



Thursday 12th November

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Term 2. We have had a week of parent/carer and teacher consultation evenings and would like to start by saying how much my staff team enjoyed 'seeing' you all on zoom and talking with you. We are so grateful for your positive feedback for my staff team, they were buzzing. I listened in to a few meetings and could really see the home-school partnership in action, working together for the very best for your children. Thank you.

Shining Brightly:

Everybody is continuing to work hard and make the most of every minute. I've loved taking Monday morning worship via zoom for the whole school, nothing can replace real whole school assemblies but the way the children respond so respectfully to worship in any form is just wonderful. Each class has been learning a new iSing pop song in their bubbles: Mr Prayer tonight and I hope they get to share this with you as it is stunning. Music is really important to us in AKPS and hearing the children sing in unity is just uplifting. We can look forward to the return of our Heroes and Heroines in our new school as soon this is possible again and can share lots of this beautiful uplifting singing with you.

Forgiveness- our Christian value in focus for this term is forgiveness. So far Classes 1-6 have looked at 'wiping the slate clean' and 'turning over a new leaf' and showing we mean things through our changed actions. Our school behaviour policy has forgiveness at its heart and being able to be honest when we make mistakes, say sorry and show that a change is in place are really good skills for life.

Pupil Podcasts- <http://www.akps.org.uk/akps-podcast-have-a-listen/>

Class 5 have been selected by Mr Jackson to create a monthly podcast on life at Team AK. We were so lucky to have a celebrity gardener, The Skinny Jean Gardener, as our first guest on their new monthly podcast. Lee does a daily podcast and had lots of brilliant top tips for the class to make their own podcast. The children asked Lee fantastic questions and were incredibly polite, as always! AKPS are so excited to get the first podcast out! The children have taken this a step further and have interviewed myself and most of the teaching staff in school. Their questioning and listening skills and ability to think on their feet without a script is incredible! We are so impressed with the children, they have kept the staff on their toes with their interviewing! I hope you enjoy listening on the link above- I felt incredibly proud hearing how much our children love our school and why they think this school is unique.

Staffing news- Congratulations to Mrs O'Neill and her husband who are expecting their first baby at the end of March! To say she is excited is an understatement. I let Class 5 know about this and my plans in a special letter this week and wanted to let the wider school community know as well. I am sure you will join me in congratulating Mrs O'Neill and her family on this wonderful news.

Lunchtimes- your children have been incredible as, on reflection, I feel lunchtimes have been the most challenging thing about returning to school. Children in our school are so used to being able to roam freely and mix with other



year groups and play together and they have been limited to a zone for just their class. I think that after all day learning with your class and then having to play in the area with them can be quite a challenge. The staff team have been working so hard on how we can improve this and Key Area 2 of our school action plan (led by Mr Hockaday) is to work on this area. We have increased the amount of MDSAs so there is a designated one for each class and we have purchased a special trug and a range of play, equipment for your children to use and more for them to earn. We interviewed the children about how they felt about play and lunch and listened to them and asked them to choose what equipment they would like. We then ordered some of this and are excitedly waiting for it to arrive. We are also creating areas within the zones for art and creativity for when children would like to do this. Either way, we are doing our very best and listening to the children but it is more of a challenge than we would usually have pre-COVID and the restrictions. We have on a really positive note, reinstated hot lunches and done this with success. We are really pleased with how this is working in different sittings and are keen to see the up-take of hot lunches grow to make hot lunches sustainable at AKPS.

Visit of our School Improvement partner from Wiltshire LA - We had a great visit from the LA before half term. She was incredibly impressed with our new build and how we were utilizing the new learning hub in a COVID safe way and making the most of this for our learners. She was really impressed with the amount of work your children have been doing since return and by how settled and engaged they all are. I already know this as I see it on a daily basis but it is fantastic to have external verification of the great work we are doing here. I thought I would share just a few of the comments from the report as I am sure you will be really pleased to read them:

The quality of the writing and the progress from September to now, as well as from a cold to a hot task, was quite simply astonishing.

The new building has transformed the environment within which staff and children are now working and the way each classroom was set up confirmed the care and thought invested by this team in providing the highest quality education for the pupils in their care.

The EYFS setting (both indoors and outdoors) was 'breath taking' and set up as an environment to inspire and support early years exploration and learning of the highest quality.

It is a privilege and pleasure to be able to work with, challenge and support this school. The school is thriving under the leadership of the Head teacher who is well supported by the Governing Body.

Breakfast Club- Thank you so much for attending the breakfast club to help keep this going. The team and I are really grateful as we know many of you are attending and don't always need to. This is such an important provision and we really need to keep it going but it can only function with parent support. We have space for more children if anyone else would like to come along. It provides a calm and early start to the day for our children and supports parents who need to work or be places from 8am.

After school club users- Thank you so much for supporting the after school club and keeping this much needed provision going. In line with our school risk assessment please can we politely remind parents not to enter the after school club mobile building to collect your children but knock on the door and Chantelle will bring your child out to you. This is imperative in our efforts to avoid COVID 19 and to keep our school open. Thank you so much for your support with this.



Gosditch, Ashton Keynes, Nr Swindon, Wiltshire SN6 6NZ Head Teacher: Mrs S Saville
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Plea from Ashton Keynes Pre-school and a clothes recycling idea for a greener Ashton Keynes - We are keen to support Ashton Keynes Pre-school in their fundraising event which also helps make a greener Ashton Keynes through some easy clothes recycling, which is coming up on 16th November. (See photo)

Due to COVID 19 please ensure that bags of clothes are **NOT** brought to school as we cannot handle/ store them, they should instead be delivered to the pre-school in the village hall by 9am 16th November. To help they are also going to set up a little marquee in the village hall car park on Sunday (15th) afternoon if it's easier for you to drop off in advance. Thank you very much.

On the pre-school note- our future vision for Ashton Keynes school would be to hope that one day in the future, we could extend our provision to offer from Nursery through to Year 6. This is just a vision at this stage and a lot of work with the LA and work around community need/ provision and funding would need to be put into place so for now it is just something we would like to explore when we are able to but is not something that we can do in the short term.

Thank you- Thank you so much for your support of your children at home and in response to parent mails I have sent about morning and end of day routines and helping us to follow our comprehensive risk assessment in order to keep our school fully open. I really do appreciate your positive responses and how much you all try to help us. Our Team AK school family is so very special.

With my warmest wishes,

S.L.Saville

Mrs Saville

Head Teacher

Date	Event
Wednesday 16 th December	Christmas lunch – Please order the main meal option (ignore advertised menu) for roast turkey with all trimmings and please order vegetarian option for a quorn fillet with all the trimmings.
Friday 18 th December	Last day of Term 2
Monday 4 th January	Start of Term 3



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