



Friday 17th October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Shining Brightly:

Where does the time go? We are already at the end of the first term but we have packed so much in at AKPS. All classes have been super busy with lots of exciting learning taking place. I've included a few highlights for you in this newsletter.



Class R WOW! We are super impressed with Class R, within a couple of weeks of starting school it was like they have always been together, despite coming from many different nursery settings. They are a wonderful class team and have settled so well into big school!



They loved having their welcome service in Holy Cross church where their wonderful Year 6 buddies led a service to welcome them and their parents and presented them with a special message of hope, support and aspirations on a bespoke personalised star. They have also been busy finding out about the magic of Autumn. They have been on an autumnal walk around the village where they picked up a record number of conkers! They have loved creating leaf people and making kites to fly in the windy weather. Forest school was a hit and the children loved creating their own forest school wands using the array of autumn colours they could find outside.



Class 1 They have made brilliant transition to year 1 and start on the AKPS Shine Curriculum. We are so impressed with them!

They have been demonstrating what fantastic writers they are both in their books and when sharing writing together using whiteboards. They are keen readers too and we have been so impressed with the dedication to daily reading that has been shown. In Science we've learnt about our bodies with a particular focus on the senses. Blindfolds have been used when using our sense of taste, smell and hearing. We also wore them to experience what it might be like to be unable to see properly.



Class 2

Class 2 have had a 'Wild' start to the year. We have been exploring this text by Emily Hughes and carefully considering words to describe both character and setting, written letters to some of the characters giving advice and then retold the story. This has highlighted that we have some fantastic story tellers amongst us. They have also been travelling all around the UK within geography, completing map work labelling countries, capital cities and seas/oceans, investigating the flags and learning how there are similarities and differences between the 4 nations. A very impressive start for the class – super well done!





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

Class 3



Class 3 have settled beautifully to the juniors. They were absolutely delighted to be joined by Ali Ball, an Egyptologist, who came into school to deliver a whole day of brilliant activities. The day started off by looking at replicas of famous objects found in Egypt. We practiced our code breaking skills by looking at hieroglyphics. We also reminded ourselves of some of the most famous pharaohs. They even had a look at the process of mummification... by removing some of the (fake) organs and placing these in canopic jars. Our

exciting day ended with the children making their own heart scarab beetles out of clay. Wow, what a creative start to Year 3!



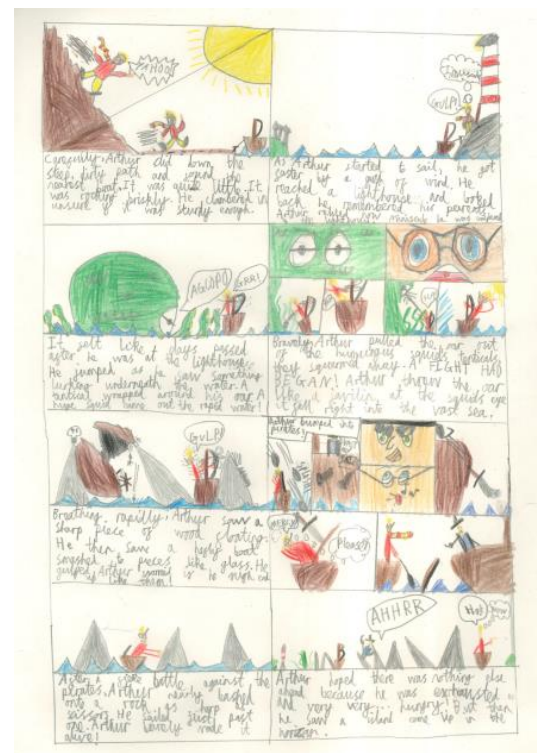
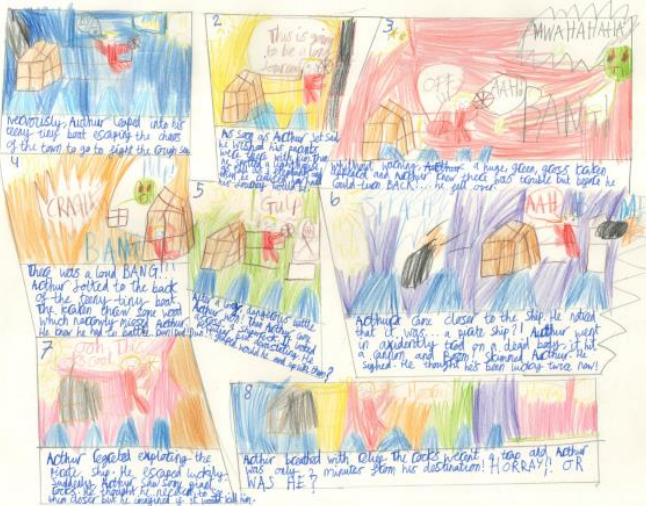
Class 4



Class 4 have made a super start to the year and we are very excited to be taking them on winter residential in December. They have had several enjoyable forest school sessions with Mr. Jackson and Mrs. Willis. They were learning how to start a fire using steels. Mr. Jackson made it look so easy! Whilst there were lots of sparks, it took a lot of patience and perseverance to eventually light a pixie pillow. It was lovely to see how cooperatively the children worked and how helpful they were with each other.



The class have been enjoying reading Arthur and the Golden Rope and have created their own cartoon strips using some of the story events. Here are a few fantastic examples:





Class 5

We are super impressed with the class as they start in the upper juniors, what a great group of children they are. They started a brilliant new book called Brightstorm! In this story the twins Arthur and Maudie live in a world with sky ships! They have used this book to create exciting diary accounts full of chatty language and description. They have even designed our own exploration maps based on the twins' adventures as part of a crew of a sky ship.

Class 5 loved their visit from Wiltshire Police where they were taught all about keeping themselves safe online. They learnt that we should never publish identifying information about themselves online as well as talking about what ages people need to be to use different social media sites. Two of the class are digital leaders and are working on a pupil presentation for the whole school on online safety after what they learned in this visit and in class as part of the curriculum.

Class 6



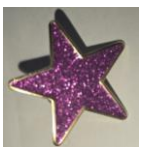
We are beyond impressed with the Year 6 class. Super learning, attitudes and wonderful buddies to the younger children. They are great role models for the whole school. On Monday 6th October, Class 5 and 6 were lucky enough to have visits from Wiltshire Police to talk about how we can all stay safe online. During the session, the children learnt about:

- Suitable technology for their age (including ages for different apps we use)
- How to keep safe when using the internet and what a good online profile should look like
- What cyberbullying is and the impacts of being hurtful to others online

- How to keep safe when out and about with friends and family

The children found the sessions really interesting and enjoyed listening to a catchy song which reinforced online safety rules. From the session, the key message was to not to talk to strangers online and to keep your personal information to yourself and report anything to a trusted adult when appropriate. We explored the legal ages for apps such as Snapchat and WhatsApp and certain games which surprised a few of our pupils! We also learnt about how we can use childnet.com to block strangers online. Finally, the children enjoyed asking questions at the end about online safety and cyberbullying.

We have some useful links to online safety and parental controls on our website via this link: [Computing](#)



New AK Pupil Leadership Star

Staff are working hard behind the scenes on further developing our highly successful AK pupil leadership programme. Each teacher is a subject leader and designing a role for children in KS2 to apply for to lead in specific subjects across the curriculum. We are working to develop what children understand about leadership and how it is more than just jobs or responsibility. We have a brilliant



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organic leadership programme where children come to see me most days to set up clubs for other children based on interests. We have formal groups such as worship and eco council, digital leaders, reading and library leaders, school dog leads, wellbeing ambassadors and democratically voted school council. Developing subject leaders will be brilliant and staff are excited to launch this next term. These roles will require commitment, interest, stickability and effort and will be something for children to aspire to in KS2. We have launched a brand new sparkly purple leadership star which children will earn through their commitment to and growth in leadership roles. Those children already in committed roles will receive their purple stars but there will be some expectation attached to these leadership stars and this will take time to build up to, not just one-off clubs or activities. We aim to really further and develop our children's leadership in the school which will serve them well now and certainly in the future. The whole school community are super excited about this new leadership opportunity and of course to achieve the new purple star at some point in the future.

Value in action This term our Christian value in focus has been Generosity. We have heard many examples of generosity including through Bible stories and have reflected on our own generosity and our impact on others. We have thought about ways we can be generous but not always having to involve material things/money. We have reflected on sharing our own skills and talents and behaviours to benefit others and not always expecting something in return. It has been so wonderful to see this in action. Children in our school have such brilliant care for one another as demonstrated by our buddies and pupil leaders. They have been using the natural environment and creativity to make others smile. It has been a brilliant to see. Next term the value in focus will be Compassion.

Guide Dog Fundraising Thank you

A huge thank you to all who took part in our guess the name of the puppy competition and congratulations to winner Bonnie in Year 6. Thank you to school council and Miss Airey (who oversees the council) for organizing the event and raising awareness of the important work of guide dogs. We were delighted to raise almost £70 to send off to help train more guide dogs, thank you for your support.

AK Fireworks When: 8th November Where: Bradstone fields, Ashton Keynes. All funds benefit our school and we really need the help! Please come along and support our annual fireworks event. It is a truly brilliant event and the biggest fundraiser to help our school. We are in desperate need of a new projector for the hall. Our old one died and we have a donated one which is not working well. School cannot afford to replace it so really need help. The event is a brilliant community fireworks event, a spectacular display, family friendly, live music (The Aksionals band), activities and great local food and drinks. Thanks to our wonderful FOAKS team and all volunteers for making the event possible. Please attend, support, and help if you can- even if just for an hour. We have unusual local competition from a rather huge national company (not for charity) firework event in the local area the week before so we are really hoping our event is still well attended as it is local, family friendly, has been established for years and run by the school and village community volunteers. With ever decreasing school budgets, school really needs this fundraiser! Thank you! Bring everyone you can!

Tickets available online here: <https://buytickets.at/foaksfriendsofashtonkeynesschool/1864402>

Tickets are also available to purchase in the Ashton Keynes Village Shop

Finally, we invite you to consider signing up to volunteer. Your assistance is equally important as purchasing a ticket! Just one hour of your time can make a significant difference and is essential for ensuring a successful event.



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You can sign up here - <https://www.signupgenius.com/index.cfm?go=s.signup&urlid=10C0848ABAC28A1F4C52-58701065-akfireworks&useFullSite=true#/>

Over half term why not pop into this:



Thank you for your continued support.

A reminder that school finishes this term on Tuesday 21st October. We hope that many of you can make the Heroes and Heroines assembly at 09:00hrs on that day.

We are looking forward to welcoming you back to school for the start of term 2 on Monday 3rd November at 8.45am as we head into the festive term of sparkles!

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.

ASHTON KEYNES

Church of England VC Primary School

SHINE BRIGHT ★ REACH FOR THE STARS



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