

Freddie - Hello and welcome to today's edition of AK News. Our show is jam packed today so let's get cracking...

Jemima - Hold up, Fred! We've got an incoming call from Happy Land. Let's join our reporter Flora to find out more!

NICOLE'S GROUP

Flora - thanks Jemima. Today, we have been joined by a team of architects (Arthur and Nate) to learn about the history of the school. So, Arthur, when was the school first built?

Arthur - The school was built in 1871. That's a fact!

Nicole - Fascinating, and Nate how many classrooms were there in the original building?

Arthur - there were 3.

Nate - The classrooms were really small and very different to how they are now. The Year 3 classroom was split down the middle with a dividing wall to make an extra classroom.

Nicole - We have also been joined by some builders today. Flora, let's find out more!

Flora - Sam, how has the front of the school changed?

Sam - There used to be an old bell tower which was knocked down in the 1980s.-

Nicole - and Harley, what did the school look like before?

Harley - There was no school playground or field and only one toilet. The dividing wall in the year 3 classroom would be opened to allow children to meet in one room for an assembly.

Nicole - wow, how amazing! Back to you guys in the studio!

Freddie - Thanks for that Nicole! Let's move on to our next headline.

Jemima - Now it's time to join our first AK hero who we believe is ready and waiting for us in the park. Jenson, over to you...

JENSON'S GROUP

Jenson - thanks Jemima. I am joined by Mike Seymour who was a pupil at AK in the 1940s and 50s. Mike, what was school life like here back then?

Kayden - we didn't wear a school uniform but we did wear a cap and a school tie. One of my teachers was Mr Pursehouse who was strict but fair.

Jenson - how else was school life different?

Kayden - the local doctor and dentist used to come into school and children had to see them in the school building. Sometimes children could see through the windows and they became scared!

Jenson - do you have any funny stories from your time here?

Kayden - Well...

Addison - There I was, stood by the fire at the front of the class. When my friend shouted...

Kayden - MIKE YOUR TROUSERS ARE ON FIRE!

Addison - What nonsense! (Look down at trousers), OH NO, YOU'RE RIGHT THEY ARE!

Jenson - Jemima, back to you guys in the studio.

Jemima - Thanks Jenson. But that was a bit pants wasn't it!

Freddie - Next up, live in Gosditch, we have Iris who has a very special guest alongside her. Iris, over to you...

IRIS'S GROUP

Iris - thank you for that Freddie. I'm here with Anne Seymour in Gosditch. So, Anne, when did you start teaching at AK and what did you teach?

Ellie - I taught at AK in the 1970s. I taught times tables, spelling and reading.

Iris - what did you use to help you teach? Did you have any technology to help you?

Ellie - no, in those days there was no technology like interactive whiteboards or computers! We had chalkboards that we wrote on.

Iris - how was the school different to how it is now?

Ellie - there was no school hall and all of the KS1 children were taught together in the same classroom.

Iris - amazing! Thank you Anne. Back to you in the studio Freddie.

Freddie - Great stuff Iris but now we must move onto our next AK star.

Jemima - Bradley Wiggins, Sarah Storey and Peter Grace. They all have one thing in common - cycling. Let's join Ruben to find out more!

RUBEN'S GROUP

Ruben - Thanks Freddie. Today I am lucky enough to be interviewing Peter Grace. Peter, what can you tell us about your time at AK?

Tad - (starting to cycle) I worked here from 1974 to 2000 and cycled from Cirencester every single day!

Ruben - wow, that's a lot of cycling! Peter, what differences are there to the school building between when you taught here and now?

Tad - In the Year 4 classroom, there used to be an open fire and smoke would sometimes go into the children's eyes putting them off their work! There were also two mobile classrooms which were Year 5 and Year 6.

Ruben - How has the role of the headteacher changed?

Tad - the headteacher used to live upstairs above Mrs Saville's office.

Ruben - that's incredible! Thanks for having us on today. Back to you guys in the studio.

Freddie - Thank you Ruben. Jemima, what do we have next on today's show?

Jemima - next up we have some amazing artwork from an AK artist. Let's find out more. Hen, take it away!

HEN'S GROUP

Hen - Thanks Jemima. I am joined by Ruth Britton a famous artist who lives in Ashton Keynes. Tell us about your first memories of the school.

Helena - I joined the school when I was six years old because my parents moved into the village. I remember seeing the sign 'Happy Land' and thinking that Ashton Keynes must be a nice place to live. At school, Mrs Manners was my first teacher and we had milk at play times which was warmed by the fire near to where the school office is now.

Hen - what were your normal every day lessons?

Helena - reading, writing, and sums (which is called Maths today).

Hen - What were your favourite lessons?

Helena - I really enjoyed sport and Art. I really didn't like needlework which was taught by Mr Pursehouse who was strict.

Hen - thank you for joining me today Ruth. Back to you guys in the studio!

Jemima - Thanks Hen, truly incredible! Now onto our next AK Hero. Freddie?

Freddie - Next up we have the one and only, Mr David Tarr. Fabien - what can you tell us?

FABIEN'S GROUP

Fabien - thanks Freddie. Yes I am joined by an AK legend Mr David Tarr. David, what can you tell us about Ashton Keynes?

Ollie - Well, I moved to the village when I was 40 years old and my daughter joined the school in 1978.

Fabien - how many children were at the school at the time?

Ollie - about 130. It was very different back then.

Fabien - who was the headteacher?

Ollie - Mrs Lewis. She lived upstairs above Mrs Saville's office and had her own garden that was separated by a boundary wall.

Fabien - how proud are you that the school now has the David Tarr Learning Hub?

Ollie - very proud. I drew a drawing 25 years ago of my vision and it has finally come true!

Fabien - thank you for all you do. Freddie, back to you!

Freddie - Thanks Fabien, what a star Mr Tarr is!

Jemima - Now, next up we have a very exciting treat. Some Year 5 children from Ashton Keynes Primary School are going to share some poems with us live from their school hall. Over to you...

POETS

Freddie - What beautiful poems - thank you for sharing them with us live on the news today. Jemima - what's next?

Jemima - Hang on, I'm just hearing we have some breaking news in the school office. Harriet, can you tell us more?

HARRIET'S GROUP

Harriet - thank you Jemima. I've been joined by two previous school office staff in Donna and Helen. Now, what is the funniest memory of your time here?

Rosie - Ok, so once a grumpy lady came into the office with a dead crayfish. She placed it on the desk.

Isabelle - she screamed that people from the school were chucking crayfish on the busy road letting them die.

Harriet - really?

Rosie - yes, really!

Isabelle - and then, I said - what has this got to do with us? We just work in the office.

Rosie - then she screamed at the top of her lungs that its our responsibility to fix it.

Harriet - seems a bit fishy to me! What a peculiar story. Did you enjoy working at the school?

Isabelle - yes, although we only got to work in the office is was really great to see all of the children.

Rosie - I loved working here and working with Helen.

Harriet - thank you, now back to you in the studio!

Jemima - simply amazing. What a pair of AK heroes!

Freddie - now it's time for some more recent news. Tristan, tell us more!

TRISTAN'S GROUP

Tristan - thank you Freddie. Now, I am here with two school governors Livvy and Jackson. How has the school changed since you have been working as governors?

Livvy - thanks Tristan. The school has changed in many ways. We had the Year 5 and 6 classrooms built, the playground, the school field and the SMOOGA. The forest school area and quiet area have been put in too. And of course, more recently, the school hall was built in 2009 and last year the Learning Hub.

Jackson - I've been working as a governor for a long time. It's remarkable to think that we had 70 to 80 children here in 1940 (along with World War Two evacuees) and today we have 220.

Tristan - the school is definitely shining bright and reaching for the stars!

Freddie - back to you.

Freddie - Thanks Tristan, what a fantastic new building for the school to use. How lucky AK children are!

Jemima - Hang on a minute, we have one more special guest who is ready and waiting in the wings. Ella - what do you have for us?

ELLA'S GROUP

Ella - Thanks Jemima. Hello Mrs Saville, how long have you been working at AK for?

Ophelia - oh Ella darling. This is my 8th year at Ashton Keynes and I love it here.

Ella - Why did you come to AK?

Ophelia - I had heard good things about Ashton Keynes and I had the opportunity to become headteacher which I was very excited about!

Ella - Where did 'Shine bright and reach for the stars come from?'

Ophelia - I love stars (show me some stars!) and I wanted to celebrate everybody doing well. But, I wanted to keep challenging one another to be even better through reaching for the stars.

Ophelia - Show me some stars!

Ella - Back to you in the studio!

Freddie - thanks Ella and Mrs Saville. Now to Ashton Keynes Primary School for a song.

Jemima - Hey, we're in Class 5! Best put our singing socks on!

BELIEVE SONG

Freddie - now for a moment of reflection and a prayer.

PRAYER

Freddie starts taking socks off.

Jemima - don't take those singing socks off yet - it's time for another song!

Freddie - Oh we're such a pair! Time for our last song.

BUILD UP SONG

Jemima - and finally, before today's weather let's cross to Helena and Ella for the grace.