



20th January 2022

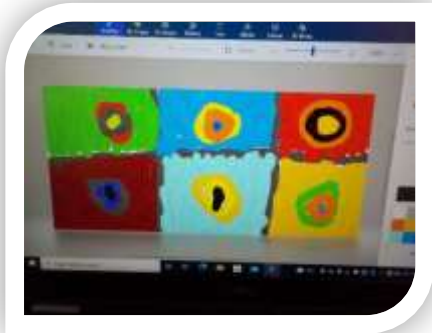
Dear Parents and Carers,

Although this is only our second full week back in school, we have certainly been making the most of every minute in each class. On top of the daily COVID challenges which all schools are facing, I would like to thank you for your support and commend your children on their resilience, perseverance and patience with this, especially when pupils and our staff had to self-isolate away from families in their holidays and school time and quite a few for the second time of having COVID. We are very proud of our school family and we all strive to provide our very best even when challenges are facing us and your support and kindness really do help us! Our Christian value in focus currently is very apt as it is one of our core values: Perseverance and we have certainly been showing this as a school community. In this newsletter I have collated a few highlights from the first couple of weeks back to 'groove' us all up and celebrate the fabulous ethos of this school and how your children have been shining in their learning.

Class R

You may have seen our youngest members of school from Class R out and about in the village recently as they enjoyed a beautiful winter walk on one of the most gorgeous winter mornings we have had so far! The children wrapped up warmly and set off looking for signs of winter; they had great fun even if it was a little cold! The children absolutely loved their walk and of course they were so beautifully behaved and loved the time to pause, listen and look mindfully around them and consider the effect winter has upon the environment. The children are busy developing a woodworking area in their dedicated Year R forest school for you at home!





Class 1 have been brilliant working their socks off in class and really working hard on extending their writing and are so keen and eager to learn. They have also been using the computers to recreate some beautiful artwork in the style of Kandinsky.



Class 2 have been busy creating egg box dragons based on their new book and will be writing instructions to go with their creations. They have also written some lovely Kenning poems.



Thursday 13 th January 2022		
L.O: To understand that magnets can both attract and repel		
I can experiment with magnets and know when they would attract/repel one another.	I can use some scientific vocabulary from a word bank to describe magnets attracting/repelling each other.	I can write a paragraph explaining what I know about the 2 poles of a magnet. I can use evidence from my experiment to prove what I'm saying is correct.

Hear	See	Feel
I heard a click as they attracted together. We put the South and South poles together. Needs.	When you try to put the South and South poles together it repels back.	The North and South pole attracted and pulled my arms together. Force is needed to pull apart North and South pole.

Class 3 are really excited because they have learned they will have a new residential in the Summer a class camp out on the school field. They have been busy really focussing on being kind, building team work at play ready for this opportunity and they delivered a superb assembly to parents and carers this term to showcase their excellent learning. Class 3 have been busy learning about friction!

When you put the North and South pole together they attract. When this happens you hear a click. Force is needed to pull apart. North and South pole attracts. You feel force that pulls them together. The force is called magnetism. When you try to put the South and South or North and North together they repel.

What fantastic use of scientific vocabulary James! So exciting explained!



Class 4 have welcomed back Mrs O'Neill after her maternity leave who is working alongside Miss Chomicz. They have been busy working super hard and writing some brilliant stories and some are writing their own books now! In Science they have been investigating magnetic forces!

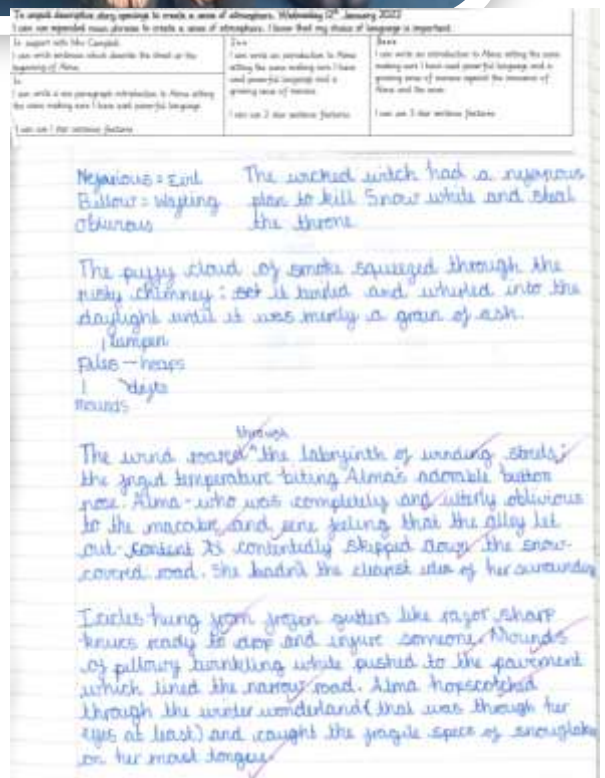
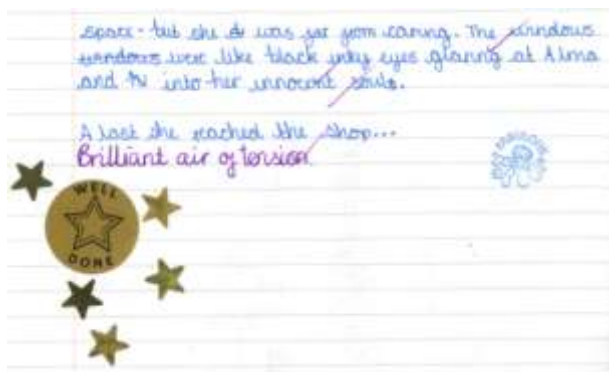
Class 5 have started swimming lessons which they have loved so far. We are so impressed with the whole class and their mature return after the holidays. They have been

leading the way with our culture of reading and are launching our new AKPS bookworm reading star challenge to the whole school soon which they are busily creating. In Time to Shine today, the Reading Leaders presented to the whole school and set up the challenge and their presentation was truly inspirational!



Class 6 are being exemplary top of school pupils. They work so hard and so calmly in class and have been super buddies to the Class R pupils. They have been focussing on developing secondary ready vocabulary in their writing and of course taken this a level higher and have blown us away with vocabulary they have been using correctly, even those of us with high level English degrees are impressed!

We have lots of exciting things happening over the



coming weeks including our annual Challenge



Partner Review next Monday until Wednesday where we will be visited by a very experienced Ofsted Inspector who is not coming as Ofsted but to work in partnership with us and his review along with that of another national Head teacher will be really good for us. We do these reviews annually as we continue to reach to improve what we do here and shine to celebrate what we do well. I will of course share the report with you once the review is over and I have received it. As I said in my parent mail, although COVID has thrown up many additional challenges we will not let it distract from our provision at AK and our aspirations for the school for the future. Therefore, working in partnership to challenge us as leaders and teachers to ensure we are providing the best we can, is a really good thing to be doing and we always learn so much through this process.

We are planning to reschedule our iSing pop concert in Holy Cross Church on 15th February (hopefully COVID permitting). We will keep you updated but please put this new date into your diaries and all tickets sold for the postponed event will be carried over with a few more available for sale during the week before.

We are all busy continuing to ensure we provide amazing experiences and opportunities for our pupils to continue to shine brightly and reach for the stars. We have been very busy overhauling our school website so do take a look at what we have been up to on our curriculum and class pages on www.akps.org.uk We will continue to do this over coming weeks.

Staffing update – on Friday 4th February Mrs Paula Thomas will leave us. Mrs Thomas has been with us for many years and has been a real asset as a teaching assistant, speech and language lead TA and recently a SEND support assistant and we will all really miss her. Mrs Thomas is leaving us to work in a non-educational setting and pursue her textile hobby. We are thankful for all Mrs Thomas has provided for us over her time here and we wish her every luck for the future. Just so you are aware Mrs Jodie Marsh will take over as speech, language and communication lead TA.

Mrs O'Neill has made a personal family based decision to resign from teaching. Mrs O'Neill has just returned from maternity and has decided she would like to take a career break and focus on her family which I respect. She has agreed to continue to work with us occasionally as a supply teacher and offer some specialist art provision where we can, so this is not a complete goodbye which is good. We totally respect Mrs O'Neill's decision and although she will be massively missed, we know she will love being with her new family. We are delighted that Miss Josie Chomicz (who is the job share in the class and covered maternity in Year 4 before Christmas) will step back up to teaching Class 4 full time until the Summer, which I know parents, staff and pupils will be delighted with. I will let the class know Mrs O'Neill's leaving date as soon as it has been confirmed.

On 28th February our Year 6 teaching assistant Mrs Campbell will be leaving us to pursue her career working on board flights with BA. As you may remember Mrs Campbell secured this position before the first lockdown and left her role here, then it was all put on hold by the pandemic. We have been so lucky to have had Mrs Campbell for longer but now it is time to spread her wings and fly- this has been her dream so we are truly excited for her. We have upped the provision now with our qualified teacher Mrs Jackson moving to support Miss Thomas in class 6 so no support will be lost after Mrs Campbell's departure.



Mid-year departures in schools are quite unusual in schools and quite challenging but possibly reflective of the effects of the pandemic on people. We are a school with very little staff changes so to have had 5 career changes in a short space of time is unusual but also really exciting for all of those involved and for us. All have got their own dreams and wants from new avenues and new careers and I wish them all the very best of luck and look forward to keeping in touch. I know they all find it very heart wrenching to leave TEAM AK but I thank them for all they have given during their time here- above and beyond! In the future when we are feeling more settled, it will give me and the team time to restructure, recruit and make some exciting new changes, so don't worry; with change always comes new opportunity and we will embrace this later in the year- for now we just want to settle and take stock of what we have.

In terms of staffing if anyone is/knows of any really good local supply teachers or specialist teachers who would be interested in working with us I'd be delighted to meet with them to discuss. Staffing challenges due mainly to the pandemic and illness are really challenging so there is always opportunity for the right people to supply in our school. Of course we would conduct application, interview and full safeguarding checks but worth putting the feelers out there.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your truly brilliant support of the school, that ongoing positive support and partnership really does make a difference thank you!

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

Date	Event
Tuesday 16 th February	Rescheduled Ising Pop Concert
Thursday 17 th February	End of Term for pupils
Friday 18 th February	TD Day
Monday 28 th February	School Starts 08:45
Wednesday 16 th March	Tempest Photography Class Photos
Monday 21 st March	Virgin Health Care checks Year R



PROUD TO BE A
MUSIC MARK
SCHOOL

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