



Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a busy few weeks in school. I have seen some fabulous learning around the school. I have been really enjoying seeing the reading leaders launch their reading challenge where children can earn a reading merit and then progress to a bronze, silver or gold bookworm challenge to reward regular reading at home and in school. The challenge is progressive and designed by our very own Reading leaders from Year 5 and supported by the staff. It was lovely to see children from each class achieving their reading merits this week.

We had a lovely outdoor 'Time to Shine' Assembly this week to celebrate our wonderful children and see how they have been shining and to say Goodbye to our wonderful teaching assistant Mrs Thomas after almost 15 years at the school. It was just so lovely to be together. We have all had enough of zoom worship and it really lifted our spirits to all be together and the children were just so happy. Luckily the rain stopped so we were able to do this outdoors.

As the COVID numbers have significantly decreased in school after a spike, we are now (in consultation with Wiltshire public health) in a position to start to relax our measures in terms of what we can offer. As long as COVID numbers are low we plan to have our iSing pop concert in the church before half term (15<sup>th</sup> February) and return to indoor whole school worship in the hall together after half term. The benefits of being together daily in person are enormous so we look forward to this again. It goes without saying that we do all of this in line with Public Health and DfE guidance and we use their guidance to inform our ongoing risk assessment and risk assessment for a public event. We continue with all of our daily procedures for COVID 19 including excellent hygiene measures. If anything changes and COVID numbers go beyond threshold we will have to change our plans as we need to be compliant but I know you all understand this and will support the school.

### **Cross Country Superstars**

Now things are opening up again, it was just brilliant to celebrate our Year 5 and 6 pupils who went out to compete with other schools in cross country. Mr Tanner told the whole school how the pupils shone by having such excellent determination, positive attitudes and they all placed brilliantly. They had to run distance and up some steep hills too! Some have now qualified to race at county level, just brilliant effort all round. Mr Tanner is extending the opportunity to all of KS2 Years 3-6 next so watch out for this if your child would like to take part. Well done to all who took part, we are proud of you all. Thank you to Mr Tanner.

### **Challenge Partner Review**

Last week we took part in our annual review of the school with challenge partners. Whilst this is NOT OFSTED, it is our own choice to engage with this annual review and all of the professional development it provides for our school because we would like to continue to grow, learn and reach so that we can provide the very best for your children. It was led by a very experienced leader who has been an Ofsted Inspector for 22 years so was very thorough and he was accompanied by a very skilled leader from another national school. At the end of the review, the lead reviewer told me that if he had a gap year, he would love to spend it in our school. He was impressed by your children and by what we provide for them every day. It has been a really challenging time for schools during the pandemic and as I said recently, whilst COVID management is still incredibly important, I am my team must not allow this to distract us from the daily education we provide for your children and by doing these reviews and this one in particular it reinforced that we have continued to work incredibly hard and provide an excellent curriculum and school for your children. I am



delighted that we again achieved the highest 'Leading grade' and have had accredited another area of Excellence for 'Leading with Impact' which acknowledges leadership at all levels in the school and how this is making a real difference to our children. The full report can be found on our website [www.akps.org.uk](http://www.akps.org.uk) My team and I are never complacent and whilst we are delighted to be shining brightly in this review, we continue to reach and work hard to ensure we are always doing our best for the children of this school. I hope you feel proud of our school when you read the report.

### Parent Consultation Evenings

We have dates for our upcoming parents' evenings in March. We want to be able to invite parents into school so that you can see your children's books. Whilst we have to go to zoom if COVID cases are high, this limits the chance for you to actually see how well your children are progressing so we really want you to be able to see the books. The evenings will be face to face with a one-way system into and out of the classroom to avoid crowded corridors or groups of people indoors. You can look at your own child's books and bring them into the meeting with you. If you do not feel comfortable with face to face or you are in isolation, the appointment can be done over zoom, just let us know.

The online parents' evening booking system will go live on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March at 3.15pm. Parents' evenings will be the following week after school on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March.

Just before the parents' evenings, you will receive a mid-year report for your child to let you know where they are and how they are working in the core subjects at the mid-year point. Any targets we are working on that you can support with will be shared at the meeting. IN the event that the teacher ends up in isolation, then all appointments will revert to zoom if they are well enough or will be rearranged.

### External vacancy with our catering company:

Caterlink

We have a Term time vacancy

Taking meals from Kemble to Ashton Keynes

Your own car is essential

16 to 20 hours

For more information

Please call Leza Bridgman-Flaherty on 07471953468

### Additional vacancy at AKPS

We are always on the look out for additional people to join our great MDSA team during the lunch hour 12.15-1.15 daily and this could be applied for by itself or even combined with the Caterlink opportunity for more hours (separate employers)

If you are/ know anyone who could be interested in the Midday Supervisor role in the school please contact the school office for more information. All appointments at AKPS are subject to safeguarding checks and child protection training provided by the school.

**iSing pop concert** in Holy Cross church on 15<sup>th</sup> February (hopefully COVID permitting). I have sent you a recent parent mail regarding this. All of our event procedures are risk assessed and COVID risk assessed using Wiltshire Public Health guidance. The event is just one day including a short rehearsal and is the rescheduled concert from when we cancelled it in November 2021. It will be



held in Holy Cross Church and ticket sales are limited to ensure space. We will parent mail again with a reminder of risk assessment procedures before the event in line with public health guidance for events and the event is under constant review so could be subject to change should COVID cases rise above threshold again. Thank you for your support.

### Water bottles

Please remember to send your child in daily with a drinks bottle. We are noticing that many children are arriving at school without them and we cannot provide cups for everyone and it is really important children have access to water to drink. Bottles should be provided by home and named, thank you.

With my very best wishes,

*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

Date	Event
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> February	iSing pop Concert 2pm and 6 pm
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> February	End of Term
	FOAKS Cake Sale
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> February	TD Day
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	School starts 8:45
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	Parents' Evening Booking System goes live 3:15



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