



Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Shining Brightly:**

We are having such a lovely time in school. I am the lucky one who gets to visit every class each day to see learning in action and see how happy our children and staff are and to see first-hand the high- quality learning which takes place. Here are a just a few highlights from the last couple of weeks.



**Comic Art Visitor** On Wednesday this week, we had a very special visit from comic book fanatic and author Kevin F Sutherland. He has written and drawn comics from The Beano to Marvel, Doctor Who to Viz and Red Dwarf to The Dandy! He led an inspirational whole school assembly and demonstrated how having a positive attitude towards comic art is key! He came in to share with children some excellent tips for drawing comic art, how to use your



imagination to draw and he was so much fun!

Following on from his assembly, Classes 5 and 6 were lucky enough to take part in his comic strip masterclasses. Both year groups came up with their own comic title and made their own individual



comic strip to form part of the whole-class comic. The children worked brilliantly and absolutely loved it – they were even lucky enough to take home a caricature drawn by Kev! The feedback from staff and pupils was just



excellent. We will be getting Kev back every two years so that

our children get to have a comic workshop when they are in class 5 or 6. Here are the coloured covers the classes designed with Kev for their class comics during the workshops- wow! Even the staff had a special session with Kev after school and had our caricatures drawn! Here is mine!





## Class R were brilliant on the first ever school trip

We are super proud of Class R who went on their first school trip to Westonbirt last week. They had a super day finding out about signs of Autumn and exploring the arboretum. A lovely inspiring day and the children were just brilliant and really enjoyed their first school trip together.



## Sports News

### Sports hall

### Athletics

This week, 28 children from Year 5 and 6 took part in an athletics event at Cirencester College. All of the children participated in various catching, throwing and jumping activities. Well done Team AK- we are proud of you all! Thank you as always to Mr Tanner for making these events happen for our pupils.

## Pupil Leadership

I love how much leadership opportunity there is in our school for all of our pupils. From being democratically elected onto the very active school council, supporting subject leaders, doing daily jobs and responsibilities, coaching other pupils, lunchtime leaders, reading and library leaders to organic leadership clubs. I am always so impressed by how children come up with such brilliant ideas and how they are so supportive and inclusive of one another! In the past couple of weeks, I have seen some great lunchtime clubs led by our pupils such as: running club led by Year 4 pupils, a fitness club in the planning with active circuits to involve all classes and a special wellbeing crafty club where pupils will be making custom made 'squidgies' all led and designed by two of our Year 5 pupils. I am so proud of our pupils and look forward to the next club idea which is brought to me by our pupils from across the school.





## Stay and Share sessions for parents, carers and pupils

We started our new sessions and have loved your feedback which show that they have been very well received. Each class will have invited their parents and carers in before the end of this term (16<sup>th</sup> December) to come and sit with your children and have a learning chat to share their learning together. We always make books available for parents' evenings but there is so much learning that goes on beyond what you see in the books and we want to give you chance to be in the classroom and listen to your child as they talk you through their learning. It has been so lovely to see this in action. Don't worry if you couldn't come this time; we will do it in the Spring term and again in the Summer. There are a few classes who are scheduled to do theirs this second term so you will hear from them before Christmas for your invitation. The sessions are usually first thing after drop off or just before pick up to make it easier for parents and carers. As we get more into the routine of these, teachers can give the dates in their termly newsletter to make sure you can get the date in the diary and have enough warning to plan it in.



Class R had a very special stay and share session with an hour of bedtime stories by firelight for pupils and their parents and carers which was so well received. Many children returned to school in the evening, wearing their pyjamas and with their teddies to listen to stories and drink



hot chocolate. It was a lovely cosy hour and all the children enjoyed showing their families around their classroom and sharing stories

together. We are so excited to continue these new sessions each term and share these wonderful learning experiences with our pupils and their families.

## Firework evening Gratitude

Thank you is not enough. The firework event was just incredible and so well organised and I am thankful to all who helped to make it happen. There was so much hard work and goodwill given to this event led by our amazing FOAKS team and spread to lots of incredible helpers and volunteers. We were sold out at 2,000 tickets which is incredible. The firework display was just spectacular. I thoroughly enjoyed myself singing with my band and watching all of the pupils and families who were able to join me and sing/ dance along! This is the biggest fundraiser of the year for our school and as I said in a previous newsletter this term it supports our learning resources for all pupils and we are so thankful for this support and we really appreciate everyone who helped with their hard work and time.





## Visiting Author

As I write this, today our pupils are experiencing a visit from local author, Elka Evald. After an inspiring assembly to the whole school where she will read part of her book to them, Elka will then be doing workshops with Classes 2 and 3. It is fabulous to invite authors into school to share their work with our pupils and show them how they made their journey to publishing their stories, it is aspirational and inspiring. We love reading in our school and we will buy copies of the authors books for our library so they can have some new titles to read and enjoy.

## Parents evening

We are looking forward to welcoming you to the first of our parents' evenings where we get to share with you how your child/children are and the specific targets we will be working on with your children in school so that you can support at home if you are able to.

## Reminder from School Council

Next week pupils can wear odd socks to school Monday to Thursday as school council will be working on anti-bullying with the whole school, celebrating difference and individuality. On Friday 18<sup>th</sup> it is non-school uniform for Children in Need and if you can, please bring in voluntary donations of 50p or £1 which we will send to the charity.

We have a couple of extra special surprise visitors (one for KS1 and one for KS2) planned for all of our pupils coming up before the Summer term which are very exciting and designed to make our pupils be wowed and further ignite their imagination and writing as part of our Shine Curriculum and I cannot wait to see their faces. I will of course tell you more after they have visited as it is a surprise but I know your children will be really excited.

Thank you for your continued support of our school and for working in partnership with us to achieve the best for our pupils.

Your very proud Headteacher,

*Mrs Saville*

Date	Event
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Lee 'Skinny Jean Gardener' in all day to work with Classes R,1 and 2. They should wear forest school clothes this day.
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> , Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> & Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	Parents evenings appointments (sign up was the week before online) - books will be out for you to come and look at before your appointment and most classes will have had stay and share sessions before hand/ afterwards
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> November	9am Year 5 assembly to parents and carers
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> until Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	Year 4 Winter residential Mrs. Saville, Miss Chomicz, Mr. Jackson & Mrs. Willis out
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	Whole School Pantomime trip 'Beauty and the Beast'
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	School Christmas lunch for pupils, staff & Governors
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Heroes and Heroines 9am (parents and carers warmly invited in) 3.15pm End of Term 2
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> January	Term 3 starts at 8.45am

