



Thursday 16th December

Dear Parents and Carers,

‘Sparkle and Shine’- this is our Christmas edition of the newsletter for you to enjoy with a summary of how each class has been shining this term and some whole school shininess too!

Class R

Term 2 in Class R has been filled with light and dark. We started off learning about Diwali, the festival of light, and then celebrated bonfire night with a spectacular display that many of us attended and thoroughly enjoyed.

Our space theme was fantastic and we found out lots about the moon, the stars and the planets. Just like baby bear in Jill Murphy’s story, ‘Whatever next’, we made our own rockets and travelled all over the galaxy! Some of us spotted a few aliens lurking around our classroom and some made it to our homes as well.



Home learning has been a feature this term and we thank you for your support with this. We are pleased to see all children and staff in Class R fit and well again.

We’ve enjoyed our Forest school sessions and especially loved our first pond dip!



Learning the songs for both iSingPOP and our nativity has been great fun and we look forward to the iSingPOP concert when it happens.

We hope you enjoyed our nativity; it’s always a highlight and we were so pleased to be able to share it with you as a ‘live’ event.

The children took part in their first school trip with a visit to the pantomime which hopefully all have recovered from! It was a fabulous experience and Class R did us proud.

On top of all these amazing experiences the children have been making great progress with their learning. We are especially proud of the steps they have taken in beginning to become readers. It is a fundamental aspect of their learning and we are really pleased with their achievements so far.





Class 1

It has been another tremendous term in Class 1, everyone has worked exceptionally hard but had lots of fun along the way too!

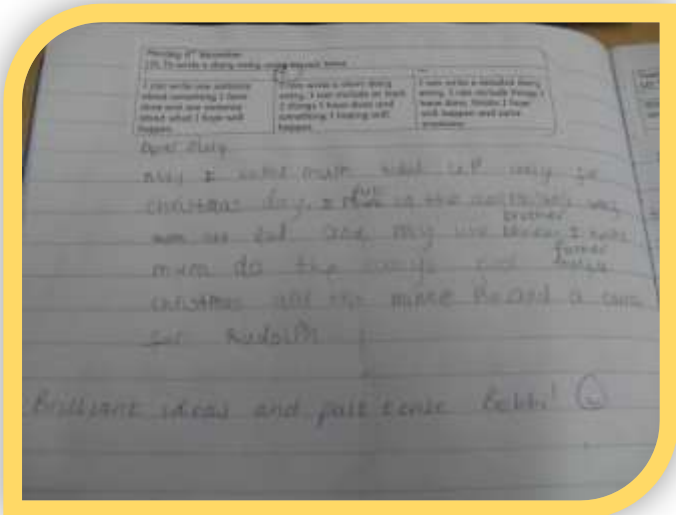
Our writing has been set around the book 'Traction Man' and it has been brilliant. It was a great book that engaged all of the children fully and produced some fabulous writing. We enjoyed exploring the text and getting to know Traction Man.

Our history topic had us exploring the 'Gunpowder Plot', the children were so engaged within this and many went home telling their parents all about

Guy Fawkes and Catesby! It was a great opportunity for the children to really begin to understand why we have 'Fireworks Night'.

During our Forest School session we took our science learning outdoors and thought about the changing seasons. We had so much fun playing in the crunchy leaves!

After our trip to the Swindon Pantomime the children came back absolutely buzzing and very enthused to get going with their own Nativity performance. The children were incredible in the performance and loved being on the stage in front of their families. The whole Class 1 team were so proud of each and everyone one of the children.





Class 2

Class 2 have had a busy term. Here is a summary of some of the learning that has taken place.

English: The children have enjoyed reading Traction Man and wrote their own adventure for him, producing it in the style of a graphic novel. They also created some super adverts and diary entries.

Art: We have been learning about different printing techniques including mono printing, relief printing and callograph printing. The children have produced some impressive Christmas themed prints.

Science: Much fun was had making rubber and foam balls as part of our learning about materials and their properties. We tested our balls to see whose would bounce highest. Kobie was the winner!

History: Class 2 are now experts about why we celebrate bonfire night and the reasons the gunpowder plot was formed. They produced some impressive 'wanted' posters for Robert Catesby and used sources of evidence to prove statements.

Computing: The children have used Scratch to code. They have learnt how to add sprites and backgrounds, change colour, add movement and sound. The noise when they all discovered the sound options was quite something - we had sirens, bleating sheep, electric guitars and more!! 🎧

RE: The children have explored the Nativity story and looked at famous artwork of the Nativity scene looking for evidence that shows that Jesus was a special baby. Reverend Shirley was kind

enough to send through pictures of the stained-glass window at Holy Cross Church and some pictures of her favourite Nativity art work for the children to look at. They then created their own Nativity scene art work which will be displayed over Christmas at the Holy Cross Church. There are some beautiful pictures.

Nativity: We have been so impressed by how hard Class 2 worked to learn their lines and songs for Magical Christmas Journey. They all spoke so clearly on stage and with such confidence it was hard to believe they are in KS1! The sheep tango proved very entertaining as did the mystery noise which sent the cast into a fit of uncontrollable giggles!! 🐑🌟

TEAM AK: A thoroughly deserved Team AK treat has been earned by the children this Friday. A film with popcorn, dancing and games and a Christmas party lunch will bring this term to a close. What a fun way to end what has been a very busy term. Merry Christmas! 🎄





Class 3

Class 3 have thoroughly enjoyed this term! It has been jammed packed with learning about Rocks, including exploring a pebble's journey over millions of years through the book 'Pebble in my Pocket'. We've asked the question 'How did man survive the Stone Age' and explored life in this period. Miss Henshaw, our art specialist teacher, has taught us all about cave art and shade and tone when colour mixing. In computing, we have been programmers, using Scratch to create short animations. In pairs we planned a sequence, working together with perseverance. We learnt how to write algorithms and debug code. Some of us even created animations at home and uploaded them onto Showbie!



As part of our D&T learning this term, we have designed Christmas themed cushions. We've learnt running stitch, cross stick and how to applique. It has been great fun and lovely to see all of the different creative designs.

Class 4

What an adventure it has been this term for Year 4.

In class, we have been exploring the Stone Age, using the modern classic Stig of the Dump to inspire some fantastic diaries and newspaper reports. We have also been investigating light and dark including shadows, reflection and this even led us to finding out why and how we can see different stages of the moon. Our maths work has been centered around multiplication and division which we have now finished ready to move on to measure in the New Year.





Alongside our in-class learning, we have completed our swimming lessons with all children earning badges in School Swimming and water safety. Well done all! We also went on the first ever Year 4 residential to Viney Hill. The children were fantastic and showed excellent resilience, perseverance, team building skills and courage (among others). Facing our fears, we climbed to the top of the house, built stacks of crates high in to the sky, shot real arrows in archery and completed a low ropes course together. For some of the children, it was their first time staying away from home and we are all so proud of how fantastic every single one of them was.

Class 5

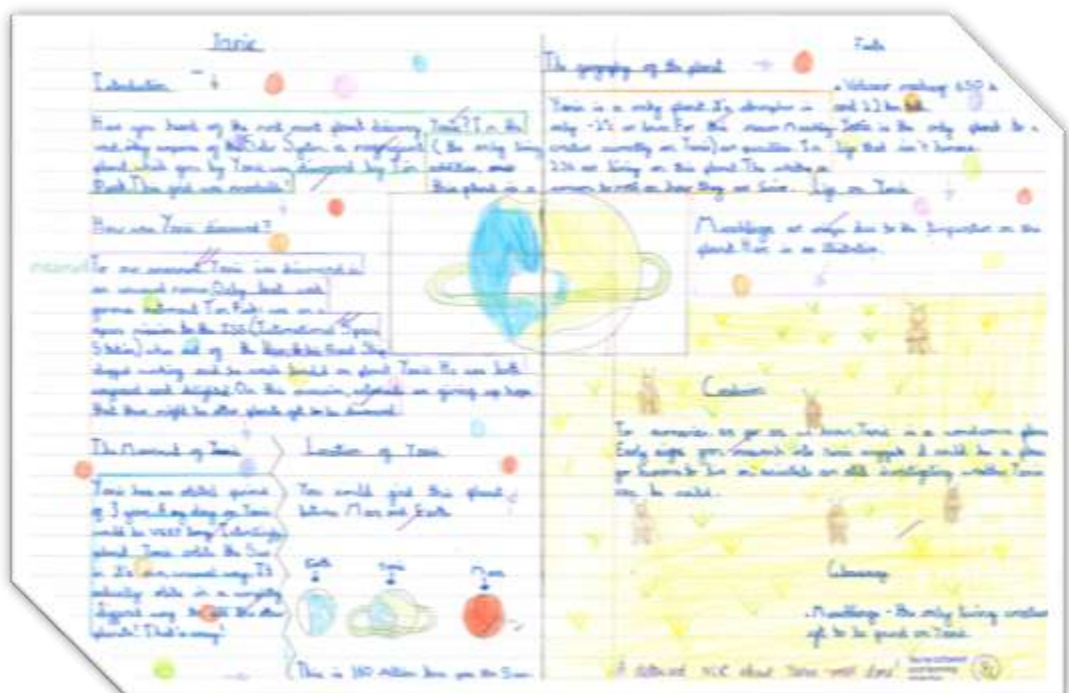
During the second half of the Autumn term, Class 5 have, once again, been super busy with their learning! In English, we have finished reading the thrilling book 'Floodland' by Marcus Sedgwick – we really enjoyed reading it, particularly the fight between the armies near the end! We have written diary entries, character descriptions and newspaper reports. We have been focusing on using advanced punctuation within our writing and different sentence types and the impact they have on the reader. Have a read through some of our newspaper reports.



In **Maths**, we have been focusing on statistics, multiplication and division. We also had Maths Week where we took part in various outdoor Maths challenges and The Million Pound Drop Maths style.

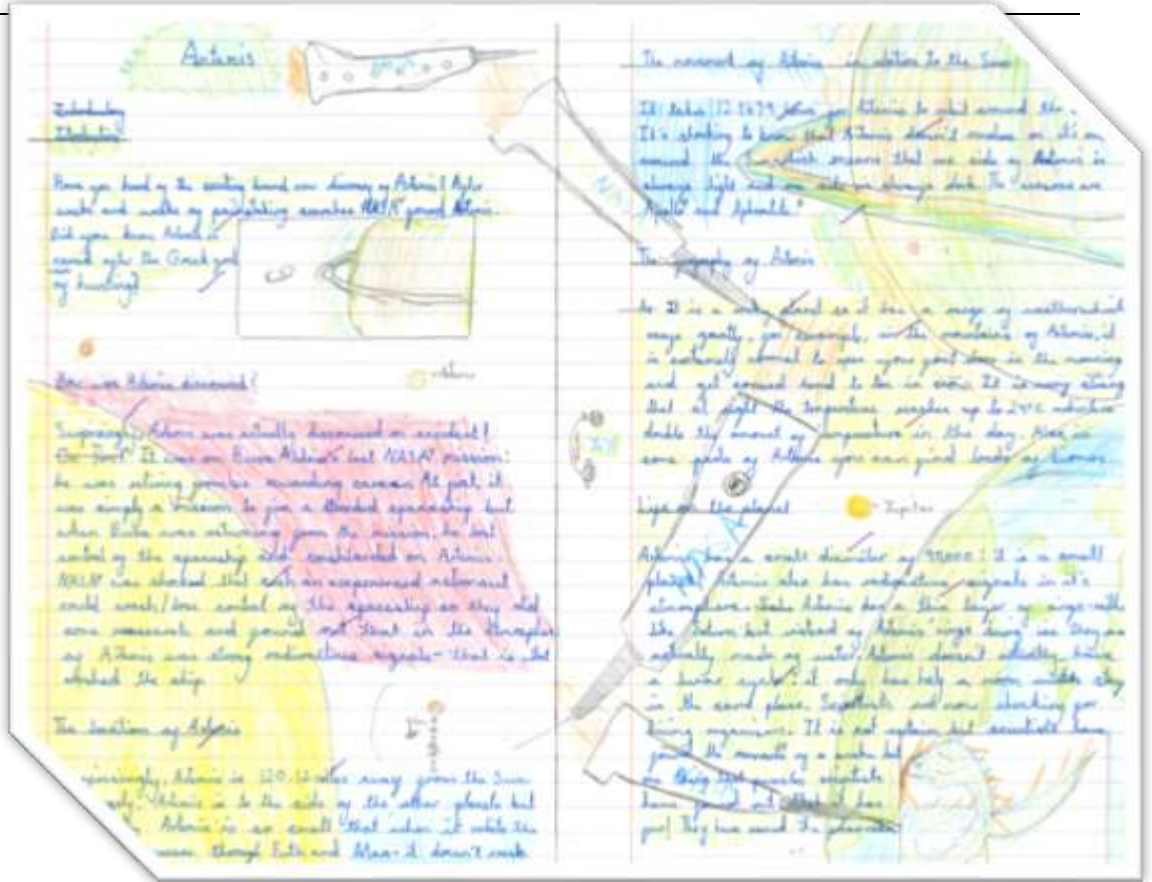
Science

This term in Science, Class 5 have been learning all about The Solar System. We have been learning about the order of the planets and we came up with our own mnemonics to help us to remember them. Iris came up with 'My Very Eager Mother Just Served Up Noodles' whilst Nate included the





dwarf planet Pluto in 'My Very Earnest Mother Just Showed Me Nine Planets'. We used our knowledge of the Solar System to create non-chronological reports on our own newly discovered planet. We thought carefully about where the planet would fit in our galaxy.



Geography

In Geography this term, we have been studying 'What is climate? What is weather?'. We have been considering climate change and how it is impacting on our world today and what we can do to reduce our own carbon footprint. We even drew line graphs to show the different carbon footprints between countries across the globe! We have had some brilliant work produced by our 'experts' including Jemima who incorporated her furry assistants to assist her with her video and Livvy who gave a super presentation on COP 26.

Class 6

In Year 6, we have been thoroughly enjoying the novel Floodlands by Marcus Sedgewick. It follows the story of a young girl called Zoe as she tries to find her parents who have disappeared after sea levels dramatically rose turning Norwich and Ely into islands.

We have used this book as starting point for writing discussion texts where we explore two different points of view on an argument. We have enjoyed analysing the motives of different characters such as the leader of Eels- Dooby- and his right-hand man- Spat. We can't wait to find out how this story is going to end.

In computing we have been learning about Micro bits (small computers) that can be programmed to create compasses,



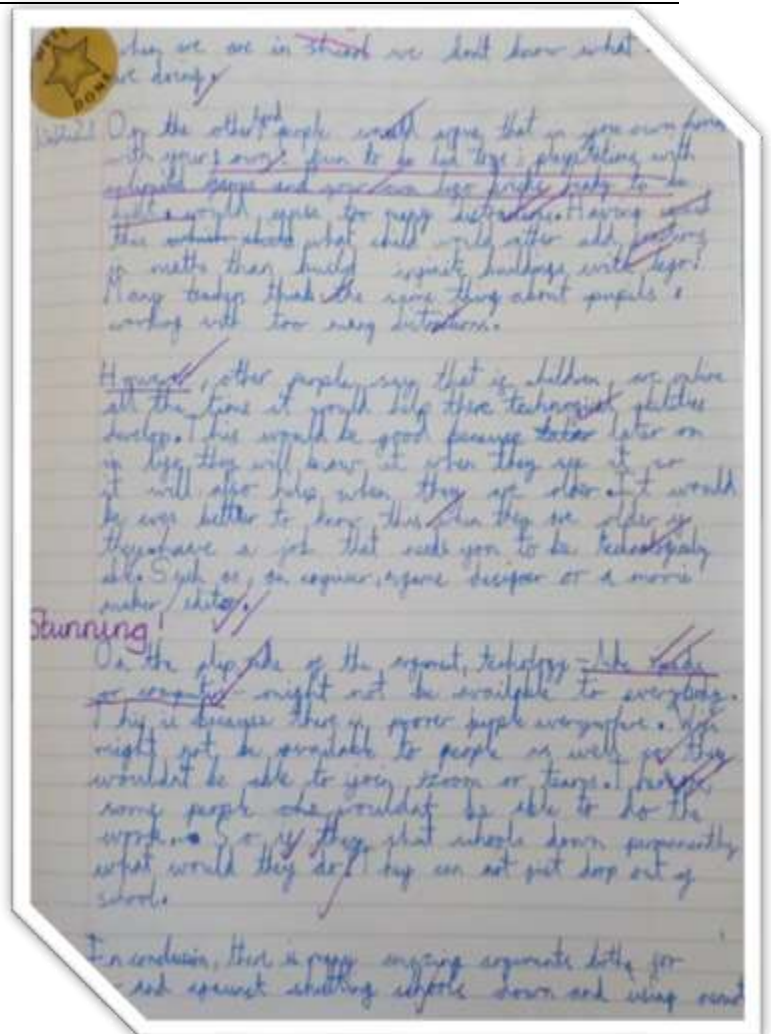


pedometers and many other things. Whilst learning about programming, we created an algorithm for Miss Thomas to make a jam sandwich! This was messy!

One of things we have most enjoyed this term has been fencing! We had the chance to learn how to fence over a period of six weeks. We learnt how to stand, lunge and parry. We even got the chance to fence using real metal swords and safety gear.



Every child earned their level 1 fencing certificate - what an achievement for our Year 6's!



Exciting Music Update from Mrs. Crowley

Music has always played an important role within our Shine curriculum and these last two terms have been no different. Here are a few highlights:

We were very lucky to have borrowed a class set of ukuleles for Class 4 and they have been having weekly lessons with Miss Chomiz. They have made amazing progress and thoroughly enjoyed learning together. As this has been so successful, we have decided to buy our own set of 16 ukuleles so the lessons can continue. Singing as always has been a highlight within classes and we hope you enjoyed the EYFS and KS1 nativities. All children took part in Samba music workshops at the start of term 1 which were great fun and full of energy.

We are super thrilled to be recognised for all the high quality music opportunities that we have in school and to have been nominated by the Wiltshire Music Hub for the Music Mark Award which we have now achieved.



PROUD TO BE A
MUSIC MARK
SCHOOL





Mrs. Saville has just joined the board of directors for Wiltshire music hub promoting diversity and inclusion through music in Wiltshire so this is really exciting. If you are interested in instrument lessons for your child you can apply online, the link is on our website or send the office or Mrs. Crowley and email for advice.

Pantomime Trip

In the lead up to Christmas, the whole school travelled to the Wyvern Theatre to watch the pantomime Jack and the Beanstalk starring Louie Spence. Lots of fun was had by all the children and staff (oh yes it was!) We all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves even when things got a little bit scary with the Giant, and we especially loved being squirted by the skeletons with water pistols!



Residential

Class 4 Residential night away

Our Year 4 pupils spent a night away from home on their first school residential visit. They travelled to the Viney Hill Christian Adventure Centre in the Forest of Dean where they took part in many activities including archery, climbing, crate stacking and low ropes. The highlight was a night hike in the woods under the stars. All children behaved beautifully and were a credit to us. They came home tired but very happy. I am so thankful that the whole class managed to attend. It was just brilliant!



Nativities

Our visit to the theatre was timed perfectly and a great source of inspiration for our youngest classes who then put on their own nativity shows. The children wowed us with their confidence and obvious enjoyment when performing- they were just brilliant and to think many have never performed in front of a real audience before! I am just so thankful that we were able to adapt and provide nativities safely for our families to watch in person. Thank you to my team for being so adaptable and working really hard to produce whole class nativities.





Classes 1 and 2 separately performed 'A Magical Christmas Journey', a nativity show which follows the Christmas story with a few extra characters including some fabulous mince pies! Our youngest children in Class R performed their own nativity story in which they themselves chose which characters they would be so it was very entertaining to have 4 Mary's and nine kings. They did us proud with their singing and dancing during this very special first performance. They were ALL incredible for both performances- well done Class R!

During this last week of the term, we had a very special visitor to see our youngest children. This caused much excitement and the children were delighted to let our visitor know all about their Christmas wishes.

I have suggested a provisional date for the iSing pop concert in the final week before February half term and am awaiting confirmation so will keep you informed when we know for sure. With current restrictions we will not be able to do the concert in January so I will let you know as soon as I have a confirmed date and we have risk assessed it to ensure it can all go ahead safely and in line with Government rules and expectations. Don't worry it will give us something to look forward to in the future- just like the Shine party did.

Delicious Christmas Lunch

On Wednesday we had our school Christmas lunch with our new catering team and I was very impressed! The food was delicious, great portion sizes and really swift service. The children all seemed to enjoy their food and it was lovely to share this festive occasion with them. This was my favourite school Christmas lunch in my 8 years as Head teacher in this school!

Goodbye and Good luck to Mrs Morton

After twelve years with TEAM AK, Mrs Morton will be leaving us and starting a brand new adventure in a career change from January. Sarah will be working within a funeral directors in Cheltenham and is really excited about her new challenge and complete change of career. We think she will be brilliant at this role and her new team will be lucky to have her. Sarah is a vibrant and generous member of the team and has given so much to the school during her twelve years here. She has worked specifically for many years with pupils as a one to one specialist TA but is also known for leading our breakfast club, teaching our sign language and telling fabulous stories to the children and helping out in whichever way she can. I know leaving TEAM AK will be hard for Sarah as she has invested so much of herself into this team but I know she will be really good at her new role and we are delighted for her. Good luck Mrs Morton with love and thanks from your TEAM AK family.

We have advertised externally (via Wiltshire) for a 1:1 SEND Teaching assistant for 5 mornings and until we look to appoint this role in the new year, Mrs Gough, who already works within our staff team and is known to the pupil, will be covering Mrs Morton's one to one role which we are very thankful for at this short notice. In addition, I am delighted to announce that we have internally appointed our new breakfast club leader and this is Miss Chantelle Davis who already works for us as a teaching assistant in year 3 and for Mighty Oaks after school club, congratulations to Chantelle, Sarah will be so happy she has left breakfast club in such safe hands.



A huge thank you to the FOAKS team again and in particular Jo Green for organising the wonderful festive pocket money stalls which took place today. Thank you to all the volunteer wrappers too! Being able to choose a special gift for their family really does make our children's day!

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy and peaceful Christmas. I hope you all stay safe and well and I look forward to welcoming you all back to school on Wednesday 5th January at 8.45am. We have so much more to look forward to together in the New Year!

Thank you for your wonderful continued 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
Wednesday 5 th Jan	Term 3 begins 8:45 a.m.
Friday 18 th Feb	TD Day School Closed
21 st – 25 th Feb	Half term
Monday 28 th Feb	Term 4 begins 8:45 a.m.

ASHTON KEYNES

Church of England VC Primary School

SHINE BRIGHT ★ REACH FOR THE STARS



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