



Thursday 11th November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our Christian value in focus this term is COMPASSION and we are really working on shining our inner light beyond ourselves to look for those in need. This could be checking in on our friends and family, seeing the need of people who we don't usually play with and just being thoughtful and compassionate of others' needs. Whilst we have not been able to run our daily worship together in person due to limiting mixing of classes currently, we have found other ways to beam into classrooms including our fabulous open the book team acting and sending videos of their performances from the Bible to our children, we are so lucky.

I have really enjoyed seeing some incredible learning taking place in school as part of our AKPS 'Shine Curriculum'. We have safely continued with the excellent events and opportunities we have planned for your children despite COVID challenges. Classes will upload some of the photos taken from the events below onto class pages as soon as they are able.

Maths Week- This week we have had a really exciting week with action packed fun maths investigations and problems all around the school environment. We learn maths every day but this week we have ensured we have thought well out of the box and challenged your children to different ways of thinking, investigating and learning maths beyond the classroom.

Crime Scene Investigation Day -Today Classes 2-6 have all taken part in a CS1 detective workshop with a police investigator to inspire them and for them to see the application of Science within police and detective work. All classes have loved the session and seem really inspired.

Author for Years R and 1 - As the CSI day was not really suitable for children younger than Year 2, we are arranging for a local author to come and share her new published children's book with children in Classes 1 and 2 and then we will have a copy for each class library for them to continue to read and enjoy together.

iSing pop - We are still able to go ahead with the iSing pop teaching next week and ultimately the concert on 24th November. I have been on the playground after school every day selling tickets and myself and others will be there again tonight as promised- rain or shine. Tickets are £5 each and initially 2 per family to ensure everyone has chance to come. The afternoon 2pm concert is for the whole school with priority tickets for Years R and 1. As class R aren't in to collect tickets- don't worry I've held back 2 per family for you for Monday. The evening performance is just years 2-6. Next week any unclaimed tickets will be offered to families and the community as additional tickets beyond the 2 per family so please come and get your tickets before the end of next Monday. I think we can all look forward to an uplifting children's' performance in the church.

Parent evenings -For classes 1-6 these took place this week and some remaining for this evening. Thank you for attending to find out how your children are progressing and for your kind words and support for my staff team- they have literally buzzed whilst telling me.

Running Track- Wow this has been an incredible asset. Children use it every single day- some do individual running daily challenges in their AK mile challenge booklet, some use it to walk around



and on Thursdays we do staff and children running club. 6 laps is a mile and today the children and I ran 12 laps together so 2 miles at lunch. What is lovely is some can run with me for the whole way, some dip in for a lap or two, some stand and cheer you on but all of it is brilliant to see children happily active and I have some lovely conversations and company whilst running. Thank you for this wonderful facility which so beneficial for active and mental health. After the run just now- I feel so much better.

Home learning (can be known as homework)- we deliberately paused the written tasks we used to ask for this year as we were fully aware that many families had really maxed out during remote learning periods and that in fact there are far better ways you can support our work in school from home. There has been a big focus on reading and reading comprehension at home, spelling and phonics and maths tasks- number bonds and tables. We really want to ensure that work done at home is meaningful, to the point and supports work in school. Some parents mentioned they would like more. In response to this here are some suggestions: encourage your child to investigate or become an 'expert' in the subject or topic they are studying in class. They can do wider research, reading, ask questions and if they would like to bring something in, they could of course collate this into a project that we would love to share and reward. Secondly, your teacher will give you targets from parents evening and you may wish to help with these at home e.g. handwriting practice. Thirdly, as much reading as possible and encouraging children who are able to write a review of the book read to go in our school library to share with others. All of these are offering a real purpose to support your child's learning. Home learning must be meaningful, manageable and beneficial to your child. In Year 6, as we move through the year there will of course be increasing home work to prepare children for the demands of secondary school. I hope this helps clarify what we are doing and our rationale and provide those who would like more with some further support ideas. There are also additional tasks on the online learning platforms on 'seesaw' and 'showbie' in most classes. I think with homework, you can never get it right for everyone as expectations are very varied but by providing the activities where there is a real point to what we are setting your children and that will support your child's learning in school and give extension challenge, support and additional ideas for those who want more, I hope this goes a long way towards trying to cater for everyone.

We still very much plan to go ahead with upcoming pantomime and Year 4 residential. We will prepare for Christmas nativity from Year R for Year R parents and the Christmas show form years 1 and 2 for parents. I will keep you informed if anything changes.

External review of the school Yesterday I had a quality assurance visit (online) with our school improvement adviser for Wiltshire. She was really pleased with our school. We are due for a Challenge partner external annual review in January that we choose to do so that we can grow and 'reach'. We are also due an OFSTED inspection at any point this coming year or into next. I would like Ofsted to recognise all that we do and provide at AKPS for our children and what a fabulous family TEAM AK is.

Fireworks- I will end on a massive thank you. I want you to know how much I appreciate all that went into the fireworks night and that I do not underestimate just how much time the FOAKS team, volunteers, firework team and all of those who gave of their precious time or resources to make the excellent community event happen safely and the mammoth clear up effort the next day. A huge thank you to all who bought tickets and supported our school.



The evening was excellent and I received brilliant feedback about the beautiful firework display and the whole well organised event and have never seen so many people at the event! The AKsionals and I really appreciated another opportunity to perform for you- I hope you enjoyed it, we loved it. It was so lovely to see so many people dancing and singing along, enjoying themselves.

Please know that as Headteacher of the school I am so incredibly thankful to you all for your continued efforts to support our school and to help us bring the community together. This is different to the hub building funds as the money raised from this event goes directly towards funding additional high quality learning resources for all children within the school.

Thanking you for your wonderful support,

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 to help you plan ahead.

Date	Event
15 th – 18 th Nov	iSing Pop project are in school teaching the classes the new songs
24 th Nov	ISing pop concerts- 2 pm Whole School, 6pm yrs 2-6 Holy Cross Church
25 th 'Beanology' Workshop	Emotional wellbeing workshop in school for all classes
30 th Nov	Class 3 Parents/Carers Assembly 9am
1 st Dec	Reception Nativity dress rehearsal
2 nd & 3 rd Dec	Class 4 Viney Hill Residential
2 nd Dec	Reception Nativity Performances 9:30am & 1:45pm
5 th Dec	Christingle Service at Holy Cross Church 4pm
6 th Dec	Yrs1&2 Nativity dress rehearsal
7 th Dec	Whole school Pantomime Trip
8 th Dec	Yrs 1& 2 Nativity performance 2 pm & 5 pm
13 th Dec	Yoga day
14 th Dec	Zumba morning
15 th Dec	Breakfast Club Christmas party
15 th Dec	Christmas lunch – please book via Parentpay (deadline 8 th Dec)
17 th Dec	Christmas jumper day – 50p donation 'Save the children'
Last day of term	Christmas Church service at Holy Cross including Heroes & Heroines 1.30pm (TBC) Children to be collected when back in school

ASHTON KEYNES

Church of England VC Primary School

SHINE BRIGHT ★ REACH FOR THE STARS



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