



Thursday 25th May 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Shining Brightly:

Wow- it has been another great term in school. Lots of working hard and playing hard. I think everyone is looking forward to the upcoming half term, let's hope the sun shines to re-charge us all.

Heroes and Heroines

I love Heroes and Heroines assembly; it is such a lovely opportunity to join our school family and celebrate the shine of all of our pupils. Today we were able to share our song 'Shine Bright' and will release on Spotify for you all to hear. The words the children use about our school vision whilst rapping is just so heartfelt, it is amazing. Thank you for coming along when you can, it means so much to us all and I love your feedback that the assembly really moves you and really makes your day, it certainly does ours. Our next musical experience is Shine Fest on Friday 14th July 4-9pm and then we will have the final Heroes and Heroines of the year at the end of term 9am on Tuesday 25th July. The school website calendar has all events and dates for this upcoming busy term. www.akps.org.uk

Reminder from School Council- service in action

As part of our worship this term we have been thinking about the Christian value of Service and thinking about the lessons we could learn for our own lives. School council have come up with an amazing way we can all work together to serve the local community in a positive way. They have sent this as a parent mail but here it is as a reminder. I do hope you will support them.

Dear Parents and Carers,

On the 5th June, we would like to celebrate 'World Environment Day'.

To celebrate this day and to help us to become a Plastic Clever School, we have a few plans.

Firstly, we will be celebrating the day by having a non-uniform day with an 'Earth' theme (think greens and blues or your favourite ocean top etc.).

Secondly, we are running a competition to win a backpack made entirely of recycled plastic bottles! To enter this competition, we are looking for a new design for a litter picker. This could be redesigning an existing litter picker or coming up with a genius new design. It could be mechanical, battery powered, solar charged or whatever you would like – let your imaginations run wild. Each child will be given a template to allow them to draw their design and add some extra information. Deadline for entries will be Friday 9th June – please send these in via your school council representative and make sure you have written your name and class on the entry.

Thirdly (and finally), we would love to see as many of you as possible joining us for a litter pick around the school and village after school on the day. We will begin at 3.30pm and regather back at the school for 4.15pm to see what we have found. We will provide gloves and bin bags but are unable to provide litter pickers so if you have one, please bring them along. All children must be supervised by an adult for the duration of the litter pick. Everyone who takes part will get a sticker and a certificate from school council to thank them for their contribution.

We look forward to seeing lots of you there.

Many Thanks,

The School Council Team

Maths Quiz

I was absolutely impressed and blown away by a group of our Year 6 pupils who represented the school in a National Maths quiz. They worked as a team to represent the school in an online quiz against over 400



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schools. I was not only impressed by how fantastically quickly and accurately they solved incredibly complex Maths problems but also by how well they worked together. I am absolutely delighted to report that they finished a staggering 12th out of over 400 schools in the live quiz and now have gone through to the semifinal. Huge congratulations to: Nate, Tristan, Jemima and Ruben. Thank you to Miss Redman, Maths leader, for providing us with this opportunity.

Year 6 SATS

Every year I am so proud of how our Year 6 pupils enjoy the SATs week and really do positively engage with the process and this year was no exception. Yet again our year 6 pupils made us proud. Obviously, we do not know how they have done and we will report results to parents after we receive them in July in with their reports, but we are super proud of how far they have come. We are particularly proud to be able to share this first formal testing experience with them in such a positive way.

Thank you for Coronation Celebration and foodbank donations

Thank you to all who attended the coronation celebration after school on Friday 12th May; it was so lovely and so well organised. A huge thank you to the FOAKS team and everyone who volunteered to help. I am ever so thankful to you all. It did make me smile when one of our new reception pupils for September came to the event as his first experience of big school and I think he thought big school was amazing with an ice cream van and games and stalls every day- hope he isn't too disappointed when the ice cream van doesn't show in September for his first day of big school! Thank you so much for donations to the foodbank, it was collected on the day and they were delighted with what we had donated as a school, so thank you so much for your service to others in need.

I must also thank FOAKS for organising the lovely pink cake van after school- what a great idea for the community.



AKPS Shining brightly

You may or may not have had chance to see our school in the news with praise for our recent Ofsted report. You can see the article here:



[Ofsted praises Ashton Keynes primary school for its inclusive ethos | Wilts and Gloucestershire Standard \(wiltsglosstandard.co.uk\)](https://www.wiltsglosstandard.co.uk)

To celebrate, children worked with a record producer and musician Josh Record to write and produce their own song 'Shine





Bright' based on the school's vision and values. As part of our diversity in music work, the children worked with world class rapper Ad-apt to learn to rap and then Years 5 and 6 wrote their own class raps based upon our vision 'Shine Bright, Reach for the stars'. We were delighted with how they were able to articulate their understanding of our vision through the musical genre of rap! We are now going to get both the Year 5 and 6 rap versions of our song onto Spotify for you to listen to at home, we will let you know when this is available. Thank you to Josh for his support with making this possible. Mrs. Crowley, our music lead, was incredibly proud of the children and all relished the experience. There were impromptu performances at break times and individual pupils were empowered by the chance it gave them to shine at doing something they love. It was just brilliant!



If you live near the school you may have heard the sound of cheeping coming from the direction of Class R. Eggs were incubated and excitedly watched until the crack of shells heralded the start of the emergence of the chicks inside. Class R was suddenly a very popular place to visit! Having stayed with us for a week or so, all six chicks have gone to the homes of children from the school. We now eagerly await the emergence of butterflies that are currently metamorphosing in their cocoons.



How to apply for 1:1 instrumental music lessons for your child

Please see poster with contact details to arrange 1:1 instrumental music lessons. We offer so many instruments via the Swindon Music Cooperative team and a very reasonable cost.

ASHTON KEYNES PRIMARY SCHOOL

SWINDON MUSIC CO-OPERATIVE LTD

1-1 INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC LESSONS AT SCHOOL

PIANO, BRASS, WOODWIND, VOICE, GUITAR, DRUMS AND VIOLIN

For more information on instrumental lessons please contact us on 01793 781973 or email info@swindonmusiccoop.co.uk www.swindonmusiccoop.co.uk





African Singing Workshop

As part of our embedding diversity through music work, we were absolutely delighted to welcome into our school ... the most incredible Kenyan musician. I have had nothing but positive feedback about the energy he has brought to the children and staff and I watched firsthand the children all working to produce the most beautiful sounds using voice and body percussion skillfully directed by our visitor. Wow what a diverse musical diet our children have including a contemporary rapper, releasing a pop song and working with a Kenyan musician- we all feel very inspired. Again, an enormous thanks to Josh



Record for working with us and for providing this workshop as a gift to the school- we are so grateful! We are incredibly excited by our next music visitors who will be coming in to work with us in July- more details to follow! Of course, we have 'Shine fest' which is a celebration of music at school on Friday 14th July 4-9pm and Mrs. Crowley, our music lead, is working her socks off to timetable and organise the musical events and our FOAKS team will kindly be offering refreshments. Super exciting!

MDSA vacancy

We are recruiting for new MDSAs to join our team from September (or before if possible). We have a brilliant team of MDSAs but we always need more to support. Lunchtimes are super important and the more staff we have helps our children. If you are interested in being paid to work with us for an hour between 12.15 and 1.15 even if just a couple of days a week, we would be delighted to hear from you. Contact the office for more information. I would be delighted if anyone could help us with this. All subject to safeguarding checks and a DBS would be done with the school upon appointment. Our children are amazing and they need you!

Next term, the final for this academic year is another busy one including: sports week, Year 5,6 and 3 residentials, reports, Shine fest and much more alongside the Shine Curriculum! I will also let you know about staffing and classes for next year as soon as I am able to and this should be around mid to late on in the term with the official moving up day to meet their new teacher and teaching team on the morning of Friday 21st July. Annual reports will be sent home to parents also on Friday 21st July. The end of term is Tuesday 25th July at 3.15pm. The final newsletter of the next term will have a summary from all classes for the term.

Make sure you all get re-energised for this upcoming busy and amazing final summer term of this academic year.

Enjoy the half term and we will look forward to welcoming everyone back safe and well rested on Monday 5th June 8.45am. Don't forget it is non school uniform for world Environment day on Monday 5th June-





school council have asked that we wear ocean or earth colours for awareness- 50p donation to ocean cleaning charity if you would like to but the day is also around raising awareness not just collecting money.

Your Headteacher,

Mrs. Saville

Please see the calendar on www.akps.org.uk for full dates of events.



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