



Friday 22nd July 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the final newsletter of the year in which each class shares a few highlights from the final two terms of this year to show how they have been shining very brightly. We have had another incredible year and I hope you feel proud of our exceptional school achievements as reflected in the performance data I sent to you recently.

Sports Week Success

Recently, the whole school took part in our annual Sports Week. The children had a simply brilliant week which was jam-packed with a full range of exciting activities including tennis, football, cricket, archery, yoga, rugby, gymnastics dance and dodgeball to name just a few. During the week, we had a special visit from basketball coach Mark Waters who inspired the children (and staff!) with his energy and enthusiasm. We were also visited by Mel Tim and her famous smoothie bike – the children loved making healthy drinks and learning about different ingredients. Local sports clubs visited us and gave pupils the opportunities to try out different sports that are available in the AK area.

We also had our wonderful Year 6 children take on the staff in a netball match. The Year 6's worked brilliantly as a team and played really well despite the height advantage! The whole school cheered on both teams in the sunshine.

We finished the week with Sports Morning which all the children participated in brilliantly. The inflatable assault course was a highlight and a talking point in the playground for the next few days post Sports Week! Well done to all of our children for representing their houses so well and trying their best in all of the activities. Thank you to Mr Tanner and all of our visitors and volunteers for their time and effort in making AK Sports Week so brilliant once again.



A Fabulous way to end the AK Festival!

Ashton Keynes school were delighted to be invited to take part in the Picnic in the Park on the last day of the AK Festival. The sun shone as many local families came together to picnic and listen to a celebration of young musicians. The Ashton Keynes school choir made us proud by singing a variety of songs, with beautiful soloists. This was followed by a selection of young performers showcasing their talents. Performances ranged from young instrumentalists to up and coming bands of the future. Our ears were treated to a wide variety of music from piano solos to drum riffs, rock bands to stunning vocal solos. It was fabulous to see past pupils performing too. A fitting way to finish what was a fabulous festival. Many thanks to the superb team who made it all possible.



Theatre shows- Fisherman's Tale and Railway Children

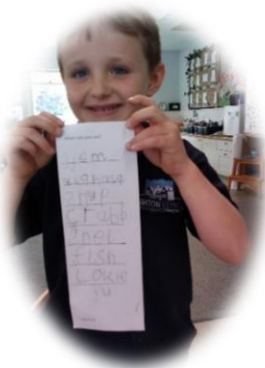
We have had two excellent theatre experiences recently in our school hall. With the Fisherman's Tale, a biblical retelling, we also treated the children and staff to an ice lolly. We treat the children to an annual theatre experiences as part of their 11by11 experiences and this year it was the classic 'The Railway Children'. The older children (Years 4 and 5) got to do an exclusive backstage workshop after the performance to learn about the workings behind the theatre including the technical side. The whole school enjoyed this while Year 6 were enjoying the West end performance of 'The Lion King' so exciting theatre experiences all round.

Classes Shining Brightly:

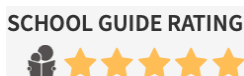
Year R

The last two terms in Class R have flown by and we cannot believe the children have come to the end of their first fantastic year at Ashton Keynes school. Just like the caterpillars we watched transform into butterflies, the children are ready to fly into the next stage in their school lives.

Reading and writing are an important part of our learning in Class R and during Term 6 we started using our new Phonics programme.



All children in our class have made super progress during the whole year and are entering Year 1 with a strong set of literacy skills. Twice weekly we celebrate being 'Marvellous Me'. A child is chosen to take home the much anticipated 'Marvellous Me' box in which 3 special items are placed. The box and contents are then brought into school to be shared with the class. Tahlia finished off this year's round of 'Marvellous Me' which we all enjoyed. Jasper's turn included a very successful magic trick!



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Like the rest of the school we had a great time during sports week. We played cricket and basketball, we danced, we watched the staff vs Year 6 team netball match, made smoothies on a bike, and of course participated in a hugely successful sports day. We thank Mr Tanner for his brilliant PE coaching over the past year but had possibly had one of the best lessons this term when he introduced us to the sport of cup stacking! Pure joy!



A highlight for us was performing our first-class assembly for the rest of the school and our families. Although we were a little nervous, we made our voices heard and we were so proud of ourselves. We shared experiences from our trip to Westonbirt and our Spring Walk; two occasions where we were able to get into the great outdoors and enjoy learning away from school.

We've celebrated the Queen's jubilee, created a sculpture for the sculpture trail, learnt all about life under the sea, grown our own veg, listened to countless stories, learnt new and exciting vocabulary, have become confident with numbers, and above all have had a lot of fun! Class R you have been

fantastic. Keep shining brightly!

Year 1

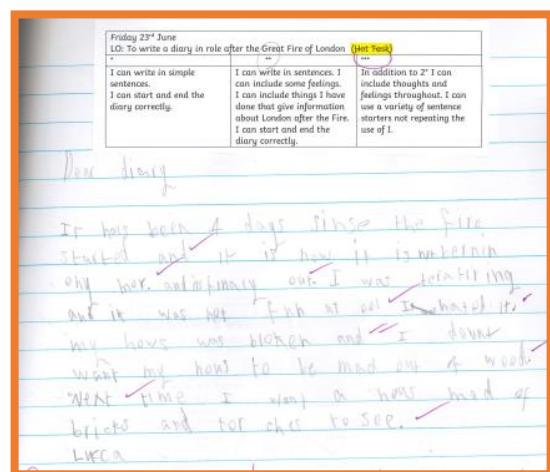
We have been loving our topic this term, 'The Great Fire of London' and have learnt so many new interesting facts. We have looked at the cause of the fire, how it destroyed houses and why it took so long to put out. Here is an example of the incredible writing that has been produced

throughout the term. The class have done so much learning across the curriculum around this area of History. They enjoyed visiting our school outdoor timeline to see where this event happened in History!

We have also enjoyed listening to the presentations by this term's mini experts.

Sports week was brilliant, we all had so much fun trying out different sports lots of which we had not tried before. We wrote a letter thanking Mr Tanner for organising it. Year 1 have

been amazing and Mrs Simpson and I are so very proud of them all for shining so brightly as individuals and as a team. They will be brilliant in Year 2!



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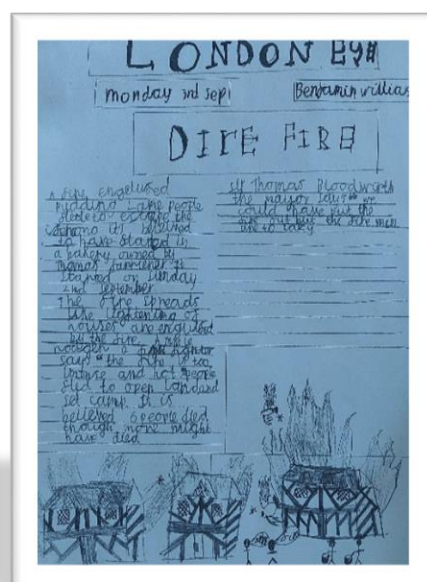
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Year 2

Class 2 have had another busy term.

The focus in English and history has been the Great Fire of London and they are now all officially experts on this area of history! The quality of writing the children have produced has been excellent. They have written setting descriptions of London in 1666, produced non-chronological reports on Tudor housing, written poetry, diary entries as Thomas Farriner and Samuel Pepys and finally published some impressive newspaper reports. Here is a picture of Benjamin's report.



The children shared their impressive knowledge of the how the fire started and why it spread with the school and parents in their class assembly. We were so impressed with how clearly they spoke, how beautifully they sang and how tunefully they played their recorders! 🎵

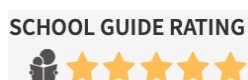
The children enjoyed making their flower sculptures for the AK Sculpture Trail and even received a lovely email from the artist Ruth Molliet who said "The work they have produced is beautiful both as individual flowers and an installation as a whole. I love their choice of vibrant colours and the methods of assembly are really clever and effective to make the 3 dimensional blooms."



Sport's Week was an action-packed week which the children loved. They experienced such a variety of sports including basketball, rugby, cricket, dance and tennis. The week ended perfectly with a fun packed afternoon which included an inflatable assault course and an ice pop - perfect!



As I write this, I can't believe we are now in the final week of term. The children have been an absolute delight to teach throughout the year. They really are a great team and are all more than ready to enter KS2 😊🌸



PROUD TO BE A
MUSIC MARK
SCHOOL

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Year 3

Well, we're almost at the end of yet another brilliant term, and sadly, year. We'd like to begin by saying how proud we are of the children for managing the changes throughout the year impeccably – they've been a real credit to both the school and their parents.

They've also shone so brightly throughout our learning!

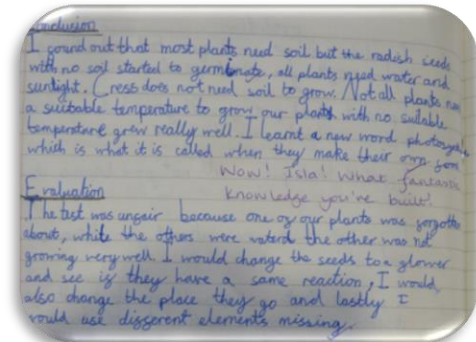
In science, we've learnt about both plants and animals, including humans. The children have really impressed us with the amount of knowledge they are retaining after each unit, even now telling us what we learnt about Mary Anning months ago. In science, we conducted an experiment to see what plants needed in order to survive. The children then wrote a scientific report about their findings, which was fantastic!



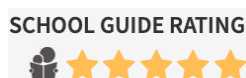
Earlier this term, we visited the Ashmolean museum to support our learning in our history topic – Ancient Egypt. The children enjoyed looking at the artefacts and learning more about this ancient civilisation. Recently, we had the pleasure of sports day, which we were delighted parents were able to attend once again. The children showed real perseverance, team

spirit, and excellent sportsmanship throughout.

Lastly, we had the pleasure of having the children at school for a sleepover on the field; they had the BEST time. From games on the field, to pizza, ice-cream and chocolate in the hall, followed by free time in tents with their friends. It was such a lovely evening – one we feel the children absolutely deserved. Once again, they continued to impress us with their kindness to others who had wobbles, the fun they found in everything and the sheer determination to see it through: we are SO proud of you Year 3! We felt privileged to be able to spend the evening with all of you.



Thank you for a wonderful year. We are beyond excited to see what you achieve in Year 4.



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Year 4

It has been a fantastic final term for us in Class 4 and I am going to miss every single child in the class. They have grown so much, made so much progress and are ready for Year 5 (following a nice relaxing summer break!).

In Maths, we have been focusing on geometry and statistics; exploring properties of shape, looking at symmetrical patterns, reading and interpreting data and we have even begun to draw our own line graphs! Our English has had focus on letter writing; from writing letters inspired by *Secrets of a Sun King* (our class reader) to writing letters to the Prime Minister/our local MP demanding more action be taken to reduce the amount of plastic pollution around the world and particularly, in our oceans. The children were horrified to learn the true extent of the damage caused to the planet and its fantastic wildlife and it has inspired them to demand more from the powers that be. This has also linked in with our Geography unit looking at all things water and why clean water is essential. They have investigated the water cycle, our water treatment systems and have explored the causes and impact of flooding (including a case study of the Gloucestershire floods of 2007).



This inspired the creation of our own sculptures, the newt and the owl. The children loved designing and creating these using old plastic which was on a journey to landfill as well as a range of CDs that had been scratched so had no further use. Thought was put in to how to make the shape, keep things sustainable but also ensuring our sculpture was eye catching!

The children have worked so hard this year and certainly should be proud of everything they have achieved in Year 4!

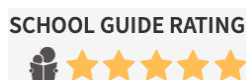


We were also very lucky to have been invited to visit the Fresh Air sculpture trail in Quenington. The children loved exploring the sculptures, seeing what could be made using recycled materials and even getting a chance to build some of their own using the supplies issued by the fantastic education team at the venue.



Year 5

Year 5 have had a brilliant summer term and have continued to work exceptionally hard. In English, we have been reading 'The Highwayman' poem by Alfred Noyes and wrote monologues to express various character's feelings. We have also been reading the graphic novel version of Tom's Midnight Garden and making comparisons with the film. In Science, we have been learning about different materials. We have been learning about mixtures and compounds and the make-up of blood. We investigated solids, liquids and gases and made 'oobleck' to investigate this further!



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The highlight for Class 5 this term has to be their recent residential visit to the Christian Adventure Centre at Viney Hill. From canoeing to abseiling, team building to low ropes, the children challenged themselves brilliantly throughout their stay and were a real credit to themselves and the school. The children loved the experience and enjoyed the night hike in the Forest of Dean woodland and spotting wild boar prints! Well done Class 5!



Class 5 you have been superstars once again this year and you are now ready to be Year 6 from September. Keep shining brightly!

Year 6

In Design and Technology, Year 6 made waistcoats for their teddies. They had to design our waistcoat, develop their paper pattern, cut out material and sew it together. The children all had the chance to use a sewing machine to join their pieces together.

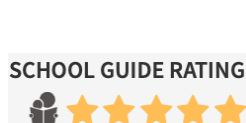


In science Year 6 looked at evolution, variation and adaption. They thought about the characteristics they have inherited from their parents for example the type of earlobes they had and even the shapes of their toes! They even discussed who in the class could roll their tongue or not!

They researched Charles Darwin and his journey on the HMS Beagle to the Galapagos Islands. Having found out about him and his discovery of evolution, Year 6 wrote fact files and biographies.



Finally, they looked at the importance of the fossil record as evidence of evolution. They even had a go at making their own trace fossils and made moulds of them using plaster of paris.



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Year 6, along with Year 5, also attended a fabulous STEM (Science Engineering and Maths) workshop led by a group of Year 8 pupils from Pinewood School. The children designed and made rockets out of paper and card. Afterwards they carried out a rocket launching experience which was thoroughly enjoyed! This has been one of the children's favourite activities this year.

Farewell Year 6

We could not be prouder of this class. They have shone so brightly both academically, making incredible progress, but also as young people. They have been brilliant role model to the rest of the school and fabulous Buddies to class R. Their leavers assembly was a mix of reflection, thought, emotion and lots of fun. I have been so lucky to have been able to see them grow and learn through their seven-year journey of them and know that they are now ready for Secondary school where they will continue to reach and grow. Thank you, Class of 2022, you have been a very special part of our AK family. Keep in touch!

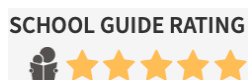


I hope you enjoyed reading my recent letter about school performance and staffing plans for September. I also hope you enjoyed receiving your child's annual reports. May I take this opportunity on behalf of my team to wish you all a relaxing Summer break and thank you for your continued support. I am very much looking forward to us all returning back to school together at 8.45am on Monday 5th September refreshed and ready for another action packed fabulous academic year together.

With my best wishes,

Mrs Saville x

Your Proud Headteacher



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