staff team

**Class 1**

We have been absolutely blown away by the children of Class 1, they have returned to school with resilience, enthusiasm and a huge smile! It has been so lovely to welcome them back into our brand new, shiny classroom and they are loving it. We have been focusing our writing around two books, 'Giraffe's can't dance' and 'Elmer'. We have loved finding out about these characters, thinking about how they are special in their own unique way. We have also been sharing our own unique talents and thinking about how we are all special too. We have been making use of the new Learning Hub too which the children seem to love. I can't seem to get them out of the library! The Home Learning this week has been incredible!

Thank you.      The Year 1 staff team



### **Class 2**

Class 2 have settled in so quickly and show such great learning behaviour that Miss Redman keeps calling them 'Class 3'! The children have been thinking about how they are both similar and different from each other. They have created silhouettes of themselves which contain pictures of things that are important to them. In Maths, we have started our Cracking Times Tables challenge and four children achieved Level 1 on their first attempt - impressive! We have used our map skills to name the continents and oceans of the world and had fun locating Ashton Keynes and Bangladesh (our contrasting location) using Google Earth. We have looked at lots of pictures of Bangladesh and thought about how it is similar and different to where we live. 👍 The Year 2 staff team

### **Class 3**

We are really impressed with how well the children have settled into Year 3. As part of our whole school project, we've been finding similarities and differences about our lives and those around the world. The children have reflected thoughtfully on this and we have been really proud of how they have shown empathy. Some of the books we have enjoyed sharing are Malala's Magic Pencil, God's Very Good Idea and Under the same sky. In our Forest School session this week, the children enjoyed planting onion and garlic bulbs – we can't wait to watch these grow over the coming months! We are also going to be learning about looking after plants in Science this term. What a fantastic start to the year Class 3!

Mrs Smith, Mrs Voss, Miss Froggatt, Mrs Thomas and Mrs Herbert.

### **Class 4**

The children have made a fantastic start to Year 4 - they have settled back into school routines brilliantly and I am really pleased with their efforts so far – they have been working their socks off! We have been busy reading Under the Same Sky, Elmer and Giraffe's Can't Dance, considering how we can help others to live 'Life in all its Fullness.' We are also working really hard on our handwriting and presentation this term too. Yesterday, we started our History and Geography topic of 'How can we prove Ashton Keynes has changed over time?' by walking around the village and looking at over 25 different buildings!

Mr Hockaday and Miss Harrold.

### **Class 5**

Class 5 have been absolutely wonderful since returning to school. It's like we have never been away! They have really impressed me with their positive attitude to their learning and their determination to show me how brilliant they are. We have been reading the book, 'Under the Same Sky' and discussing the meaning of 'Life in all its Fullness' to us. We watched lots of videos of children from all over the world, including Peru, Russia, Ghana and Vietnam and discovered what life in all its fullness means to these children. We have also been discussing the global issues and challenges many people face that we do not and how this can prevent them from living life in its fullness. Leading on from this, we have written our own poetry in the same style as our class book, thinking about how we can write powerful poems to influence world leaders to make a change. The class have created some really inspiring and beautiful poems and have really considered the challenges people face around the world. Well done Class 5, you are amazing!

Mrs O'Neill and Mrs Lang



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## Class 6

Year 6 has had a great first few weeks. We have been looking at the book *Under the same sky* which got us thinking about metaphors. We decided that the message of this book was that people all over the world have more similarities than differences. We have used this idea as well as researching the Sustainable Development Goals put forward by the UN in 2015 to write a poem to inspire world leaders to commit to achieving the goals by 2030.

We have also had an amazing opportunity- we have been learning to fence. This week we learned how to use the equipment and safety clothing as well as how to lunge. It was so much fun!

Miss Thomas, Mrs Campbell and Mrs Dickson

## School Photos

Tempest photography our school photo provider will be in school on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September. This will be Covid compliant and this year there will be individual photos only (no family or sibling photos).

## Whole school welcome back treat from Mrs Saville

I am ever so proud of our children and with how well they have returned to school. They are polite, caring, happy and so enjoying back in school. I have booked a very exciting event for Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October for the whole school and this is a treat so will not cost you a penny! It is a well done and thank you to the children and also I am hoping this visit will inspire many of them for the future and with engaging in more active outdoor sport. I have arranged for the top 10 in the world Freestyle footballer Jamie Knight to visit our school to deliver an inspirational talk to all children and engage every class in a workshop. It goes without saying that I have fully risk assessed this visit to ensure it is COVID compliant and will be based largely outdoors and with separate pods using their own mini freestyle balls provided for the session. We have a contingency plan for if the weather lets us down so that the event can still take place safely with each pod of children. Before then, you might want to enjoy watching Jamie Knight the Freestyle footballer show reel here:

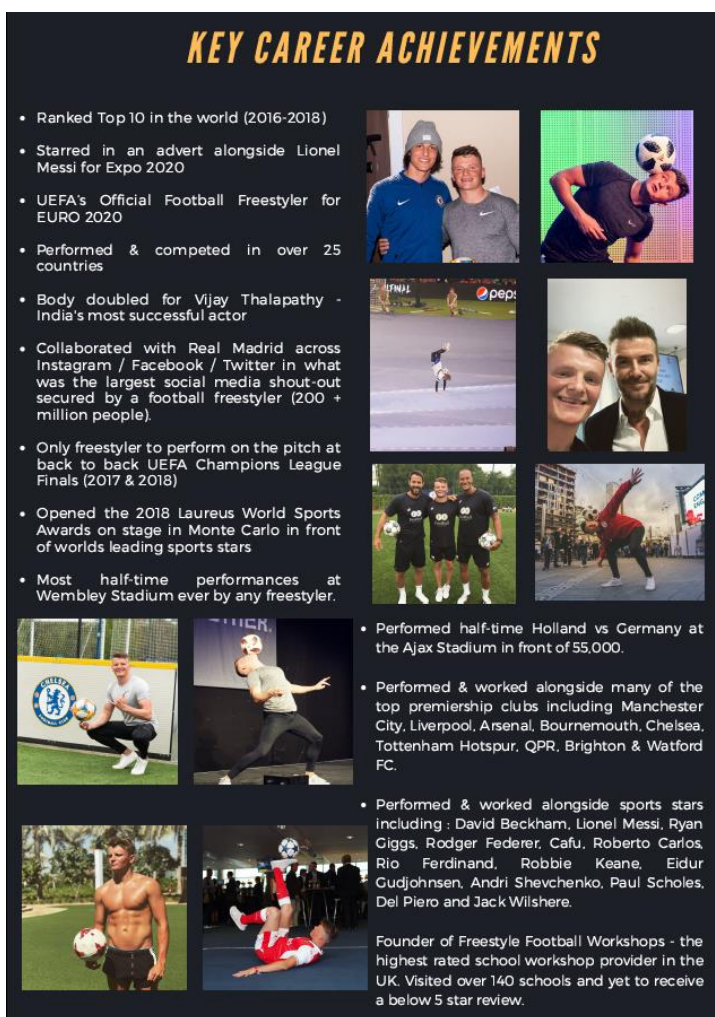
[Jamie Knight Freestyle show reel](#)

To give you an idea of what your children will experience and get to work on! I hope you and your children are really excited for this, we always try and do very

### KEY CAREER ACHIEVEMENTS

- Ranked Top10 in the world (2016-2018)
- Starred in an advert alongside Lionel Messi for Expo 2020
- UEFA's Official Football Freestyler for EURO 2020
- Performed & competed in over 25 countries
- Body doubled for Vijay Thalapathy - India's most successful actor
- Collaborated with Real Madrid across Instagram / Facebook / Twitter in what was the largest social media shout-out secured by a football freestyler (200 + million people).
- Only freestyler to perform on the pitch at back to back UEFA Champions League Finals (2017 & 2018)
- Opened the 2018 Laureus World Sports Awards on stage in Monte Carlo in front of worlds leading sports stars
- Most half-time performances at Wembley Stadium ever by any freestyler.
- Performed half-time Holland vs Germany at the Ajax Stadium in front of 55,000.
- Performed & worked alongside many of the top premiership clubs including Manchester City, Liverpool, Arsenal, Bournemouth, Chelsea, Tottenham Hotspur, QPR, Brighton & Watford FC.
- Performed & worked alongside sports stars including : David Beckham, Lionel Messi, Ryan Giggs, Rodger Federer, Cafu, Roberto Carlos, Rio Ferdinand, Robbie Keane, Eidur Gudjohnsen, Andri Shevchenko, Paul Scholes, Del Piero and Jack Wilshere.

Founder of Freestyle Football Workshops - the highest rated school workshop provider in the UK. Visited over 140 schools and yet to receive a below 5 star review.



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special events and provide unique opportunities for your children during their 7-year journey here and we are so keen to make sure, where we can, we continue to do that at this time too!

### **Photoshoot**

We have been so lucky to have Abi (Mum of Benjamin and Sebastian) come and share her professional photography skills with us (totally COVID secure visit). We have been trying to capture all of the children working in their new classrooms and in the hub and on the new playground so that you will be able to see the school in action with the new build and to see just how happy and settled your children are in school. We thought you would absolutely love this and we will also use this opportunity to produce some new canvases for around the school and learning hub and for our website. We may also be able to sell some of the professional prints as a fundraiser for the hub- we will let you know more soon. A huge thanks to Abi!

### **Breakfast Club**

If you attend our breakfast club, please ensure you have made your bookings by Thursday midnight as the register for Monday morning will be printed on a Friday. You can call the school office on Friday if you need an emergency booking or the breakfast club mobile and cash can be paid in a named envelope. Otherwise we are now a cashless service (payment on Parentpay). The numbers for breakfast club have really fallen since we have returned and I am sure this is due to the change in situation but we do need to secure numbers to keep this wonderful resource running. Breakfast club operates from 8am (£3) each morning and includes breakfast or you can choose the stay and play sessions at 8:30 am (£1.50) breakfast not included. It is run by our school staff. Any new enquiries can be made via the school office. We have all COVID 19 risk assessment and procedures in place for this before school provision.

### **After school club**

Mighty oak operates daily until 6pm in our school and I am delighted to inform you that they are back better than ever as they now have a new home (in our refurbished reception mobile) which is fabulously decorated and set up by the team for your children. It has a large space indoors and outdoors for your children including a table tennis facility outdoors. Enquiries should be made through mighty oaks but on return to school their numbers are lower than usual so really do need support. They are all COVID risk assessment compliant and set up.

### **AK 24 Hour Run for the Learning Hub**

From 4pm on Friday the 25th September 12 parents (including the Paris 6) will be running a 24-hour relay around the village to raise money for the Learning Hub. Children and adults are welcome to support and run/walk/crawl as many 1.5 mile laps as possible from Bradstone Playing Fields and see how many miles we can achieve between us in 24 hours. We have a wide range of ages already involved from the school from our youngest pupil, who has just turned 4 to our long-standing Governor, David Tarr (91) taking part already. There will be a pop-up takeaway barbeque and refreshment stalls outside the Bradstone Pavilion from 4pm on Friday and on Saturday afternoon, so you can refuel once you have finished, all in the name of fitness! I will also be donning my running shoes and joining in! Please refer to your Parentmail for further details.

Please download the sponsorship form and see event details at:

<http://www.akschooldevelopmenttrust.org.uk/fundraising-news>

There will be prizes for the 3 children who raise the most sponsorship. Please cast the sponsorship net amongst kind friends and family living outside the local community!



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If you want to get out of the exercise bit, please volunteer to help on the pop-up stalls or with marshalling or lap counting. Please contact Bec Buckle with offers of help on [becbuckle@gmail.com](mailto:becbuckle@gmail.com).

Or, if you're not available on the day, please sponsor the team at:

<https://uk.gofundme.com/f/ashton-keynes-24hour-village-relay>

### **New build and fundraising**

The new school is incredible. We still have things that are not finished but WOW the impact on the whole school is incredible and as I've said in my recent parent mails, the hub really is the absolute gem at the centre which pulls it all together and would not be possible without the fabulous and incredible fundraising efforts of everyone. Whilst it is not easy for you to come as usual and visit the school and I doing my best to welcome very small carefully planned visits (in line with our risk assessment) but this will take time as the priority is getting your children settled in school and back on track with their learning and engagement which is so far looking great. I promise you though, it is worth the wait and the build transforms the school and benefits every single year group via the hub. It is also my aim to get the works complete and contractors finished and off site as soon as is possible. Our time will come to celebrate this wonderful build and fundraising achievement and this is something to look forward to but for now rest assured every one of your children are benefitting from the build!



Welcome back, thank you for your fabulous support – it is so brilliant to be back and see your children so happy, calm and settled into our new school, to see you all (although at a bit of a distance) and to have our school family back together again. We have so much to look forward to together.

Your very proud Head teacher,

[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                                                       |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| 25 <sup>th</sup> September | AK 24 Hour Run for the Learning Hub                         |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> September | Individual Pupil School Photos – Dress smartly!             |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> October    | Whole School Treat -World Freestyle footballer Jamie Knight |



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