



Friday 10th June

Dear Parents and Carers,



To celebrate the Jubilee, we had an amazing street party on the playground and the children enjoyed the cakes and some traditional games and dancing; it was so special. The children thoroughly enjoyed themselves and took part in various Jubilee themed activities in class.

It is so lovely to be back after half term. Already in just a few days we have achieved so much. In this newsletter I will share with you a few highlights from this week, but I would also really like to promote the upcoming village festival which school is heavily involved in and hope that you will come along and support where you can.

The Ashton Keynes Festival!

Tuesday 21st June – Sunday 26th June

I really want to share this with you as I think it will be a wonderful uplifting weekend for you all, I really can't wait. We loved the Shine party and this is almost a continuation of that wonderful day but extends over a few days.

Most of the events are free, there is something for everyone, school are involved and FOAKS are kindly providing some of the stalls and refreshments which will in turn continue to raise money for school resources.

I've attached the programme with this letter so that you can see but here are a few events I'd like to highlight for you.

Friday 24th June-Friday Night Live 6.30pm until Midnight. Please come along to Bradstone in Ashton Keynes (where the school fireworks usually are) and dance and enjoy! I particularly would love it if you could stay until late as I am singing with the Aksionals and we are the last act! I'm

making a plea because I will have returned from 3 days camping in the forest with year 5 on residential and may require some audience encouragement and support when I get on the microphone. Plus, we have been rehearsing some new bangers for you to dance and sing along to. We are playing approx. 10- midnight!

Friday Night Live.

A combination of accomplished musicians and enthusiastic 'once every three years' amateurs will make this a night to remember. Let your hair down and p-a-r-t-y. If you don't have hair, grab your best rock-god wig! Bar and cocktail bar. (Happy hour drinks 6.30-8pm)

Saturday 25th June School Sculpture trail as part of the AK Open Gardens 2-5pm. Each class is working on a design for an environmentally friendly sculpture using recycled materials which represents something from our school e.g. forest school, sport, music. We are also planting gardens in 7 recycled shopping trolleys/baskets to teach about sustainability e.g. grow your own. Veg, herbs, insect friendly garden. Come and walk around our running track and admire each of our unique sculptures and our gardens. Then why not branch out into the village and take a tour of some stunning village gardens.

Open Gardens and Studios

Enjoy a relaxing walk around the village visiting beautiful gardens that a number of villagers have open up to the public for the afternoon. A map will be available from the village shop. Some gardens will have teas and coffees and you may even find the odd poet reciting some verse in one or two of the gardens....

The Big Saturday Night Do - Please book your tickets in the next week! This will be awesome- join the community for some delicious food (Highly recommended by me- delicious!) and then relax and dance the night away to a superb band.

The Big Saturday Night Do – Jubilation Saturday 25th June – doors open 7.15pm Festival Marquee at Bradstone Playing Fields. Ticketed event (available on the Ak festival website)

This year's theme is 'Queen', so interpret and dress accordingly! A night of amazing food (3 courses from our local company The Cotswold Cookery School) and 'start dancing before you reach the dancefloor' music from Simplicity, this is an event of the year must not be missed. Bar and cocktail bar available

Sunday 26th June Picnic in the Park 1.30pm – 4pm many of our pupils in the choir and our instrumentalists will be performing. So, pack up a picnic and head down and enjoy supporting the community young musicians (many are past-pupils).

Picnic in the Park (Big Marquee at Bradstone Playing Fields. Free event)

Come and enjoy a family picnic on the field with entertainment provided by a number of the younger artists in the village, with music performances from the Stars from AK School and a many more. Bar and BBQ available

These are just a few of events available see the website for more - ***Support our village, keep local music alive and come to as many events as you can!*** Full details are at ashtonkeynesfestival.net

Back in school this week we have been busy. Here is a quick overview of some of what we have been up to. Photographs will appear shortly on class pages on the website:

Years 5 and 6 attending a fabulous STEM (Science Engineering and Maths) workshop led by a group so Year 8 pupils from School. The children designed and made rockets and then did a

rocket launching experience. Thank you so much to Mr Barry (one of our parents and a teacher at Pinewood school) for coming in to provide this for us with your very talented year 8 leaders.

Year 3 visited local village, Quenington to see the Fresh Air Sculpture Gardens. All of the class were so polite, respectful and genuinely excited to visit this excellent event. I was so lucky to be able to accompany them and felt proud of them all. They now have so many ideas for their own sculpture trail and have been really inspired. Year 4 are super excited to be going on the same trip next week.



Year R pupils welcomed the AK pre-school children for a visit to big school and were so incredibly caring and supportive, showing them around the classroom and introducing them to 'big school' it showed us just how much they have grown since when they joined us in September- they were like little buddies, it was great! Mrs Crowley and Mrs Serle are making their way out to visit the homes of all our new starters soon to get to know them all before they start and we look forward to welcoming the new Class R parents and carers to school next Wednesday 15th June 5.15pm in to the learning hub for a welcome meeting.

Pupils from across Key Stage 2 will be attending the athletics competition next Thursday and my team and I will be taking 53 children to this event- GO TEAM AK! I know they will all be brilliant, try their hardest and represent the school proudly.

Today, I found a very rare Roman snail (*Helix pomatia*). walking across the road in my village. I could not miss the opportunity to bring it into school to assembly to show the children and staff. These descend from Roman times when they used to feed the snails on milk and let them live in the woods around Cirencester (and other areas of the UK) and a few stayed there and today if you are very lucky you can find a shell of one or maybe even a live one (like I did today). What a brilliant opportunity for us, the children loved it and the snail seemed to too! We made sure we didn't touch the snail but cared for it all day and it has been returned to its natural habitat now to continue its journey through life. The picture is just to show you what they look like so you can keep your eye out!

Next week we have:

Beanology are back in school next Wednesday with emotional coaching workshops and I've asked Lizzie to focus on transition and moving onwards and upwards to support pupils moving to their next classes and Year 6 moving to Secondary school. It will be another fabulous day for all. We also have the **exciting visit of our Olympian Athlete** on Tuesday to look forward to. Then we are joined by a team from the Agricultural University for a **'Wild Campus' Hedgehog presentation and workshop** and finally by another visit from our **celebrity Gardener 'Lee the Skinny Jean Gardener'** next Friday. Gosh what a week we have in store and so much to excite and inspire our pupils as part of our AKPS 'Shine Curriculum'. In fact, the whole of the Summer term is bursting with exciting and igniting

experiences for our pupils! You can find this is on the calendar of our website www.akps.org.uk

A big thank you to our wonderful FOAKS team who provided a pop-up pizza and bar Thursday evening. Very kind of them to offer free refreshments with the purpose of getting families together. We are so lucky!

I hope you have a lovely weekend and thanks for always being so supportive of our school.
With my best wishes, your very proud Headteacher,

Mrs Saville

Mrs Saville