



Thursday 12th February 2026

Dear parents and carers,

We have had another brilliant term in school. The children have continued to make excellent progress and the staff have, once again, been really impressed with the children's hard work and love of learning. I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to you all for your ongoing support and to all of the staff team for their hard work too.

AK School Choir Goes Large – Young Voices

Our school choir loved performing at the World Resorts Arena in Birmingham in the Young Voices choir. They all had a fabulous time singing and dancing in a children's choir of over 6000 to an audience of family and friends. The live band, star singers and incredible street dancers 'Urban Strides' all contributed to an amazing, memorable experience. Our children shone brightly and made us very proud.

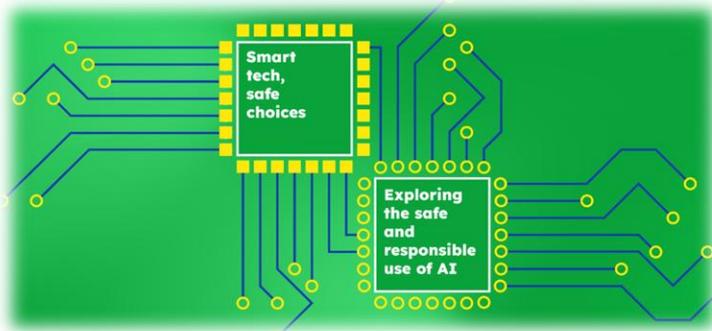


School Pond – Forest School area

We have been very lucky this winter as we have recently had our Forest School area refurbished. The decking has been replaced and the pond completely dug out and relined. Thank you to Sam Cole (AW Cole Services Ltd) for completing these works for us. We look forward to planting new pond plants and developing the area further in Forest School sessions.



Tuesday 10th February - Safer Internet Day



This week, the whole school took part in Safer Internet Day. The children enjoyed learning based around the theme 'Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI'. Across the school, we explored the impact of AI on all of our lives, how AI can be used for good, and giving advice and guidance that empowers people to use AI safely and responsibly.

Class 3 Assembly

This term we had the pleasure of watching Class 3's assembly. It was action-packed and the children did a brilliant job of demonstrating their learning from this academic year so far. Their recorder playing and singing was particularly impressive! Well done Class 3.

Children's Mental Health Week

This week in school, our well-being ambassadors have been busy arranging activities for Children's Mental Health Week. The team, from Years 5 and 6, led an assembly about the 'Five ways to well-being' and planned some fun events during lunchtimes linked to these. A particular favourite was a scavenger hunt outside encouraging the children to take notice of our fabulous natural environment. Our Year 5 and 6 buddies gave their time to read stories with our youngest children and the children were all encouraged to stay active.

Attendance success

A huge well done and thank you to the 64 children who have 100% attendance for this current academic year to date. The Department for Education tracks attendance carefully and we aim to have an attendance figure at AK above 97%. Our attendance figure to date is currently 97.4% which puts us in the top 20% of schools nationally (our current attendance data is 2.6% above the national average). Thank you for all of your support with prioritising your child's learning through excellent attendance. Well done, Team AK!

An attendance reminder...

Our absence reporting policy is to report any absences by phone call to the school office on 01285 861436 by 9am. If you are bringing in a sibling, it's fine to advise the office in person as you drop off. Please do not email absences to the office – thank you for your cooperation with this.

Stay and Share/Parents' Evening reminders

We are looking forward to seeing parents at our Stay and Share sessions after half term. These will once again provide you with the opportunity to spend time with your child looking through their books and talking about their learning – please see the timetable below:

Stay and Share dates (week before parents' evening):

Class R	Monday 2 nd March at 9am
Class 1	Monday 2 nd March at 9am
Class 2	Wednesday 4 th March at 9am
Class 3	Tuesday 3 rd March at 9am
Class 4	Thursday 5 th March at 2:45pm
Class 5	Wednesday 4 th March at 2:45pm
Class 6	Friday 6 th March at 9am

After half-term, we will have parents' evening where class teachers will be discussing your child's progress and sharing their mid-year reports. The booking system will go live on Monday 2nd March at 3.30pm. To book an appointment, please follow this link: <https://akps.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

If, for any reason, you are having difficulties booking an appointment please do contact the School Office who will be able to book an appointment on your behalf.

Non-uniform day – Friday 13th March

From the Record family...

Late last year, our family faced the heart-breaking loss of a much-loved family member. Josh's sister, Laura, was an incredible Aunty to Eva, Jesse and Harloe, and a devoted mum to two young children. After receiving a terminal diagnosis, Laura was referred to **Prospect Hospice**, who supported us with extraordinary care and compassion. They helped us through difficult conversations, cared for Laura with dignity, and allowed our family to be together at her bedside, day and night. You never expect to need this kind of care but we truly don't know how we would have coped without them. Prospect Hospice continues to support our family even now. They provide specialist end-of-life care for patients and their loved ones, 24 hours a day, free of charge. Through this fundraiser, we hope to support their vital work so they can continue to be there for other families when they need it most:

<http://2026GetPROBathHalf.enthuse.com/pf/francesca-record>

Prospect Hospice
together making every day count

As a school, we would love to support the Record family with their fundraising and we know that our school community will too. Therefore, there be a non-uniform day on Friday 13th March with a suggested monetary donation of 50p or £1. In addition, there will be a cake sale after school; if you would like to donate cakes, please contact Josh or Cesca directly. We look forward to raising as much money as possible for Prospect Hospice on the day.



Class updates

Class R

Class R have had a really fun term filled with lots of new learning and exploring. We began by surrounding ourselves with all things wintery and icy cold. The children loved making their very own ice mountain which led our interest into life in Antarctica and the Arctic.

Our learning then turned to traditional tales and the story of the Gingerbread man. The children had great fun retelling the story and then creating their own stories with a unique twist, some of our new titles were 'The Waffle Girl', 'The Pie Person' and the 'Potato Boy!'

The Enormous Turnip was equally as popular a story and the children loved working as a team to pull up our very own enormous turnip in our forest school learning!



Class 1

Class 1 have absolutely hit 2026 running. They have had a super term showing determination and resilience both with their learning and the weather! In RE, we have been finding out how the Jewish festival of Hannukah is celebrated. Dreidel is a game often played at Hannukah and we enjoyed learning the rules and having a go. The best bit was spinning the dreidel!

In our classroom we are keeping a keen eye on some basil plants that we planted as part of our Science. Thankfully they are starting to grow and we love checking them every day to see their progress.

We love stories in Class 1 and the story maps we created for 'Lila and the secret of rain' were amazing. Some of us even made our own versions of the stories in home made books.



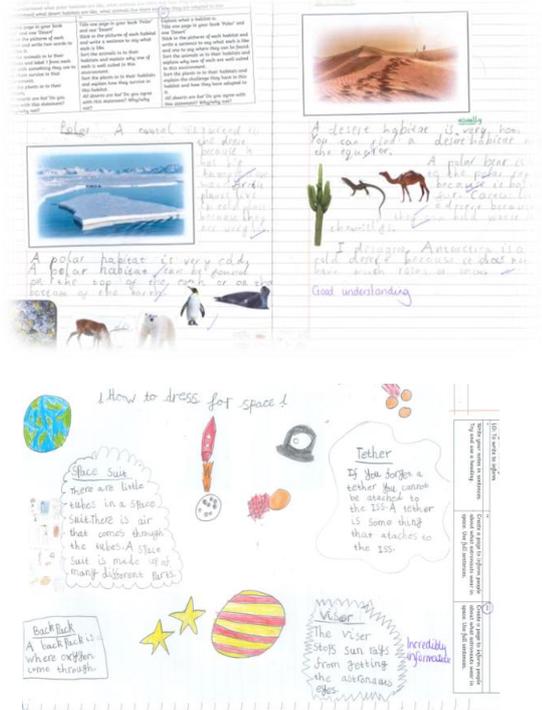


Class 2

Class 2 have been virtually exploring the hottest and coldest parts of our planet and investigating what it means for something to be a 'desert'. In both Science and Geography, they have explored what these places are like, what makes them trickier habitats and how both flora and fauna have developed to survive there. They then took a closer look into both the human and physical features of Greenland and Singapore and made some comparisons, considering what it might be like to live in one of those places. This was also supported by a fantastic forest school session where the children investigated the flora and fauna of their local area and even had a go at creating some of their own microhabitats for these.

The children have also been investigating what life is like for Muslims with a focus on how they pray including the process of Wudu and using prayer mats with the focus being answering the question of "Does praying at regular intervals help a Muslim in their everyday life?" They have even designed some of their own prayer mats.

All of the teachers in class 2 have been blown away by their progress in their writing. This term, they have been inspired by space and have used 2 different texts to support their writing. The Man on the Moon and Look Up! The children have been exploring writing for different purposes; they have made fact files about space, explanation texts about meteor showers, character descriptions, diary entries and even biographies! An incredibly busy time and plenty of fantastic work to show off at the next stay and share session and their upcoming class assembly.



Class 3

Class 3 have had a fantastic term since coming back from the Christmas break. In English, we have been looking at character descriptions, formal letters, narrative endings and comic strips. The children have really enjoyed reading 'The Lost Happy Endings' and 'UG Boy Genius of the Stone Age' as our core texts.

As you know, we have been practising our recorder playing each week and the children have now revisited B, A and G. We will be moving onto further notes after half term.

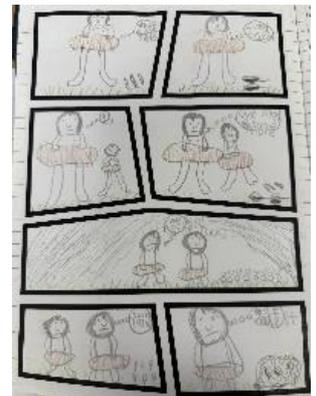
We are so proud of the children for their class assembly to parents and carers. The children delivered their lines with such confidence and pride. We hope you enjoyed hearing about what we have been up to!



Class 3 have also loved finding out more about the Stone Age this term. We've looked at evidence that has been found in caves – including cave art. We even had a look on our school grounds for things we could use to survive if we were back in the Stone Age.

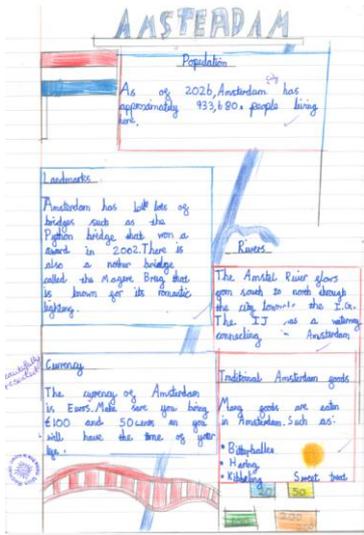
Outside of the classroom, the children have absolutely loved doing gymnastics in PE with Mr Tanner and learning more about soils in Forest School. We have done an experiment in Science, looking at which type of soil absorbs the most water. The children had to think really carefully about what to change, what to measure and how to carry out a fair test.

We were also very lucky to have a Wiltshire cricket taster session, even though it was very wet, and the children persevered well and really enjoyed learning different skills.



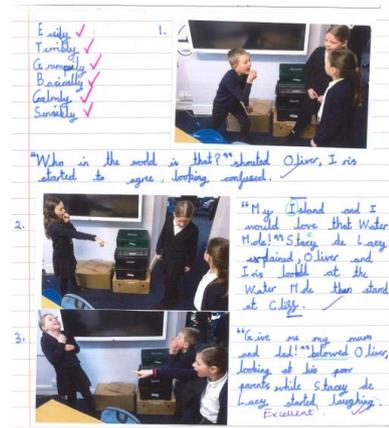
Class 4

Class 4 have been enjoying reading Oliver and the Seawigs. They have written in a variety of styles, including diaries, poetry, descriptions, dialogue and, most recently, information books. They enjoyed an opportunity to act in role as the characters in the story



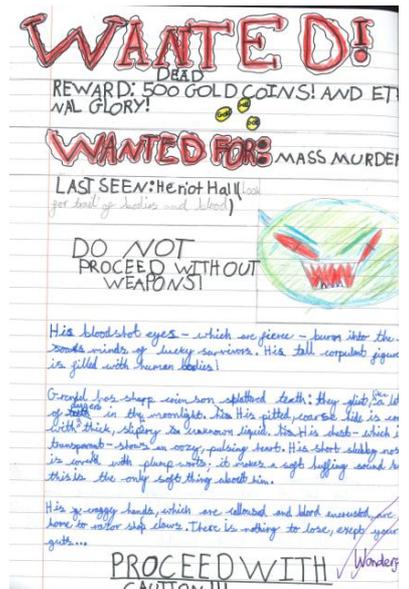
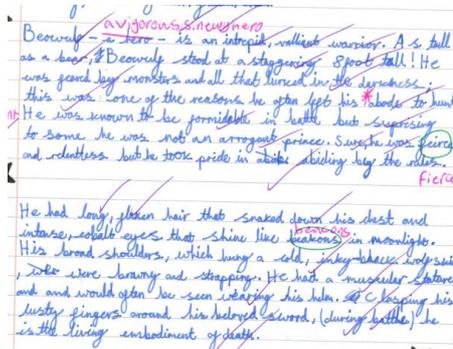
In Science the we have been learning all about sound. Using decibel meters, we attempted a fair test to discover who the loudest child in our class was – and it wasn't who we were expecting it to be! Instruments have been used to explore how the pitch of a sound can be altered and we carried out a strange test using a triangle with string attached that was held to our ears whilst it was struck! Give it a try – the result may surprise you!

In Geography, we have been finding out all about the countries of Europe and are officially experts at locating countries and their capital cities using an atlas and identify many of the major European flags. The children have used iPads test their knowledge using interactives quizzes and also to research a European city of their choice to find out more about it. Their fact files looked great.



Class 5

In English, Year 5 have had a lot of fun reading the very, very gory story of Beowulf. We have used this terrifying tale to create a character descriptions and to write newspapers of Beowulf's victory. We have also linked this to the topic we have been looking at in History - the Anglo Saxons. When we learned about the burial at Sutton Hoo we started to see links between the historical/ archaeological evidence and the events described in the story.



In DT, Year 5 learnt about building bridges. We were fascinated by the Clifton Suspension bridge and its architect Isambard Kingdom Brunel. We looked at strong shapes within bridges experimenting with different types of trusses as well as heights of arches. We then took our knowledge and used it to build our own truss bridges out of paper straws.

Class 6

Class 6 have had a fantastic term in school. The children have worked incredibly hard and have, as a result, continued to make excellent progress in all areas of their learning. This term we enjoyed a visit from two magistrates who work at Cheltenham Magistrates Court. The children learnt about the differences between a crown court and a magistrates court and enjoyed having the opportunity to ask lots (and lots!) of questions. The children particularly enjoyed working in pairs as detectives to spot 20 crimes that were taking place in a street photo! The children were fascinated to meet real magistrates and the interactive session gave the children a fantastic insight into how our legal system works.

Key dates for next term:

Monday 2 nd March	Parents' evening booking system goes live - 3.30pm
Monday 2 nd – Friday 6 th March	Stay and Share sessions (dates/times below)
Wednesday 4 th March	Abi Evans dance workshops (PE kit for all)
Friday 6 th March	World Book Day
Monday 9 th – Thursday 12 th March	Parents' evening
Wednesday 11 th March	Class photos
Friday 13 th March	Non-uniform day/cake sale (Prospect Hospice)
Wednesday 18 th March	Class 2 assembly to parents (9am start)
Friday 20 th March	Comic Relief Red Nose Day (non-uniform)
Tuesday 24 th March	Class 1 assembly to parents (9am start)
Thursday 26 th March	Heroes and Heroines (9am start)

Forest School dates for next term:

Tuesday 24 th February	Class R
Wednesday 25 th February	Class 1
Tuesday 3 rd March	Class 6
Wednesday 4 th March	Class 2
Tuesday 10 th March	Class 4
Wednesday 11 th March	Class 5
Tuesday 17 th March	Class 3
Wednesday 18 th March	Class 1
Tuesday 24 th March	Class R
Wednesday 25 th March	Class 2

Finally, I would like to wish you all a great half-term break and the staff team and I look forward to welcoming you and your children back to school on Monday 23rd February at 8.45am.

Best wishes,

Mr. Hockaday
Deputy Headteacher



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