



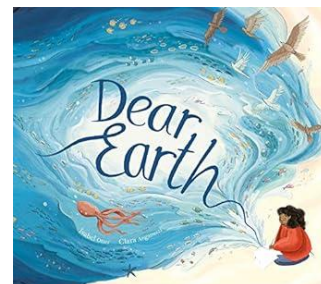
Monday 25th September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have thoroughly enjoyed being back in school and have had a really lovely and busy first few weeks of term. We have been really impressed with how your children have settled so well into their new classes and our new pupils have joined our school, especially our brand-new class of pupils in Class R, who are settling beautifully, supported brilliantly by their Year 6 Buddies.

Shining Brightly:

The whole school has started the year with the whole-school learning metaphor to engage classes with our spiritual journey: 'Our common home: love your neighbour as yourself.' We have read the book 'Dear Earth' by Isabel Otter and considered how wonderful and diverse our world is yet how we are damaging it. Some year groups investigated climate change, climate justice and how evenly the world's resources are distributed across continents.



Class 3 parents and carers visit to forest school

To meet Miss Skipper, who is teaching in class 3 this year, parents and carers were invited to a special class event to join their children on an amazing learning experience in Forest School. In Science, they have been learning about skeletons and had a hands-on learning experience in Forest School to learn even more. It was a wonderful sunny afternoon and they had the opportunity With Mr. Jackson to dissect owl pellets, finding small animal bones. Their mission was to use the bone guides to see if they could make a complete skeleton and identify what animal it may have once been. Class 3 parents and carers were also invited to share this learning experience with their children. Thank you, Mr. Jackson, for an amazing, exciting and engaging afternoon.



Fencing in Year 6

Class 6 have had an absolutely brilliant start to the year. They have been busy enjoying fencing sessions with Neil from Cricklade Fencing Club in the first few weeks of term, something we fund for every year 6 class at our school. The children have been getting used to different commands and wearing the safety equipment.





A special mention to Ella who attended one of Neil's sessions outside of school at Cricklade, as a result of trying it out in school. She did brilliantly: getting stuck into the games and footwork before putting on her fencing kit and using metal swords for the first time. She used distance to make opponents miss as well as lunging to attack and parrying to stop anyone scoring a hit. Well done, Ella!



Class R and 6 Welcome Service



We absolutely loved welcoming our youngest and oldest pupils for a special annual welcome service for buddies. Due to heavy rain we had the service in the school hall but it was so lovely to be together. The service was lovely, with Year 6 leading part of the service and creating stars, poems and prayers to share with their buddies. It was lovely for our new reception parents and carers to join us too. Thank you to Reverend Shirley and Holy Cross church for your wonderful partnership with school.

Reading Leaders

To help encourage and inspire reading across the school, our new Reading Leaders from Class 6 (with support from Miss Harrold) led their very own worship last week. The children were amazing and did a brilliant job of recommending different books to KS1 and KS2 children. They also explained the criteria for earning bronze, silver and gold bookworms. They led a very engaging worship and had worked so hard on their presentation. Well done, Reading Leaders!



Save the date: Saturday 4th November evening (approx. 5-8pm with fireworks around 6:30pm) Ashton Keynes FOAKS Fireworks event at Bradstone

FOAKS (our wonderful friends of the PTA school team) are again organising our annual fireworks event at the Bradstone field Ashton Keynes. This event will be as always, a brilliant community event and include a wonderful firework display, a live band (AKsionals), food stalls and a bar. There is so much hard work and goodwill that goes into





making this event possible from the community. Including parents/carers present and past and we are very grateful as it is not just a fabulous community event but the main fundraiser for our lovely school helping us pay for our much-needed learning resources and our PSHE and Health which benefits all of our children. Tickets will be on sale in the village shop soon and more details will follow from FOAKS but with it being a popular weekend I wanted to get the save the date out quickly, ahead of other events. I know the team are always in need of helpers to ensure it functions, even if just for a short part of the evening or helping with the prep before and after. The staff team always help too.

Visit from Wiltshire Air Ambulance Wednesday 27th & 28th Sept

This week we are very fortunate to welcome back Wiltshire Air Ambulance and they will be delivering an Emergency Awareness workshop tailored for each year group. Please see further details in the additional letter sent today in your ParentMail.

Thank you for working in partnership with us and for your continued support in helping us provide the very best for our children and we look forward to another wonderful year together.

Your very proud Headteacher,

Mrs Saville

Mrs. Saville
Head Teacher

All dates for the year are on the calendar on the school website on www.akps.org.uk to help you plan ahead. All newsletters and annual overviews have been sent to parents and carers but can also be found on class pages of our website.

Wednesday 28 th & Thursday 29 th Sept	Wiltshire Air Ambulance Emergency Awareness workshops for all classes
Monday 2 nd Oct	Year 4 Parents/Carer meeting with Mrs. Saville for the December Viney Hill residential in the Hub
Wednesday 18 th October	Last day of Term 1 – Heroes & Heroines Assembly for Parents/Carers in the school Hall 9a.m.
Monday 30 th Oct & Tuesday 31 st Oct	TD Day – School is closed
Wednesday 1 st Nov	TD Day – School is closed
Thursday 2 nd Nov	Start of Term 2
Saturday 4 th Nov	AKPS Fireworks event at the Bradstone
Thursday 9 th Nov	Tempest photography for individual school photo's

