



Wednesday 24th July 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Shining Brightly:

What a year this has been and the past two terms have given our children and our school opportunities to shine incredibly brightly! I am delighted to share some of the ways we have been shining along with highlights from each class. It is a mammoth one so, sit back and relax and enjoy!

Year 6 Super stars

I must begin with our Year 6 Leavers. They have been truly incredible. My team and I recently took them to London and they were outstanding, so respectful, brilliantly behaved (of course) and they challenged themselves to try new things in this very diverse and action packed residential. Beyond all of this they were an absolute delight to spend 4 days with, my team and I loved every minute. We were so thankful to receive the amazing and kind feedback from parents afterwards. They have performed the MOST AMAZING leavers show, 'I'm an 11-year-old, get me out of here' led their Year 6 Leavers service in church and fully engaged in school life right up until the end. I am beyond proud of them. They all leave to the next chapters of their life with a toolkit of success for secondary school which they own and can use including: brilliant learning behaviours, excitement about challenging themselves exceptional values and moral, the most amazing academic results and really importantly some amazing memories of their time at Primary school which will stay with them forever. They are all more than prepared for Secondary and their new schools will be so lucky to have each and every one of them. Good luck Year 6, you have made us so very proud- go and shine!

SATS Success

Our Year 6 have had some of the best results to date in their KS2 SATs. They really enjoyed the assessment week and certainly showed what they could do! The results show our incredibly high performance against national again, for the ninth year running. We have achieved significantly above all areas again this year and our progress measures for this class will be excellent. We are delighted. We have ensured that our pupils continue to thrive and achieve exceptionally well across the whole of our 'Shine Curriculum'. We have put these results on our school website under 'performance'.

Music awards

We love music at AKPS and we proudly share our work with other schools. This year I am delighted to inform you that we have again achieved 'Music Mark', received the Wiltshire Singing School Award and Mrs. Crowley, our exceptional music lead has been awarded the very prestigious Wiltshire Inclusive Music Award for 2024. I was moved to watch the choir perform to parents on Tuesday after school and this is just one part of the wonderful diverse music curriculum of opportunities we offer to all children here at AKPS.

Science Mark

I am absolutely delighted that our school has been awarded the Science Mark for our work in Science. Our fantastic and highly skilled Science lead, Mrs. Serle worked hard to ensure we were compliant and ready for the rigorous assessment which resulted in us gaining this award. We are proud of our Science Curriculum at AKPS.

Air Show Engineer Winners!

Year 5 were incredible at the Royal International Air Tattoo- we all loved every minute. We take part in an annual STEM challenge in order to attend and the two Y5 winners representing our school were Lucy and Noa. They were incredible and only went on to win the whole competition against 9





other schools! We could not be prouder of them- they kept calm and worked so brilliantly to ensure their design won and they presented well. It was a super hot day but we all got goosebumps as the Red Arrows did their display and flew over our heads. It was the perfect day and what an amazing achievement for the girls and for our school and our STEM (Engineering work).



Year 3 camp

Class 3 joined us for a Friday night camp out on the school field and they were tremendous. They were all exceptionally respectful and played, ate and slept during their wonderful evening together at this camp. This will prepare them for their next exciting residential in just 4 months' time to Viney Hill! It was an absolute pleasure to provide this night for them, they were brilliant!



Sports Week

Once again, our annual AK Sports Week was a huge success! The children had an action-packed week which included visits from many local sports clubs. The children all experienced a range of different sports in addition to their usual PE lessons including:

Archery (The Range), Yoga (Ms Jackson), Netball (Miss Wing), Cricket (AKCC), Tennis (AKTC & Elliot Kami), Rugby (Minety RFC), Football (AKYFC), Martial Arts (Phoenix Martial Arts) and lots more!

The annual Year 6 v Staff netball match was as competitive as ever and both sides showed great teamwork and perseverance as the rest of the school supported brilliantly and cheered the two teams on. It was a very close affair with the staff narrowly taking the win... A special mention to Mrs Saville whose competitive side really did shine as brightly as ever!

Despite the weather, Sports Morning was a real success and a fantastic end to the week. It was brilliant to see so many parents supporting the event and cheering on their children despite the drizzle – thank you for your support. The 110ft long assault course was popular with both children and parents and it provided some after-school entertainment for all!



Quidditch

Watch this space, on November 6th our children will experience a very unique and special experience day with external visitors, where we will launch our new sport at AK Quidditch! This is a unique sport offer we can provide for all of our pupils within our PE curriculum and will be funded by the school, FOAKS and a charity bid.



New KS1 Play area

You may have noticed a very exciting development taking place in the school grounds? We are delighted to be building phase 1 of our playground project. This is designed for KS1 pupils and will provide them with beautiful equipment to play on which enables them to use a wide range of skills that our grounds don't provide e.g. climbing. We have been working very hard as a school to do this, ever since the build and we are lucky to have had some donations in addition to the school funding from FOAKS and Leigh Trust. Phase 2 of this will need fundraising help from FOAKS and we are hoping to make this the key focus of our efforts over the coming year to build a large and exciting piece of climbing equipment for KS2 pupils. Members of the school council have helped with the design of this, we just need to work together to raise the funds to aim to get this installed next Summer term.

FOAKS

All of the events that FOAKS provide are designed to bring the community together and provide brilliant events for pupils and their families. Along with this it raises much needed funds for the school. Every single year, FOAKS pay for our learning resources for our Curriculum which we loan from Wiltshire library and helps us towards the incredible number of in-school events that we provide to our parents /carers for free. The Fireworks is our biggest fundraiser and so I give you Saturday 9th November 24 for you to save the date for this event as we really need support and to raise funds towards phase 2 of our playground project. Thank you to FOAKS for providing the activities this year, funding our resources, Quidditch kit and helping towards our KS1 play area. Thank you to everyone in this school and wider community who come to events, help or give to enable us to raise this much needed money. School really appreciates it and we ensure it is carefully spent in order that every single child at AKPS benefits. Thank you from the children for the D-I-S-C-O you provided! The children really enjoyed themselves and had an amazing time- even the staff bust some moves!

Affordability

We are proud to work as an affordable school. We work hard to try to provide a really full and enriched Shine Curriculum for our pupils at little to no cost to families. Outside school activities such as residential, we carefully plan to keep the cost to an absolute minimum. We try to support families with payment plans, advanced notice of residential and where absolutely required a meeting with myself, Head, to see how we can help towards the costs. We try to help to ensure children do not miss out due to financial disadvantage. Our overall aim is to provide the best we can at the best value we can to support all families and our staff, especially with the increase with the cost of living. We will continue to work hard with this affordability drive at the heart of our work to ensure that no pupil misses out due to financial disadvantage and that this school continues to offer the best for less!

Here are the Shine Summaries from the past two terms for each class:

Class R What a fantastic 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 and our first sports week to name but a few. Experiencing a sound bath during our yoga lesson was a firm





favourite during sports week and we thoroughly enjoyed our special sports morning where children and parents were able to celebrate together.

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!

Basing our learning this term on the books 'The Snail and the Whale' and 'The Pirates next door' has inspired so much fantastic writing

including stories, lists and information. 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.

It has been a fabulous year and we are so proud of all the children and the fantastic start they have had 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.



Class 1

The summer term for Class 1 has been a fantastic and varied one! We've learnt about plants; sowing seeds and watching them grow. Hopefully when we return to school in September there will be a gorgeous display of sunflowers to welcome us all back.

We've learnt about Victorian houses, seas and oceans and Jewish traditions. We've used Word on the laptops, Scratch on the ipads and made our own windmills. But we've also found time for daily Phonics and reading, Maths and English. This term our English work has been inspired by 'One day on our blue planet – the Savannah' and we have been authors of some excellent fiction and poetry writing. It also inspired us to paint some beautiful Savannah scenes. We have loved learning about the animals that live and play on the African Savannah.

Sports week was a highlight for us and gave us the opportunity to try kickball, dodgeball, cricket, martial arts, speed stack and yoga. In yoga we experienced a sound bath with Ms. Jackson's singing bowls. We relaxed for a whole 10 minutes (yes 10 minutes!) letting the vibrations of the bowls calm and reset our minds and bodies.





Class 2

Wow! What a summer term we have had; action packed and fun filled as always!

Although the weather hasn't been that hot, it's been burning up in Class 2 as we have learned all about 'The Great Fire of London' and how it started. Did you know it started in a bakery? We loved investigating all of the



secondary sources of evidence and imagining that we were actually there at that time in history.

We have worked super hard in all areas of learning but especially in English. We have been reading *The Fox and the Star* and we've had a great term acting, drawing, writing and creating stories. More recently, we visited 'All Things Wild' as our class trip and we had the BEST time. We saw lots of animals, visited dino land and got to hold an armadillo. The armadillo was so cute and was peeking out at us when we held it.



We'd now all like one for a class pet!

We are all ready now for the summer break and very excited about moving to the juniors in September. Year 3 here we come!

Class 3

Wow!! What a busy time we have been having in Class 3. We had so many wonderful opportunities for growth lately and it has been amazing to see the children rising to every challenge and engaging with everything that has been offered to them.

The children made incredible tiles with Mrs Dyminski. They have tested forces, materials and friction in Science. We took this one step further and continued our learning of forces into Forest School where we build aircraft from natural resources only.

During Sports Week the children were provided with some fantastic sporting opportunities. The weather was erratic but it didn't at all dampen the children's spirits and they gave absolute maximum effort to everything they tried. It was lovely to see so many smiling faces and tops adorned with stickers.

Then came the CAMP OUT!! Sleep, what's sleep...??

The children were absolutely incredible and we are so incredibly proud of each and every single one of them. All 30 children joined us and participated in all the activities on offer. It was joyous to watch them in our setting with a new-found sense of freedom and togetherness. The happiness on each child's face was heart-





warming and it was lovely to see them leaving (blurry eyed) still with a huge smile on their faces. A great time was had by all.

They are already super excited for Viney Hill!

Class 4 Wow, what a fabulous Summer term we have had. For Geography we were tracking the river Thames around Ashton Keynes and studying the flow of the river. We produced some beautiful art work from this experience. We were complimented by the general public on our behaviour at our recent visit to Quenington Outdoor Sculpture event. The children loved the experience and produced some more beautiful art as a result, working beautifully over the course of two days with Mrs. Dyminski producing some clay pieces. The class looked at some summer flowers and discussed their features and colours, and then set about designing some of their own more creative flowers. These were then turned into the most beautiful clay flower bowls and painted to represent summer! We had some really wonderful outcomes as you can see from the examples.



We loved sports week, especially our trip to the AK park for tennis, football, and timed sprints. There is much more to report but in summary we have ended this fabulous term with a spectacular samba workshop with brilliant visiting musicians from the Womad festival. We loved dancing and playing the drums and percussion.

Class 5

What a term Year 5 have had. We loved our residential trip to Viney Hill Christian Activity centre in the Forest of Dean.



Whilst we were there, we experienced tunneling, climbing walls, quick jump and survival skills activities. The gladiator climbing challenge was a particular favourite with all involved.

In the beautiful woods we made dens and shelters whilst learning about the animals that make their home in the Forest of Dean. We didn't see any boars but we certainly saw places they visited for example a site where boars wallowed in mud. We also had a STEM workshop from the RIAT Air Tattoo stem leaders who helped us to create moving models of cars. Lucy and Noa won the competition for longest distance their elastic band car went and will represent the school at the Air Tattoo in Fairford.



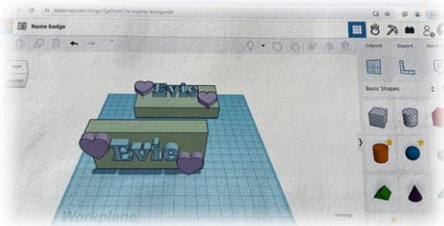


Class 6

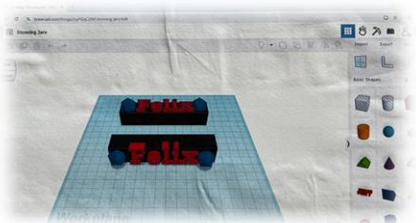


Class 6 have had an absolutely brilliant summer term! They have continued to work exceptionally hard and have been practicing relentlessly for their end of term production 'I'm an 11-Year Old, Get Me Out of Here!' which they are excited to perform to the rest of the school and their families in the last week of term. Oh yes, they are! They have been busy learning lines, song lyrics and dance moves and it will be a brilliant end to their AK journey.

Class 6 have enjoyed their final few Forest School sessions which have included making fires, eating smores and making wooden knives out of willow. The children persevered throughout the task and used potato peelers to perfect their new utensils! Some of the children even oiled them at home!



In Computing, Class 6 have enjoyed 3D modelling using TinkerCad software. The children have been learning how to resize and rotate objects using the software and how to add different 3D shapes. They also learnt about duplicating them and the importance of rotating the shapes and grouping them accurately. They even designed their own name badge – have a look at a couple below!



In Music, Class 6 have been busy composing their own hip-hop and grime tracks using compositional software Yumu. The children created drum beats, melodies and basslines and added chords based on a chosen musical key and scale. They used different instruments and sounds effects as well as experimenting with the arrangement as a whole to create an effective track. The children absolutely loved this unit of work and



listening to each other's compositions. Well done Class 6!

Church School

We have been so impressed with how the children have been living out our value in focus, Respect this term. Learning from stories in the bible and considering how they can make wise choices in their lives has resulted in some really inspirational work in school. The children have continued to run pupil lead clubs, being inclusive and respectful to one another, making posters to inspire one another to share kindness and respect through some simple daily activities. We have had beautiful feedback about how our pupils have been respectful outside school from the general public including: Quenington Sculpture trail, District Sports, London and Viney Hill residential. Our children are skilled at taking values, reflecting on them and leading their own ideas to bring them alive across the school. Very impressive.



Attendance for September- IMPORTANT

Please ensure you have read the Wiltshire letter (sent via parent mail) about the new Government guidance on attendance which starts on 2nd September. We are bound by these national rules and regulations and therefore it is very important you read this document and ensure you understand the changes and consequences of term time absences as it will be very different. Please continue to ensure that all holidays continue to be taken in non-term time to avoid fines which will now be out of our control and issued automatically.

Thank you for another brilliant year, a tough one in terms of staffing but we have persevered and had so many incredible opportunities to shine, for which I am thankful for. I am looking forward to another brilliant year next year, which will be my 11th year as Headteacher of this wonderful school and I could not be prouder! I would like to take this opportunity to thank my brilliant staff team and wish all of the staff, pupils and families a restful and happy Summer break. I will see you all on Monday 2nd September 8.45am for the start of another amazing term! Have a lovely Summer holiday.

Your very proud Headteacher,

Mrs Saville

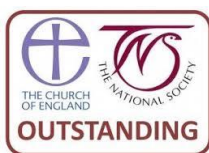
Mrs Saville

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



INVESTORS IN PEOPLE



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