



"I came that you may have life, life in all its fullness" (John 10:10)

24th July 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Shining Brightly:



So much has happened in just one term! From 3 amazing residential to loads of music, sport, theatre visit to school, incredible leavers show, Disco and fete- the school has been buzzing with activity! Here are some of the highlights (there have been so many) including from each of the classes.

Visit of the Bishop of Swindon



We were absolutely delighted to welcome Bishop Neil, the Bishop of Swindon to our school and were even more delighted to be presented with a special award in recognition of our excellent achievements and upholding of our school's vision and Christian distinctiveness. Bishop Neil absolutely loved his visit and he said it was '*Inspirational. Primary education that is creative, brave and enlightening.*' He loved seeing us perform iSing pop Stars for him and was very generous allowing the children to hold and see first hand his special cross, staff and cloak. We look forward to his next visit, judging by how much he enjoyed it, I'm sure it won't be long before he visits again!



Music at AKPS- wow what a term! We started the term with a fantastic performance for the whole school of Bubble Bach, a stunning combination of the music of JS Bach and jaw-dropping bubble art! The children were mesmerised as they listened to live performances from the oboe, cor anglais, violin, recorder and piano whilst watching amazing bubbles. Such a treat and a lovely way to experience beautiful music.





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We then were delighted to take part in the AK Music Festival, a fabulous community event which gave our children many opportunities to perform and experience live performances. Our school choir sang beautifully, to the residents of Siddington Park to start the festival week. They then took part in the Village Voices concert where they performed several numbers to a very welcoming audience and then sang alongside the fabulous Village choir and Siren Sisters. A wonderful event for all.

Throughout the festival weekend many of our talented children (and staff) took to the stage and performed to a fabulous audience. Performances ranged from dancers to an array of musicians and even the premier of a new band – Formania. Our Headteacher, Mrs Saville was delighted to perform both evenings for the community with her bands. A brilliant event, showcasing such incredible talent. A huge thank you to the AK music festival team for involving the school and hosting at the school.



FOAKS fabulous fete

Thank you **IS NOT ENOUGH!** The FoAKs team, volunteers, staff, children who ran their own enterprise stalls, performers and everyone who attended- you made an incredible fete experience for the school community and raised some much-needed funds for the FOAKS team to benefit our school!

D-I-S-C-O

Thank you on behalf of the children to FOAKS for organising the end of year annual disco. The children really enjoyed themselves and I got the chance to bust some old school moves!

Highlights from the classes:

Year R



What a fantastic first year Class R have had! As we start to welcome our new September starters with induction visits we reflect on the wonderful year our current class have had and all that they have achieved.

It's been a couple of terms of 'firsts' with our first class assembly, our first class trip to Roves Farm and our first sports week to name but a few. Our class assembly was a team triumph with all children singing, dancing and taking part. We thoroughly enjoyed our special sports morning where children and parents were able to celebrate

together.

During term 5 we looked after some very special hatching eggs. We then welcomed 'Rockstar' and 'Zigzag' into our class, and we nurtured and looked after them until they were ready to fly the nest to their new home. We now enjoy regular updates about their progress.





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Learning about the Hindu festival Holi was certainly a highlight particularly when we experienced the festival of colour ourselves. It was a joyous experience full of light and colour.

During Term 6 we based our learning on the books 'The Snail and the Whale' and 'The Pirates next door'. These have inspired so much fantastic writing including stories, lists and information writing. We have learnt so many interesting new words and phrases that have really enhanced our knowledge and understanding of life in and under the sea.

Always willing to dress up and get into character, we had a great time

becoming pirates and mermaids for the day. Walking the plank became a little risky although fortunately no one actually got eaten by a shark!

It has been a fabulous year and we are so proud of all the children and the fantastic start they have made to their AK school journey. A big thank you must also go to the parents and carers of this class who have been so supportive and played such an important role in the superb progress the children have made.

Year 1

As we come to the end of this final term, we find ourselves reflecting on all fabulous things we have achieved over the year. This term is always a busy one and the one that the children seem to enjoy the most and for us it is the one in which we see the children grow the most.

Our science topic on plants saw us heading out on a school trip to Westonbirt arboretum, a place a lot of the children had been to before and absolutely loved it with us too.

The children loved exploring the arboretum and seeing all the amazing plants and wildlife.

Eli nearly ended up bringing home a couple of caterpillars that had got caught on his hat!



Perseverance and enthusiasm is something we have seen in all of the children every single day, they have produced some beautiful pieces of writing, tackled some tricky maths and investigated in science and history. They have also been great computing experts, and now know how to log onto the laptops without any help! They have loved their unit on Scratch Jr and seeing what they can make their sprite do!

Our DT activity making banana and strawberry or raspberry smoothies was a hit with all the children. They peeled, chopped and watched the fruit whizzing around to make a delicious (well most of us thought so!) drink to enjoy on a hot afternoon.

Sports week was brilliant and was topped up with a superb sports morning. It was truly amazing to see how determined and supportive the children were. The whole class cheered each other along, celebrated everyone's success and tried so hard. We could not have been prouder of the class.

A big thank you must also go out to the parents and carers, your support throughout the year and has been greatly appreciated and is reflected in the progress all the children have made. A special





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thank you must be said to Katherine Robinson and Ann who have given up their time every week to listen to the children read, we don't think you know how much the children look forward to this time with you.

Year 2

Class 2 have had a busy summer term

Forest school The children built dens and worked really well as a team to build their structures, with no rope to secure the branches. After they'd added leaves to cover the branches, Mr Jackson put their dens to the test to see how weather proof they were and poured water over them! There were some wet but very cheerful children!



The Great Fire of London We have been learning all about the Great Fire of London. The children enjoyed a special theatre performance from the Trunk Theatre which really brought the story to life and was a great way to start

their learning. Special thanks to the Art Society Corinium for helping to fund this amazing show.

They are all incredibly knowledgeable about the events and have produced some excellent work showing how well they have understood why the fire spread so quickly. Here is an example:



The children shared what they had learnt with their parents in their class assembly. They performed poetry, sang songs about the Great Fire and ended with some beautiful recorder playing. We were incredibly proud of how well they delivered their lines and performed with such confidence showing how ready they are for key stage 2.

The children produced some fantastic art with Mrs Dyminski. They used art foam to create animals inspired by the picture book *The Lion Inside* by Rachel Bright and produced stunning prints. They also used their colour mixing skills to create beautiful colour wheels using watercolour paints.

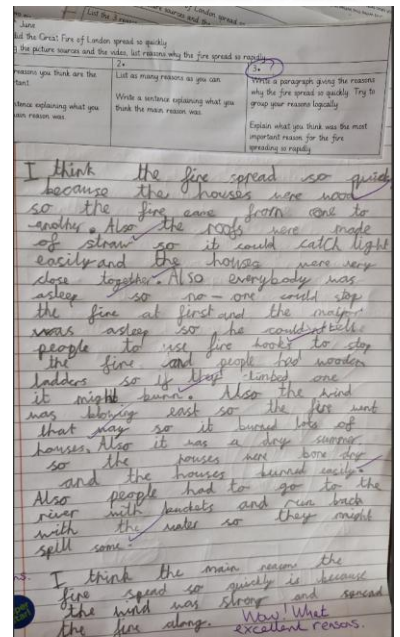


Sports Week What a lot of fun was had! The children were treated to a wide range of sports including quidditch, tag rugby, golf, football, pom dance, gymnastics and archery. There was a real team spirit and the children were very supportive and encouraging with one another. It was lovely seeing the children try new sports.

Butterflies What better metaphor to end a year 2 and key stage 1 than releasing butterflies! The children have been fascinated by the class caterpillars and have watched as they formed chrysalises. They returned from the weekend to

discover they had emerged as beautiful butterflies. We fed them tasty fruit and provided them with flowers until they were ready to be released.

Many thanks to parents for all your help and support this year. Have a fantastic summer





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Year 3

Class 3 have had such a brilliant year showing such great courage, perseverance and growth. It has been such a busy summer term and the children have really shown how much they have

grown since the beginning of the year.

Class 3 have really enjoyed their forest school lessons this term, where they've been working on their teamwork with building dens (where they did get a bit wet) and orienteering. Thank you to Mr Jackson and Mrs Willis who have provided such enriching and enjoyable lessons.



This term in Science, we've been investigating all about plants, forces and magnets. Class 3 have loved our science experiments throughout the year and have been real investigators, thinking about how we can create fair tests and recording results accurately. They loved testing objects around our classroom to determine if they were magnetic or not and our friction experiments.



This year's sports week has been incredible! We went to the High Road Park twice in the week and all of the children persevered so well. I think all of us tried a new sport, including the adults! I was so impressed with all of the children during the week and especially on Sports Day. The children showed great sportsmanship and support to peers and it was very successful.



Our Year 3 Camp out was a huge success! The children were so well behaved and all enjoyed the experience. We are so proud of them for their first night away with school. This will have prepared them well for future residential as they move up through the school. A special thanks must be said to all the parents and carers who loaned us their tents for the night and put them up in the extreme heat and to Mrs Thomas for stepping in last minute to ensure the night could go ahead.

Thank you to all the parents and carers who have supported the children throughout the year. I hope you'll agree that each and every one of them has made such great progress and have grown so much. A special mention for Maisie's mum and Annabel's granny who have come in to read with the children each week and have volunteered so much of their time. All of the children look forward to these afternoons and have become better readers because of you, so thank you!

Year 4



How we have reached the end of another year, we will never know! Thinking about the many (many) achievements that the children have had this year brings us so much joy! Summer term is always packed full with amazing events, and this year has been no exception.

We have been on a school trip to Chedworth Roman Villa. The children absolutely loved this and particularly enjoyed that we were escorted around the site by a 'real' Roman citizen. He gave us so much information about how Romans would live their lives, speaking about the hierarchy of society throughout. This was a great opportunity for the children to ask questions and to see some real architecture still standing from Roman times – the mosaics were particularly brilliant!



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During sports week, we had a huge array of sports to try. Some of them included dance, curling, fencing and dodgeball, amongst many others. The children resilience and perseverance levels were incredible: they tried absolutely everything and weren't put off if they didn't get it right away. Such a testament to how far they've come this year.

We've also taken part in several forest school sessions: always a highlight for the children when they come around, and as a teacher, I love it too as I get to spend some quality time with them. One of our sessions consisted of us creating shelters with very few materials, and nothing to hold it all together. The children were incredibly resourceful and worked brilliantly in their teams. The real challenge came when Mr Jackson, armed with a watering can, began checking to see if what they had built was waterproof. Needless to say, the children absolutely loved this and were thoroughly disappointed if their shelter actually did as it should – kept the water out!

As always, we extend a huge thank you to all of you for the constant support that you provide us with throughout the year. Your children have been such a wonderful class to teach and we are genuinely sad to see them go, but very excited to see what they go on to achieve in Year 5 – great things we're sure! The progress that they have made this year is exceptional, and a well-deserved Summer break is on the horizon. Have a wonderful few weeks.



Year 5

What a term Year 5 have had and what a way to end the school year! All year we have been exploring and learning new things but this term has been full of its own delights!

Viney Hill has been one of our absolute highlights! We set off to the Forest of Dean in glorious sunshine ready for two nights away and a whole host of exciting and challenging activities. This year was a bit different as Viney Hill now had beautiful new cabins for us to stay in.



We enjoyed a whole host of different activities from tunnelling to canoeing and bush craft to the Leap of Faith high ropes activity. We toasted marshmallows, attempted to spot deer and wild boar and gained in confidence on the quick jump. By the time we came home we were exhausted but exhilarated!



The fun didn't stop there for Year 5. We were incredibly lucky to have a concert by Bubble Bach. What's Bubble Bach? It's a concert where you listen to the music of J Johann Sebastian Bach played on a variety of different objects including the oboe and the piano whilst watching an amazing bubble show!



Summer term has been a term for DT in Year 5. We've made our beautiful soft toys showing off our sewing skills learning blanket stitch. But, we have also made wind powered cars as part of the





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RIAT STEM challenge working in teams to make the most cost-effective car which can travel the furthest distance. We were incredibly lucky to take part in yet another STEM workshop where we built Lego robots, created code to make them drive around in a square and then tested them out.

Sports Week was fantastic. We were given the opportunity to delve into new sports like golfing, archery and fencing. Sports day was possibly our favourite day of the week as we especially enjoyed the aqua challenge!

Year 6 Amazingness

What a beautiful class of pupils. They are ready for their next move to secondary and we are immensely proud of them all. They have been amazing buddies and treated us to the most incredible, award winning, leavers' production and a heartfelt church service which they designed and led. They also challenged their parents and carers to a highly competitive BUT FUN game of rounders. They are so, so special.

SATS

Another stunning year and our Year 6 pupils have shone their socks off in their academic achievements, progress (from where they started with us) and also as young people, they are brilliant. The overview of the results can be found on our website.... We have achieved significantly above national again in all areas!

Class 6

Class 6 have had a brilliant final term at AKPS. The children have worked exceptionally hard all year and we have had another brilliant term together! We thoroughly enjoyed the recent residential trip to London and the children represented themselves, and our school, brilliantly throughout the week. They took in many of London's famous landmarks including: climbing to the very top of St Paul's Cathedral, a ride on the London Eye, experiencing the thrills of Shrek's Adventure and enjoying the incredible West End Show 'The Lion King'. They even got to go white water rafting in the Olympic rafting centre in Lee Valley which was brilliant fun! The children even got to jump in and swim through the

rapids at the end! All of the children and staff had a fantastic time and have made memories they will cherish!



Sports Week The whole school recently took part in this year's Sports Week! The children enjoyed a busy week filled with a variety of different sports and activities involving local clubs and parents volunteering their time and support – thank you! Class 6 enjoyed a trip to 4Lakes for paddle boarding which they absolutely loved. Again, a huge thank you to the Bloemsma family for accommodating us and we



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look forward to this becoming a new AK Sports Week tradition!



The whole school enjoyed taking part in a wide variety of sports throughout the week. Golf and table tennis (KS2) were two new sports to AK and the children absolutely loved them. We will now be incorporating table tennis into our lunchtime play.



Sports Morning was a real success and a fantastic end to a brilliant sporting week! Thank you to all of those parents, carers and grandparents who came to support the children and our AK community. The sun shone brightly for AK Sports Day and families were able to enjoy watching their children compete in various sporting challenges including the aqua challenge, javelin, jumping, seated throw and of course the track races. This year the KS1 winning house was Saturn and the KS2 winning house was Mercury. A big well done to all of the children in those houses but also to the rest of the school who gave their all and earned valuable points for their houses. Again, Sports Morning was supported by the Sports Leaders from Kingshill who did a brilliant job helping to run the different stations.

If you are involved in a local sports club and are interested in providing a sporting activity for next year, please do let Mr. Hockaday or Mr. Tanner know. Here's to Sports Week 2026!

AKPS School Improvement Plan (SIP) 25/ 26 key areas

- **Key Area 1** Strategic use of technology - including AI-powered tools – to enhance teaching effectiveness, raise pupil outcomes and reduce staff workload
- **Key Area 2** To further develop pupil leadership to empower pupils and aid with smooth transition to secondary school and beyond.



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- **Key Area 3** To become a trauma-informed school so that all people in the AK community can effectively manage and respect neurodiversity. This object will continue for two-years. Y1 is researching, training and setting up a strategy at AKPS and Y2 is embedding and monitoring impact.

SIP (school improvement plan) next year- appeal for parent careers support

Key area 2 of our annual school improvement plan for 2025/2026- we will be appealing for help from our wonderful parent/carer community around careers. As part of our personal development we want to look at careers with the pupils to inspire them and help them see why subjects at school and work ethic are important from primary age so they understand the importance of their journey through school. I'd love to hear from a range of careers and employment our parent community might have to share with the children to inspire and inform them. If you think you would like to be part of this, please email the school office:

office@ashtonkeynes.wilts.sch.uk and let us know. We will make note of responses and contact you next academic year once we have the plan underway. We might ask you to do a short talk/ workshop. We will confirm once we have interest and know how many we have. I am keen to ensure a range and diversity in careers and employment experiences we share with the children if we can.

Staffing news

Miss Humphreys, one of our teaching assistants will be getting married this Summer and return as Mrs. Cooper- congratulations to her!

Mrs. Winter, an ex-parent and a valued member of the staff teaching assistant and MDSA team leaves us to pastures new. We wish her every luck with her future, send our love and thank her for being part of TEAM AK for many years.

Heroes and Heroines. I absolutely LOVED seeing so many of you join us to celebrate all of our children in this special termly assembly which enables families to join us with a particular focus on our wonderful outgoing Year 6 pupils. We celebrate children every Thursday in *Time to Shine* but at the end of each of the 6 terms we open the invitation to families to join us. The first Heroes and Heroines of the next academic school year will be 9am on Tuesday 21st October for the end of Term 1.

May I take this opportunity, on behalf of the school, to wish you all a restful Summer and thank you for your brilliant continued support. I love being Headteacher of this wonderful school. We look forward to welcoming you all back to school on Monday 1st September 2025 at 8.45am for the start of another exciting academic year at AKPS.

Best wishes,

Mrs Saville

Mrs Saville

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.