



Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of this first term back in school together I am reflecting on what a fabulous term it has been. A true measure of this success can be seen through our children and their enthusiastic and happy return to school and through my staff team who are so passionate to provide their very best for your children every day our school is such a happy place to be. I am so lucky to be the one who gets to see every aspect of school life and therefore as a reflection on a beautiful first term in school I would like to write this newsletter without any further reference to the pandemic and share with you some of the wonderful events that have been happening in our school beyond the usual high quality teaching and learning to ensure our children have a full and engaging curriculum which will support the children to achieve academic success but also a love of learning and looking after their wellbeing.

### **Classes Shining Brightly:**

Every day when I visit the doorways of classrooms, I am always massively impressed by how quickly children settle into the school day and by how much they are learning. The school really is buzzing and not a minute is wasted. I have been really pleased to see classes collectively earning their TEAM AK letters towards their class rewards and some classes achieving this before half term and choosing their class reward and others really getting close.

We have had some wonderful WOW moments in this first term for the whole school. We have really been 'reaching for the stars' to provide these WOW events and special visitors in line with our thorough risk assessment to ensure a safe visit for all. I have included a couple of photos of these events in this newsletter but after half term I have many beautiful photos that one of our very talented Mums Abi Williamson (professional photographer) has kindly taken for us to put into our gallery on the website and around the school as canvases to show the full life of our school in action and the use of our wonderful new build.

I am delighted to let you know that after half term, I am working with a kind volunteer who has kindly offered via the fundraising team to produce a new video of the new school in action currently so you can all see how we are massively benefitting from having new classrooms and a wonderful hub at the centre of our school which is already having such a positive impact. I look forward to getting this done to share with the local community and as a way of saying thank you for the incredible fundraising and donations.

**World Class Freestyle Footballer Jamie Knight in action-** the children absolutely loved his visit and inspirational workshops. Here are a few photos. Look closely you might spot our new Deputy Head taking part too!





**Wizard of Oz-** a stage, one man and a large screen and M & M productions did it again and thoroughly engaged our children and staff and made them laugh and inspired them with their performance of 'The Wizard of Oz' with some very current contemporary twists which we all loved. We were so lucky to have multiple performances for the bubbles to make this all possible. It was incredible and the children told me how much they loved it and were really impressed by the blending of live acting with screen. One pupil said 'was it magic Mrs Saville?'. The older years were treated to a special behind the scenes Q & A session to find out how the 'magic' was done! This experience was a gift for our children as a thank you for returning to school so brilliantly and a wellbeing treat for all. We have booked in 'Alice in Wonderland' for the Summer.

**Yoga-** we were so happy to welcome back Miss Jackson who is our school yoga teacher- we were all super chilled by the end of her visit. The staff session at the end was so relaxing- I think I could hear Mr Hockaday snoring!



**Zumba-** our Meryl returned with her big smile and some of our favourite moves and made us all smile our socks off. Everyone gave it their all in their bubbles and Meryl thoroughly enjoyed returning to the school.

**Star art project** with artist Kathryn Gray. Kathryn made it possible for all children to make a beautiful star using oil pastels (each star is unique and individual just like your children) and come together on the beautiful tea towel and aprons for sale via the learning hub charity. These look AMAZING!

### **My reflection on the classes at the end of term 1:**

Parents you should all be so proud of your children. I certainly feel proud of them and I am so thankful for the chance to have our school family back in school, the build finished and am so grateful to all of my wonderful staff team who are so passionate and happy and give everything to your children every day. Team AK, is a very special place to be!

**Class R-** what a wonderful start- coming in so beautifully in the mornings and gelling so well as a class- the staff team have been super happy with them all. It has been a real highlight seeing them learning together indoors and outside at play and growing in confidence every single day. I know all of their names now and adore watching them learn and grow. A moment which really made me smile (and there have been so many already) was this week in forest school when one group were planting bulbs with Mrs Serle, another was on a nature exploration around the school grounds with Mr Jackson and Miss Noonan took a group for outdoor play and watching them carousel around these three outdoor activities, asking questions, smiling and engaging with learning outdoors was just wonderful.

**Class 1-** WOW- you would just be so impressed to see how well Class 1 have adjusted to life as a Year 1. You would never know that they have missed one third of their reception year as they have been so happy to return to our beautiful new classroom and learning hub and have settled beautifully. Miss Igoe and the team tell me daily how proud they are of your children. They make me so happy that I have to do star jumps at the window and door with excitement!

**Class 2-** Where do I start. Every single day Miss Redman has something wonderful to tell me about Class 2! I have seen beautiful learning and I am super impressed with how they have entered Year 2 and adjusted to the expectations so well considering they missed lots of Year 1. I have loved hearing them perform poetry singing and last week the I loved seeing the beautiful nature inspired art work the class were doing. Their leaf sketching and pastelling made so much progress through the week and the result was stunning!

**Class3-** A wonderful start to the juniors for Class 3. Already the class feels very ready to take up the junior responsibility and are very settled and happy. I have seen some beautiful learning from class 3 both indoors and out and they are always super keen to share their learning with me. I would say it is their handwriting and presentation improvement which is really wowing me at the moment and their absolute commitment to daily reading. Well done Class 3- thank you for being so thoughtful, hardworking and enthusiastic.

**Class 4-**What an amazing start back for class 4. They have embraced the year fully and have impressed the socks off the Deputy Head Mr Hockaday who is their new teacher. The class are so incredibly engaged and for me I can see the greatest growth in their responsibility. On all levels, the class are doing jobs, taking on leadership roles, taking a real responsibility for themselves and their learning and I am delighted with them. Their handwriting has massively improved and it gives me goose bumps to see their beautiful writing and the pride they have for presentation. They are also loving the outdoors and will be the first class to trial our outdoor welly peg system to try and keep our children outdoors more in all weathers.



**Class 5-** On every level the class are shining. They always embrace new challenges and give things a go. They are super keen to give their best and I am particularly proud of how they explain themselves, listen to one another and politely agree/ disagree giving clear reasons. I wish I was able to do this at their age- this will set them up brilliantly for the future. Thank you Class 5!

**Class 6-** What a wonderful year 6 class. I always say, your school is only as good as the behaviour of your Year 6 pupils. They really are role models and lead the way. They are polite, strong, resilient and ever so keen to learn. Even when faced with a challenge they work hard through this and persevere. I am always massively impressed as I pop by, everyone is so engaged and maximising their time in school. They are almost qualified in level 1 fencing (the sport not the garden fence qualification) and have had a term of art specialist teaching to develop the most incredible sculptures. I am super proud of Year 6.

I think you can tell how pleased I am with the return to school. The absolute commitment and passion, love of teaching, learning and making a difference, the very high expectations at every level along with the love for our school family all working together to produce this wonderful, happy incredibly special school which we have.



# ASHTON KEYNES

Church of England VC Primary School

SHINE BRIGHT ★ REACH FOR THE STARS



Gosditch, Ashton Keynes, Nr Swindon, Wiltshire SN6 6NZ

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INVESTORS IN PEOPLE



Healthy School

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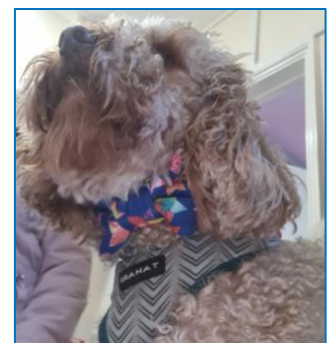


Healthy School



### Ted our school dog-

Ted has managed to pop into school a few times this term to see the children and staff. He loves visiting and the children are always so kind to him and he is so incredibly calm, gentle and caring with them. He loves being read to, looking at learning and playing with the children. Here is a little photo of Ted sporting the beautiful bow (made from the children's stars they designed and gifted to Ted by Kathryn Gray).



**Morning timings-** I am so impressed with how the children are coming in during the morning drop off so thank you parents and carers and my staff team for your wonderful support with this. It is now very slick in the mornings as we open the gate at 8.45am for Year 3 and then Year 2 and 1 but we are finding that class R are now able to enter 5 minutes earlier at 8.55am due to everyone else being so swift and keeping safely in their bubbles. It is also brilliant that parents can swiftly be on their way to ensure it is a smooth start to the day for everyone. It is exactly the same for classes 4, 5 and 6 through the other entrance. So let's all keep to this after half term and as result, your children get even more learning time in school and a very settled start to the day. The end of the day is more challenging to organise as we need to make sure children safely reach their parents/ carers as we are releasing outside the school grounds so timings will continue as they are for now to ensure social distancing but thank you for making this much smoother.



I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a safe, calm and rested half term and I very much look forward to welcoming you all back at the start of term 2 on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November from 8.45am for another wonderful term as we start the 'term of glitter' together.

With my warmest wishes,

*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
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November	Term 2 begins
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	Deadline for returning School photo order envelope
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> November	Parents Evening via zoom 4-6 pm
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	Parents Evening via zoom 3:30 – 6 pm
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> November	Parents Evening via zoom 3:30 – 6 pm



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