



Tuesday 26th March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Shining Brightly:

It was so wonderful to see many of you at last night's music festival in Wootton Bassett and today in Heroes and Heroines at school; your support for this school is really appreciated by us all, thank you! Here are just some of the ways your children have been shining very brightly recently:

Class R



We have had a brilliant Spring term and hopefully there will be a little more warmth and sunshine as we look forward to ending the term with our Holi and Easter celebrations.

We have been brightening up the classroom with spring flowers and Mrs Dyminski has been helping us create some beautiful clay wall hangings with a spring theme. Arthur correctly informed us that we were "doing pottery."

Our Stay and Share phonics session was a great success and we hope you all



found it useful and enjoyed having an insight into your child's learning. The children certainly enjoyed having family members come and watch their phonics lesson as well as sharing their *superstar writing books* with their families. Thank you as always for your support.

Gaining an insight into the past by learning about castles and dinosaurs has been great fun. We have created our own castles, learnt about life in castles and enjoyed playing with and constructing castle role play. We even made a castle in Forest school.

Through our key texts 'Stomp, Dinosaur, Stomp!' and 'The girl and the Dinosaur', we have entered the Jurassic period (according to our paleontologist Eddie!) and have immersed ourselves in all things dinosaur!



Class 1 What a tremendous term we have had in Class 1! Our forest school sessions this term have linked to our science – how to look after our world and signs of spring.

The children looked for litter on the school grounds and talked about the damage this can cause to animals.

In their next session they then did a litter pick and were amazed at what they collected! Looking for signs of spring was a little harder with the current weather but they persevered and found some nymphs in the pond, daffodils and some blossom on the trees.



Miss Airey has been working with the class on a Design and Technology project based on designing and making a puppet. Firstly, the children looked at different ways to join materials and picked what they thought was the best. They then designed their puppet, taking inspiration from animals.



They used felt and their chosen joining method to make their puppet. This was quite tricky and involved a lot of patience! The final products look fabulous!

Mrs Dyminski joined us in class again this term for 2 fantastic art days.

The children absolutely love this time with her and the work they produce is stunning! This time the children focused on 2 books to celebrate World Book Day. They looked at Alice in Wonderland and created Cheshire Cat faces using crepe paper and pens. They then moved on to the book 'Where the wild things are' and created their own wild thing.



Our Alice in Wonderland West End dance workshop for World Book Day was brilliant. Every child took part and learnt the different dance moves to recreate a few scenes from the book.

Our book for this term has been 'The Storm Whale', the children have absolutely loved this book and have produced some amazing pieces of writing. They have had a go at letter writing, diary entries, giving advice and story writing. We are so proud of the finished pieces and have loved to see the children so engaged with their learning.

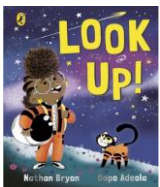
Class 2

Over the spring term in Year 2, we have made great progress in all aspects of our learning and are really proud of ourselves. We loved having the opportunity to share our learning with you in our class assembly in March and show you how we have grown in confidence since our last class assembly.

Our Stay and Share session was a great success and we hope you all found it useful and enjoyed having an insight into your child's learning. The children certainly enjoyed having family members come and see their fabulous learning. Thank you as always for your support.

We have been testing our sewing skills out with the help of some lovely parent helpers! The children have been making some felt money pouches. It has been tricky but the children have persevered and they have made some fabulous designs!

Mrs Dyminski joined us in class for 2 wonderful days of art. We started by looking at the colour wheel, explored how to make different colours, and then looked at the Fauvist Art Movement which was all about bright colours.



In English, we really enjoyed our class book, 'Look Up' by Nathan Bryon.

Through 'Look Up' we have written a huge range of texts including: persuasive leaflets, non-chronological explanation reports about meteor showers, a diary entry as the main character, a friendly, supportive note to the main character to help her cheer up, poetry and beautiful descriptions of the meteor shower.

We have also researched and written a biography on the amazing space explorer, Mae Jemison, who was the first African American woman to go into space.

We have all found this to be an exciting and interesting story with plenty of new learning to take away with us. The children's letter formation, use of capital letters, full-stops and other punctuation is really becoming embedded and their choices of expressive words and phrases is very impressive, reflecting broad vocabularies that can only have come from a wide range of experiences and conversations at home as well as school. Have a look at some of our writing:



Dear Rocket I'm so sorry
that the meteor shower didn't
show up I hope tomorrow will be
better. To Rocket from Daisy and
when my sis didn't take me to the
park I felt the same. Maybe you
can find a better one and I've
left my phone off I'd rather play
with you than look at the sky
photos.
Beautiful Thank you Daisy.

When I first saw
this book, I thought that
it would be about planets
and the solar system. This
book reminds me a bit
about stars because it's a
space theme. I would
recommend this book to
my friends because it's
really exciting. I would tell
them about something I came
in the end. I wouldn't tell
them that the meteor
shower did come. I think that
my brother would
especially like 'Look up'
because he loves
astronauts.
A super review. Well written!

Dear Rocket,
I'm so sorry that you're
feeling disappointed. It must have
been so frustrating when the
meteor shower didn't happen.
When I feel blue I
go to my room and
cuddle my teddy. I'll
I hope you feel better
soon. Love Francesca
A lovely, thoughtful note. Well written Francesca!

Look up!
Hear's did you see that one? ✓
Look up!
See the flaming tail of mercure. ✓😊
Look up!
Heart-warmed ✓
Look up
Smell hot chocolate in the breeze. ✓
Well done Bea!

Dear Rocket,
I'm so sorry that you're feeling
depressed. It must have been so
disappointing when the meteor shower didn't
happen.
When I feel upset I find it helpful to
make a scavenger hunt and do it.
I hope you feel better soon sending
hugs Love Ezra
What a super idea.
A beautifully written letter. Well done Ezra!

Look up!
See the constellations and shimmering
stars.
Look up!
Hear the whooshing comets.
Look up!
Feel the amazing excitement.
Look up!
Smell the cold air. ☺ Super writing
Look up!





In Maths, we have really worked hard on multiplication and division. We know that multiplication, like addition is commutative (the numbers being added/multiplied can be added/multiplied in any order) whereas subtraction and division are not. 6-4 is not the same as 4-6. We have also worked on the 2-, 5- and 10-times tables and can tell you lots of interesting facts about the multiples of these numbers.



We have also recently been looking at money. We now recognise the UK coins and notes and can work out how much money we have up to and over £1.

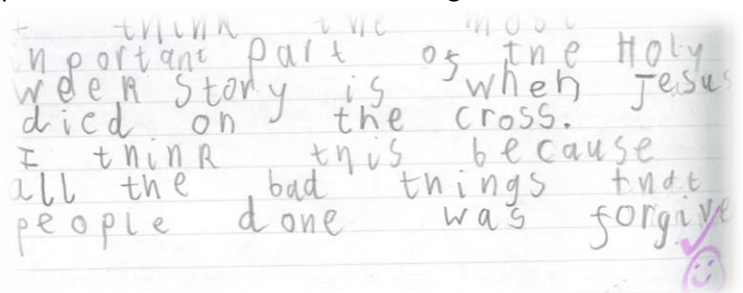
On our **Forest Schools** afternoons, we experimented with what seeds need to grow best.

We loved making the minibeast houses that we showed in our assembly.

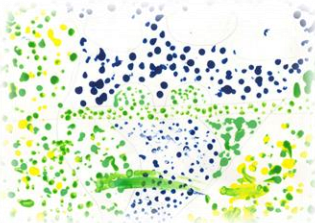
It has been also really exciting looking for and observing the signs of spring in our school grounds. We even found

some newts!

In RE, we explored Holy Week and tried to understand and then explain why Easter is so very important to Christians and why it is called the time of Salvation.



Class 3



What a fantastic term Class 3 have had. We aren't sure how we have crammed so many amazing learning opportunities in, but we managed it!

We kicked off the term with two art days with Mrs Dyminski. The children learnt more about the work of George Seurat and the foundations of pointillism. They created the most amazing pieces of art.

Our Class assembly was a huge success and most importantly the children came together as one and enjoyed the experience.

During World Book Day week we enjoyed various activities. We had the most amazing time with Emma from

the travelling theatre company, West End in Schools. The children certainly enjoyed themselves and loved having the chance to perform the Alice In Wonderland story. We also joined teacher Kit Brown and authors Ben Lyttleton and Alex Bellos for The Great Booky and Footy Quiz!!

Science Week 2024 was super busy! We looked at the science behind transport and how we can build sustainable transport for the future.

We also looked at how tech is used in sports to keep sports people safe.



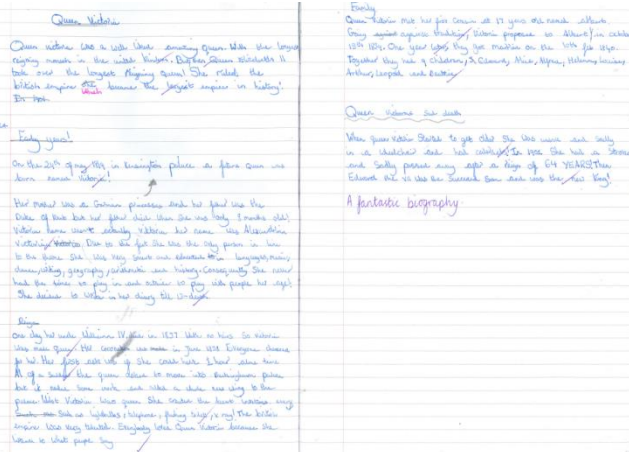


It felt like Spring was springing when we had Forest School. We had the opportunity to help Mr. Jackson with a spot of gardening and we then visited the pond with Mrs. Willis and we were lucky enough to see a newt!

Class 4

Class 4 have had a fantastic Spring term and have crammed so much learning in to such a short period of time, we all feel incredibly proud of the children. The children adored celebrating World Book Day with a difference. The West End Alice in Wonderland research was enjoyed by all and they all got stuck in to learning their parts, creating tableaux and telling the story using their bodies.

Presentation and quantity of writing has been a real push this past term and the children have made huge strides of progress in both of these areas. Our class text 'The Boy at the Back of the Class' has had us hooked and allowed us to explore a huge range of writing for different purposes. We have written informal letters to Ahmet, formal letters to his Head Teacher and even more formal letters persuading King Charles to help us help Ahmet find his family. We have also explored poetry within this unit and learned about the different types of poetry before creating free verse poems of our own.



Our Victorian unit saw the children gain an insight in to life during the Industrial Revolution; they have written letters to newspapers about the brand-new railways, discovered the jobs children had to do as well as what a day in school was like (for those who could afford it!). This also inspired some fantastic Biography writing on Queen Victoria.

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In Geography lessons, the

children have explored Mountain Environments, finding the locations of some of the most famous mountains in the world using their Atlas skills alongside learning about the features of mountains and answering the all-important question; what IS the difference between a hill and a mountain? Exploring the changes in climate when heading further up the mountain has led to some fantastic scientific discussions about our atmosphere and inspiring further learning.

The children have loved getting stuck in with Forest School sessions – pond dipping being their absolute highlight as they found not one but two Great Crested Newts!





Class 5 We've had a jam-packed spring term learning!

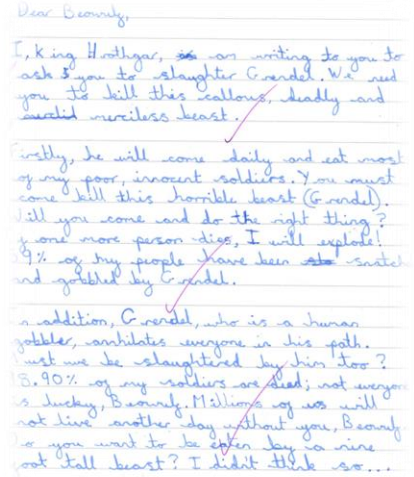
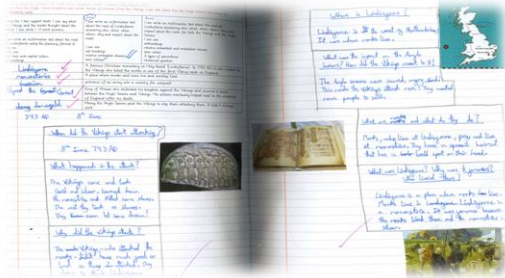


We have read the story of Beowulf and Grendel by Michael Morpurgo and have immersed ourselves into the Anglo Saxon and Viking world. We have loved learning about the hero Beowulf and his adventures against the monster Grendel and his mother! We have used this story to write persuasive letters filled with persuasive techniques and narratives that capture the reader's attention.

We have also learnt all about Anglo Saxon and Viking England. We found out about why these different groups invaded and how their

settlements have shaped Britain to this day.

Have a look at the work we have been doing:



Our art days with Miss Dyminski were fab; we learnt all about colour wheels and abstract art. We had a go at creating faces similar to that of Picasso's faces.



In DT we planned and created our own stuffed animals learning a new stitch called blanket stitch. We LOVED our creations and couldn't wait to take them home with us!





Class 6



We have had another brilliant term in Class 6. The children have been working incredibly hard in all areas of their learning. In English, we have been reading Kensuke’s Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo which the children have absolutely loved! On his family voyage, the Peggy Sue – the family yacht - encounters a terrible storm and Michael and his dog Stella Artois are thrown overboard. The pair eventually get washed up on an island known as Kensuke’s Kingdom. We designed our own holiday brochures for the island, thinking carefully about possible tourist attractions and our geographical knowledge of the Coral Sea and Australia. After reading more of the book, and finding out about a crazy wild



man ‘Kensuke’, his strict island rules and an obvious lack of five-star amenities, we wrote some online customer reviews. Have a read through some of them below – they are very impressive! In Science, we have been learning about properties of materials. We have focused on different states of matter (solids, liquids and gases) and their properties as well as electrical insulators and conductors. We also investigated static electricity using balloons – take a look!

Class 6 have also really enjoyed Forest School sessions with Mr Jackson using a lump of clay, sticks (no longer than 30cm long!) and leaves. We then pond-dipped and were lucky enough to find common newts and great-crested newts in our school pond! Mr Jackson really carefully put them back into the pond at the end of the session.

Q: To draft a negative online customer review to show dissatisfaction.		
1	2	3
I can draft a negative online review based on a holiday to Kensuke's Kingdom.	I can draft a negative online review based on a holiday to Kensuke's Kingdom.	I can draft a negative online review based on a holiday to Kensuke's Kingdom.
I can use 1 writing feature.	I can use 2+ writing features.	I can use 3+ writing features.

From: Slingshot 12/11/21 post by Bob at breakfast 27

Perfect holiday! I'm in heaven! I don't know how to say that. The place is simply perfect. I've never seen anything like it. The place is simply perfect. I've never seen anything like it. The place is simply perfect. I've never seen anything like it.

The food was absolutely superb. I think I'll be coming back. The food was absolutely superb. I think I'll be coming back. The food was absolutely superb. I think I'll be coming back.

Oh yes, the staff. The staff were so friendly and helpful. I'll be coming back. Oh yes, the staff. The staff were so friendly and helpful. I'll be coming back.

Don't miss this! A really nice holiday. I'll be coming back. Don't miss this! A really nice holiday. I'll be coming back.

OK, so, making about the potential, with... I don't know how to say that. The place is simply perfect. I've never seen anything like it. The place is simply perfect. I've never seen anything like it.

You know, I'm in heaven. I don't know how to say that. The place is simply perfect. I've never seen anything like it. The place is simply perfect. I've never seen anything like it.

Enter plan 10
5 star hotel
Perfect holiday
I don't know how to say that. I've never seen anything like it. I've never seen anything like it.

Oh well, we could try... I don't know how to say that. I've never seen anything like it. I've never seen anything like it.

☆☆☆☆☆ A brilliant review. I'll be coming back. ☆☆☆☆☆

Sammy's Success in Speech and Drama Festival



We are delighted to celebrate that Sammy in Year 6 entered the Mid-Somerset Speech and Drama Festival in Bath and won both solo acting and memorised poem. He later received the memorial trophy for the most outstanding performance of the festival in the junior category. I'm sure you will join me in congratulating Sammy in this incredible achievement. Sammy often shares his passion for



MUSIC MARK SCHOOL
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drama with the school by leading and running lunchtime drama clubs for pupils which are always well attended and appreciated.

Mock Trial Success

Last Thursday, a group of year 6 pupils took part in the Mock Trials at Cirencester Baptist Church. The event, sponsored by the Cirencester Rotary Club, is designed to give children a true taste of what a courtroom is really like and allows them to compete against another school to win the case! Previous to this, all of Year 6 experienced an excellent visit from the Magistrates to further learn about Democracy and the Rule of Law. Then a team of pupils prepared and attended a mock trial against another local school.



We were the prosecuting school, in our case, and the children worked hard during the weeks leading up to the event preparing their case for the courtroom. The morning itself was extremely nerve wracking and the children were excellent at playing their parts, such as prosecutors and witnesses. They did team AK extra proud by winning the case, after a grueling process of cross-examination by the other school. Over the course of three days lots of schools took part and I am delighted to announce that we came third overall! Well done team!



School Council's Water Aid Charity Event

An enormous well done to our very thoughtful School Council who organised a charity event for Water aid. They had to carry buckets of water around the running track for 22 laps and by doing this raised lots of money and awareness for the work of the charity and the need in our world for this basic provision to be made accessible to all. Courageous advocacy in action! Thank you to all who were able to support and take part.

Music Festival

Wow, we were incredibly proud of our children who took part in the North Wiltshire Music festival last night. They were incredible and performed so brilliantly singing and with actions and looked incredible in their 'Shine Bright, reach for the stars' t-shirts. It was wonderful to see all 7 local schools join together to sing and to also see the RWBA function band of young people inspire us with their music. Just wonderful.

We are always super proud of all of our children and how they shine both inside and out of school.

Staffing update

As you will all be aware, Miss Igoe and Miss Chomicz are very close now to having their babies and we are very excited for two more new additions to the AK family! Both will finish directly teaching their classes at



Easter but are aiming to return afterwards. However, as they will be very close to their due dates, they will not be expected to teach in class. Another staff baby is also due in the AK family this Summer and I'm sure you will be delighted to hear that Mr. Hockaday is going to become a Daddy and he and his fiancée are delighted. I'm sure you will join me in sending huge congratulations to them all.

Mrs. Voss will be leaving us at Easter. Mrs. Voss currently teaches one day a week in year 2 but has taught in many classes over her 16 years at AKPS. Mrs. Voss is taking the brave plunge away from the education system and is excited to start a new job very soon. We will really miss Mrs. Voss but are sure she will thrive in her new career and wish her lots of luck.

After Easter we are delighted that Mrs Crowley will be teaching full time in Class R and Mrs Serle will teach full time in Year 1. We also welcome Miss Jackson back from her time working in India to teach Year 2 with Mrs Drew and Mrs Drew will also teach for the majority of the week in Year 4 with Miss Redman.

This has certainly been an interesting year staffing wise at AKPS but we have been truly blessed with the high calibre experienced teachers we have secured to cover our classes; especially when you will appreciate there is a recruitment and retention crisis in teaching currently and many schools are struggling to cover classes with teachers.

Value in Focus 'Forgiveness'

Our Christian value in focus this term was forgiveness and we have been thinking about stories from the Bible and the lives of Historical and current courageous people to help guide us with this. We have been exploring through worship: telling the truth, showing forgiveness. 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. For Term 5 we will focus on Friendship (one of our school core values) and Term 6 will be 'Respect'. We have a rolling programme of Christian values we revisit in depth, helping children to reflect on living their best lives using these values within their daily lives.

Thank you as always for your continued support. Have a lovely Easter holiday and may the sun shine on us all.

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.

Wednesday 27 th & Thursday 28 th March	TD Day school is closed.
Monday 15 th April	Start of Term 5
Monday 6 th May	Bank holiday – school closed
Friday 24 th May	Last day of Term 5