



Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had another fabulous and very busy couple of weeks here in school. I do love being your Head teacher, I am the lucky one who gets an overview of all that happens in school. As you can probably imagine, we are very busy in school, the Summer term is always busy but this year even more so. I am delighted that we are able to have a Camp- Out for Year 4 and to take our year 5 and 6 pupils on residential this year and am beavering away to get this all in place for a few weeks' time. What I see on a daily basis is happy children and staff and everyone making the most of every minute. Whilst lockdown was hard for all, it brought a renewed sense of sheer desire to be back together in school and this is great. Classes have been super busy- we will do our termly class summary for you to see each class in action in my end of term newsletter.

### Classes Shining Brightly:

#### **BBC Radio Wiltshire**

If you get a chance, tune in to BBC radio Wiltshire on Monday as we will be hosting them at our wonderful school! We are taking part in a massive music project created by the Wiltshire Music Hub to learn and perform a special song written to unite children across Wiltshire through song. We were contacted and asked if we would host the BBC so that they can interview us and report live on the event from our school with our children and staff- isn't this brilliant! Of course I said yes! The children have learnt the song on zoom and then practiced in their classes. We have taught the harmonies and introduced signing for the chorus. The children are doing a special spoken section over the instrumental part as we wanted to personalise the song for us. We love to sing at AK and we do this all of the time as it is so good for lifting our mood and starting our day, for being a team and for wellbeing. With our strong culture of music at AK it did not take the children long to learn the song and it gives us goosebumps. So listen on Monday the big sing is at 2.15pm when thousands of children across Wiltshire will join outside to sing from their schools at the same time the song 'Together'. Listen on the radio or if you live in AK, close to the school, stand outside and you might just hear us! The children will sing outside socially distanced in bubbles so that they can perform safely for the radio together. I hope you enjoy it as much as we will. I will aim to perform it for you with the whole school for the end of term outdoor Heroes and Heroines Assembly so you can see and hear it first-hand. We will try to record it too if we can.

#### **Bee Competition**

Classes 4 & 5 have started an exciting challenge this week in Forest school- all about Bees! Sadly, we will not have time to do it with all classes, so if children would like to do it as a project at home, over the next couple of weeks, that would be a great and the link is below. The children who have done it, have really enjoyed it. The children know so much about bees already, so Mr Jackson and Mrs Willis have been blown away by all the facts they could recall within the lessons this week, so you never know one of the children at Team AK could be the winner. Go on reach- see what you can achieve! Here is the link:

[BBC Radio 2 - Radio 2's Big Bee Challenge - How to Enter](#)

#### **Sports Day**

Following Boris' announcement this week we have been checking DFE guidance to see whether there is any way we can continue with our sport event for parents in July. This is not as easy as it sounds. We are exploring this as it would require really strict procedures in place so please bear with me whilst I work on this and I will let you know as soon as I can. The DFE have said this can go ahead but strict measures must be in place. I will be in touch soon.



## Global Awareness Week

We absolutely loved taking part in our fantastic 'Aware of our World Week' which helps raise awareness of global issues and empowers children to think of solutions and ways they can help make a difference. Classes learnt about Fair Trade, lack of access to clean water and sanitation through Water Aid, the importance of bees, inequality of access to education and climate change. Much of the week was spent participating in games and activities that help children to understand more about the issues raised. Children in class 2, for example, had fun racing against one another with buckets of water before collectively walking 6.2 miles in a team relay to learn more about the typical journey many young children make daily to fetch water. The bucket of water felt very heavy! I'm sure your children told you what they did in their own classes and there will be photos appearing on the class pages of our website. School Governors also visited during the week to see the activities for themselves. Reverend Shirley shared some of her experiences of visiting a school in Uganda and shared photographs with the children.



I can't go to school because I need to work in the farm.

Anda

I can't go to school because my parents are too ill to buy my uniform.



I can't go to school because on the way to school there is a war.



## NSPCC Training in school

Following on from my letter to you we delivered the NSPCC stay safe speak out assembly and workshops to children this week which is really important. As always, your children listened very carefully and engaged so well we delivered age appropriate assemblies to Infants and Juniors and the main presentation was led by my favourites, Ant and Dec, (shame they could not come in for real) and then by members of the NSPCC. We usually have an annual in-school visit from NSPCC but adapted this year to online and I am so glad we did as it was excellent. We covered the rights of a child and made sure the children always remember that they have someone to talk to and the importance of talking with trusted adults and their absolute right to be safe and heard. Classes will continue to follow this up over coming weeks.

## Outdoor Work

Soon I will share with you some of our plans for next year including installing a canopy over the school hall outside the French doors to provide shade and shelter for pupils and for parents at upcoming events when we are back to these. We are also delighted to be unveiling our plans for the outdoor space at school including an update of the spiritual garden and brand new zones for play and lunch. In addition, we are in the process of arranging to install my dream for the school outdoors- an all-weather track to keep our children active around the perimeter of the school field in all weather and to use for sports and running/walking. We were incredibly lucky to have an anonymous donation of £10,000 towards this to help us to be able to achieve this installation. This will benefit every child at our school and community who use our school grounds.



We have sports week coming up soon. Mr Tanner and Mr Hockaday have planned an amazing week with a diverse range of sports for all children to try out and experience. Children should wear PE kit all week and make sure they have a sun hat, drinks bottle and have applied sun cream (I'm hoping for lovely weather).

That's all for now, thank you as always for your support of our school,

*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
28 <sup>th</sup> June	Sports week- children in PE kit all week please
Friday 2nd July	*To be confirmed*Sports morning - 7 carousel sport activities for each class – parents and carers (2 per family max) invited to join outdoors 9.15-12pm No picnic lunch. The event ends at 12pm.
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Year 4 Camp Out AK Residential 5.30pm until 9am on Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup> July.
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> - Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 5 Residential to Viney Hill outdoor camp and forests school (Mon-Wed) Year 6 Residential to Viney Hill outdoor camp and forests school (Wed-Fri)
Tuesday 20th July 11am-12	Year 6 Leavers Assembly to parents/ carers outdoors 11-12 Parents have lunch off premises (to get energy for rounder match against Year 6) 1.30pm Year 6 v parents rounders match
Thursday 22nd July	9am- 1pm in set shows M & M productions special end of year treat for the whole school of the classic 'Treasure Island'
Thursday 22nd July 2.30pm	Heroes and Heroines outdoor celebration- a chance for us to celebrate our school and pupils together and end the school year on a high. End of term
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July	TD day staff training day school closed to pupils.

# ASHTON KEYNES

Church of England VC Primary School

SHINE BRIGHT ★ REACH FOR THE STARS



Gosditch, Ashton Keynes, Nr Swindon, Wiltshire SN6 6NZ Head Teacher: Mrs S Saville Tel/Fax: 01285 861436 Email: [office@ashtonkeynes.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:office@ashtonkeynes.wilts.sch.uk) [www.akps.org.uk](http://www.akps.org.uk)