



Thursday 25th January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Shining Brightly:

Where has January gone? Time is whizzing by, but here at AKPS we are making the most of every minute!



Young Voices concert in Birmingham On Wednesday 10th January, a large group of children (choir) and staff travelled to Birmingham to be part of the Young Voices concert. After weekly rehearsals in choir, the children were really excited to join the other schools (over 6,000 children) taking part and sing their hearts out!

The main concert followed an afternoon rehearsal and the atmosphere was amazing, it was buzzing. To see and hear thousands of children all singing together and having the most fantastic time made all the hard work worth it for Mrs Crowley and the team who were all absolutely delighted with the children's performance. It was wonderful to see so many parents there enjoying the concert and to receive such beautiful feedback, thank you for their support too. 'Young Voices' is amazing, it is a lot of organisation and responsibility and a very long day for staff and helpers (and the children) but to see the children so happy and so engaged, makes it all so worthwhile! Ashton Keynes were certainly shining brightly!



Rt Hon Damian Hinds MP
Minister for Schools

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Tel: 020 700 2288 www.education.gov.uk/contactus

Mrs Samantha Saville
Ashton Keynes Church of England Primary School
Gosditch
Swindon
SN6 6NZ

January 2024

Mrs Saville,

I am writing to congratulate you on your school's achievements in the 2023 multiplication tables check.

Your average pupil score of 24.4 out of 25 makes Ashton Keynes Church of England Primary School one of the top 200 performing schools in England for the multiplication tables check. The excellent achievement of your pupils is something the Government hopes to see replicated in schools across the country.

Knowing times tables is vital for school and day-to-day life. Recalling multiplication and division facts up to 12x12 is important for progression in maths. That is why we introduced these checks, as a helpful tool for teachers to identify those pupils who need extra support.

I would like both to congratulate your staff and pupils for their hard work and to thank you for your leadership in continuing to promote the important subject of mathematics.

Yours sincerely,

D. Hinds

Damian Hinds
Minister for Schools

Top 200 schools

We were delighted to receive a special letter from Westminster from the Minister for Schools, Rt Hon Damian Hinds MP, to officially congratulate us for being in the top 200 schools in the country for our performance in the Year 4 multiplication test 2023. We had an average score of 24.4 out of 25 so I'd probably say that puts us very near the top of the 200; especially in the light of low national average in this test. Multiplication tables knowledge, rapid recall and application is a vital part of children's mathematical development and so therefore I am delighted we are doing so well in this particular area.

Value in Focus 'Courage'

Our Christian value in focus this term is Courage and we have been thinking about stories from the Bible and the lives of Historical and current courageous people to help guide us. We have been exploring through worship: stepping out of your comfort zone, doing the right things, not the easy things, facing a challenge, overcoming fear and encouraging others. The level of interaction and reflection from the children in worship is exceptional and children and staff have been thinking together about how to improve how we lead our lives using these messages and models to help us.



AKPS pupils mark the start of local construction site.

Primary school children mark start of construction on Bewley's stunning eco flagship site of 75 new homes in the Cotswold Nature Reserve in Ashton Keynes | Bewley Homes

We were delighted to be invited to the new Bewley construction site in Ashton Keynes to dig the earth to mark the start of construction and to celebrate the winners of a site Safety Poster competition our children took part in. The entries were stunning but particular congratulations to the winners Noa Kelly, Ella Hockley-Schwarz and Martha Hammond, who I accompanied to receive their prize of a framed original of their poster and book voucher each. We had fun trying to dig the frozen ground in arctic winds and learning about the site and plans. There will be copies of their posters displayed around the site for site safety. It was fascinating to learn about the location of the build and we look forward to returning in the Spring to learn more.



Wellbeing and Children's Mental Health Week 5th-11th February 2024

The wellbeing Pupil Ambassadors have been busy planning our annual Children's Mental Health Week, building upon the successes of last year.

Dear Parents and Carers,

During the week of the 5th February, we are organizing a timetable for Children's mental health week and would like to share with you what we have on offer to support your child and you. There will be daily lunchtime activities run from the cosy cabin by the wellbeing ambassadors, and teachers all have lessons to teach across the week. Mrs Saville will be working within every class to deliver MISP massage in schools' sessions to the children and staff. Mrs. Saville is a qualified instructor (of 20+ years) for the massage in schools programme. [Massage in Schools Programme \(MISP\) - Touchline Training](#). Your children will experience the very simple and practical positive touch routine which is used as a peer massage routine to relax and restore. The Elsa team will be providing class team building sessions. There will be daily assemblies around the theme 'Our Voice Matters' and time to shine merits will be linked to the 5 ways to Wellbeing. This year we will be supporting the children's mental Health charity Place2Be again with a special dress down day on the Friday. We are so lucky to have two guest speakers to help with parents' workshops on sleeping and resilience. Here is a guide with dates for your diaries:



Tuesday 6th February: 3.30-4.15: in the Hub, Parent workshop on Sleep with sleep expert, Michelle Cyril. Would you like to improve your child's: bedtime, sleep or mornings? If you are struggling with your child's sleep or would like some support with bedtime, come along and hear Michelle Cyril, The Family Sleep Specialist, talk about sleep. Michelle will be helping us understand what happens when we sleep, our sleep hormones and the 24-hour sleep wake cycle. She will also explain five very practical ways you can improve your child's bedtime, night and mornings. Michelle is back by popular demand following her excellent sessions last year and work with Class R parents and carers this year. To book in on this free course, please contact the school office and they will add you to the list.

Wednesday 7th February: 3.30-4.15: in the Hub, Parent workshop on Resilience with Caroline Siddell.



- What is resilience – characteristics and behaviours
- How to build your personal resilience
- Create your own resilience boosting action plan

Caroline has been fundamental in supporting the school with designing our wellbeing framework and training the wellbeing ambassadors. To book in on this free course, please contact the school office and they will add you to the list.

Friday 9th February: Dress down day- children can wear their own clothes and bring a voluntary donation of 50p for the charity Place2Be.

Mrs. Saville and The Wellbeing Ambassadors

Vacancy for Midday Supervisor at AKPS

We now have a vacancy for a Midday supervisor in school. Ideally 5 days a week 12.15-1.15 pm but we are open to part time offers too. If you would like an opportunity to work within our dynamic and friendly staff team with respectful, fun and caring children then this is for you. Many of our staff members at AKPS started their roles as MDSA and have since trained as Tas or even office admin. It is a very rewarding job and our children need you! Contact the school office for more information and an application form.

Parents evenings for your diaries

Parents evenings for the spring term will be across the week of Monday 11th March until Thursday 14th March and the live sign up will take place on Monday 4th March so please help us by putting these dates into your diaries ready. Mid-year one-page reports will go out to Years 1-6 on Friday 8th March. Classes will invite you in for a stay and share to look through the books with your child before parents' evenings.

Thank you as always for your continued support.

Your Headteacher,

Mrs Saville

Mrs Saville

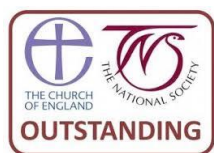
Head Teacher

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.

ASHTON KEYNES

Church of England VC Primary School

SHINE BRIGHT ★ REACH FOR THE STARS



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