

Akrotiri School Newsletter

4th November 2016



Stars and Half Term Heroes of the week ending 21st October

Isaac Freeman
George Bull
Sophie Overington
Riley Quinn
Jesse Pickersgill
Mia Hodges
Lottie Bowles
Joshua Brett
Emiliana Gardner
Lola Ballard

Alfie Chidlow
Gregory Haines
Zoe Whiteford
Kyra Leirer
Lily Johnson
Anam Husnain
Charlotte Cleary
Charlie Abbott
Emily Brayshaw



Head Teacher Update

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the first newsletter of this new half term. I hope you all had an enjoyable break and managed to enjoy the last of the warm weather. It was great to see the children back to school on Monday. We have a very exciting half term ahead as we enter our Christmas term. It is always a very special time in school and I am looking forward to sharing the Christmas celebrations with you all.

Parent Consultations

Our teachers are looking forward to sharing information regarding the progress of your children at our Parent Teacher Consultations next week. It's a great opportunity for you to have a look at the work your child has completed and discuss any queries you may have. We look forward to welcoming you all next week.

Parent Questionnaires

Following the Parent Consultations next week, we will be putting out a parent questionnaire to seek your views. It is very important to us to hear your thoughts on our school. We want to know what you think of all our new improvements in addition to how you think that we can improve them even further! Please watch out for them in mailbags next Friday.

Welcome

We would like to say a very warm welcome to Miss Shonagh Mackenzie who has arrived from the UK to teach in Y1. She arrived on the delayed trooper on Sunday evening and came straight into school on the Monday morning as she was so excited about getting to know the children. We would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to Mrs Stevens for taking the class in the meantime. She has been a great addition to our team and I am delighted that she will still be in school part – time as she will be providing some SEN support for children across the school. Mrs Stevens will be attending the parent consultations next week with Miss MacKenzie to ensure that all parents receive all information regarding progress of the children.

Congratulations

We had such a great start to half term as we helped Miss Brown to celebrate her wedding! It was such a lovely day and we are delighted to welcome her back to school as Mrs Henry. Many congratulations to both Mr and Mrs Henry.

Friends of Akrotiri School

I would like to say a huge thank you to FAS for funding the new outdoor boxes which brighten up our outdoor environment. I think you'll agree that the staff and pupils have been very creative in their designs. I am also delighted that following the recent recruitment drive, FAS now have some new members and are already starting to plan new and exciting activities for the children. Malcolm McLean is the new Chairperson and I was delighted to see that there are already new and exciting plans in place for the children. Please have a look at Malcolm's introductory letter contained in this newsletter.

Nut Allergies

We have a child in school who has a severe nut allergy. We ask that all parents make sure that any snacks or packed lunches **do not** contain any nuts of any kind.

Foundation Stage Expansion

Due to our unexpected increase in numbers of children who are enrolling in FS1, it is necessary to convert the FS hall into a classroom. We have plans in place to knock through to the outdoor space immediately in front of the building and fence off the area outside to provide them with some outdoor space. It will provide a fabulous space for the children and there will be shading provided in addition to a new toilet block. I will keep you up to date of the changes as they happen – please be prepared to see building work taking place this half term in preparation for our new FS1 intake in January. If

Task Group Meeting

During the final week of last half term, the SLT attended a Task Group meeting which was led by the Senior Principle of DCYP (Department for Children and Young People) which is the education department for MoD Schools. For the 2 days prior to the Task Group Meeting, we underwent an internal school review which was conducted by Brenda Titley, who is our Senior Link Inspection Advisor and Carole Yates, who is the Cyprus Headteacher Support and former headteacher of Episkopi Primary. The Station Commander Mike Blackburn was also in attendance as the Chair of our School Governance Committee.

The aim of the meeting was to discuss our progress following the previous meeting in July. The meeting was extremely positive as all of the improvements we have put in place were acknowledged. I am confident that you will all see the huge improvements that have been made to the school environment both inside and out. I am sure that you will have also seen how excited the children have been with the introduction of our new Cornerstones Curriculum which has led to some really engaging learning opportunities. Our new Phase Leaders each contributed to the meeting and all of our middle leaders were praised for the work they have all done towards whole school improvements. I would like to thank all staff for working together as such a strong team to improve our school for all your children. We will be having another Task Group Meeting at the start of next term following the Christmas break and I will look forward to sharing further progress with you then.

Parent Forum

We are looking forward to sharing lots of school improvement updates with you at our Parent Forum next week. My Deputy Mrs Henry and I will be presenting more detailed feedback on our progress from the Task Group in addition to information on mobility and our new Managing Behaviour Policy. The meeting is in the FS hall on Wednesday 9th November at 12.30pm. I look forward to welcoming you. There is an opportunity for you to ask questions and we welcome your attendance and engagement.

Rebecca Robinson
Headteacher

Nuts and Nut Products in School

Over the last few years, we have had pupils in school, with life threatening allergies to nuts and nut products. We currently have a child in school, whose condition is so severe that even being touched by someone who has handled foods containing nuts could bring on anaphylaxis.

Based on advice from our school nurse and in line with a large number of UK schools, we will be developing a Nut- Free Policy, which we will share as soon as possible.

In the interim period we would ask for your co-operation and vigilance in ensuring that **no nuts, or products containing nuts** (e.g. peanut butter, raw nuts or cereal bars containing nuts) are brought into school.

NEW CHAIR OF THE FAS – ('FRIENDS OF AKROTIRI SCHOOL')

I would like to introduce myself as the new chair of the 'Friends of Akrotiri School' (FAS) committee. With a daughter at the school and a son who has moved on to St. John.s I fully understand the benefits of what such a committee can bring to our children's schooling.

The FAS has successfully held many fundraising events, in recent times, often with very little help and I look to continue and build upon this. We, as a committee, have already discussed a couple of fresh ideas that are in the pipeline to happen before Christmas. The PTA has, just this week, agreed to fund a variety of materials for Foundation Stage such as plungers, golf tees, potato mashers all to be used in a variety of exciting ways from painting to hammering! Watch this space for updates and photos!

I am hoping to bring new ideas and events to the committee, but I am always open to new ideas from both the children and you as parents. If you think you can bring something new to 'Friends of Akrotiri' or are willing to carry out some of the manual labour that is often required at our events, then please let us know. The more support we have the more we can give back to 'your children!'

Don't forget to 'like' our Facebook page (Friends of Akrotiri School – FAS) where we share all our latest news and further contact details can be found at the school office.

Sgt Malcolm McLean (JMS)



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Through Operation Christmas Child, children around the world receive a shoebox packed with Christmas gifts. Operation Christmas Child is co-ordinated and run by Samaritan's Purse worldwide. RAF Akrotiri is taking part in this great annual event this year. You can choose to pack your own shoebox as a **family contribution** or you can send contributions into school to be used in our **school shoeboxes**. We aim to send a shoe box for a girl and a shoe box for a boy from each year group.

If you would like to contribute to our **school shoe boxes** please send a suggested gift item into school before **Wednesday 16th November**. School boxes will be collected and sent on to Samaritan's Purse ready to be distributed worldwide.

Family shoe boxes should be delivered to The Chaplaincy Centre before **Sunday 20th November**.

How to pack your OWN shoebox

- 1** Get an empty medium sized shoebox and wrap the box and lid separately in decorative paper.
- 2** Decide if your gift is for a boy or a girl and the age category and attach the appropriate label (available online) on the outside of the lid.
- 3** Fill your shoebox with a variety of new gifts that a child will love. Why not add a personal note and photo.
- 4** Include a £3 shipping donation for each shoebox you fill. If you make this payment online, you can print out a barcode and place it inside your shoebox on top of the contents. This will enable us to tell you which country your shoebox gets sent to.
- 5** Secure your shoebox with an elastic band.

Gift Suggestions

Please fill your box with a selection from the following or similar items. All items should be new. **TOYS** Include a toy that a child can love like a doll or a cuddly toy (with CE label), toy truck, skipping rope, yoyo, ball, small puzzle, musical instruments etc.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Pens, colouring pencils, sharpener & eraser, crayons, felt pens, stamp & ink pad sets, writing pads or notebooks and paper, colouring & picture books, solar calculators etc.

HYGIENE ITEMS

Toothbrush, toothpaste, bars of wrapped soap, flannel, comb & brush etc.

OTHER ITEMS

Hat, cap, gloves, scarf, sunglasses (with UV rating), hair accessories, wind- up torch, jewellery set, wrapped sweets (with best before date of at least March the following year).

You could also include a **PERSONAL NOTE AND PHOTO** of you and your family/group.

DO NOT INCLUDE used or damaged items; clothing other than that listed above; war-related items such as toy guns, knives or military figures; seeds; chocolate or food items; lotions or liquids including bubbles; medicines; hand-made stuffed toys; playing cards of the 4 suit variety; anything of a political, racial or religious nature; sharp or fragile items; books with mainly words.

More information and videos available to watch at

www.operationchristmaschild.org.uk



Wooden Planters

In the summer term school asked Friends of Akrotiri School (FAS) if we would like to donate funds to enhance the school environment by way of challenging each class to come up with a unique idea to fill the wooden planters. Each class was given up to €50 to spend on resources.

Walking around school now you can see the many different designs using lots of different materials. It has created an interesting environment where both adults and children can be seen admiring the various projects and our children can take pride in their handiwork.

Well done everyone, including parents who continue to support our fundraising events.

Sue Williams
FAS Treasurer



WATER BOTTLES

May we remind all parents and carers that all children should bring a water bottle into school every day. We have chilled water available at various locations and we encourage children to fill bottles and drink from these whilst at play. In addition water bottles are permitted in the classroom in order that children have access during lessons.

KS2 (Y3-Y6) SCHOOL CHOIR

IMPORTANT NOTE

Next week, Thursday 10th November, KS2 Choir will be cancelled due to Parent/Child and Teacher Consultations.



What an amazing Celtic day Year 4 had!

We did all sorts of activities to find out what it would be like to be an Iron Age Celt.

We learned about how to turn wheat into bread. First we used a stone to grind the wheat seeds into flour. Next we mixed flour, yeast and water to make a dough. We kneaded our dough for 10 minutes then we left it to rise.

The dough got bigger and bigger!

The children also learned how to make Celtic soup. In the Iron Age the peasants would have worked very hard to grow the crops and would not have wasted anything. We were very careful to use all the parts of the vegetables. We all enjoyed eating the soup and bread.

During the day we also did lots of other making and doing projects.

It is hard work being a CELT!!!!



Tag Rugby Festival

On Friday 21st October, Akrotiri hosted a Tag Rugby Festival for children from the four SCE Primary Schools on island. Over one hundred children from Years 2 to 6 took part, including around fifty from Akrotiri. The Festival was organised in a way which enabled teams of differing ability to compete against teams of a similar level. Of the six trophies available, Akrotiri won five, a fantastic achievement overall. As well as being delighted with the performances of our players, we were also very proud of their conduct and sportsmanship. We were also pleased with the success the Festival was in terms of developing Tag Rugby across our partner schools.





School Photographer- Bentleys

Bentley, the photographers had a busy day on Monday. The 'proof' photographs will be sent home as soon as they are received for you to order online through their website. Assistance from the School Office can be given if required. To receive 'free' post packing you must order by the deadline date (to be informed).

Important note for all BFC Parents

TRANSFER OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR EARLY YEARS PROVISION

- 1.** Over the past few months there has been significant progress in the development of the future of Early Years (0-5yrs) provision in BFC. We are pleased to now be in a position to update families on the progress that has been made thus far and our future plans. These plans involve improvements to the way Early Years provision is managed and resourced, and the development of new facilities. The outcome will be an improved offer for BFC parents and their children in the form of better and more modern facilities and longer available hours.
- 2.** From January 2017 the responsibility for all Early Years provision will pass from BFC to the Directorate of Children and Young People (DCYP), the MOD organisation also responsible for the schools in BFC. DCYP will fully resource and staff the four Early Years settings to deliver high quality, accessible and sustainable childcare. Additionally we will develop extended provision to fully cover the working day for 50 weeks of the year. This change will be brought in as soon as possible after the move to DCYP management.
- 3.** The cost of provision will be set at the MOD standard rate which is based on the UK national average. Parents are also encouraged strongly to make use of the MOD Childcare Voucher scheme which gives significant tax breaks that make it cheaper to pay for childcare. Details can be found at www.modchildcare.co.uk.
- 4.** In addition to the management changes, 4 new purpose built facilities will be opened in 2017. Early Years settings in RAF Akrotiri, Ayios Nikolaos Station and Dhekelia Station are scheduled to be opened in late spring and in Episkopi Station in early autumn.
- 5.** We know from talking to many of you how important this change will be, the extended cover in particular. These improvements will, we are confident, better meet the needs of children and parents and improve the quality of life for you in Cyprus. Should you have any questions please direct them in the first instance to SO2 JETS, Maj Kelli Macpherson (2596 3227, BFC-JETS-HQ-SO2@mod.uk).

M Wigston CBE
Air Vice-Marshal
Commander British Forces

M Cooper
Directorate Children and Young People

Academic Calendar for 2016-2017

AUTUMN TERM 2016	
Parent/child/Teacher Consultation Meeting	Tuesday 8 th November
Parents Forum FS1-Y6	Wednesday 9 th November in Foundation Stage Hall 1230-1330 hrs.
Parent/child/Teacher Consultation Meeting	Thursday 10 th November
Last Day of Term	Wednesday 14 th December

SPRING TERM 2017	
Staff Training Day	Tuesday 3 rd January
First day for children	Wednesday 4 th January
Half Term	Monday 20 th February – Friday 24 th February
Last Day of Term	Friday 7 th April

SUMMER TERM 2017	
First Day of Term	Monday 24 th April
May Day Holiday	Monday 1 st May
Half Term	Monday 29 th May – Friday 2 nd June
Last Day of Term	Friday 21 st July

COMMUNITY NEWS

COMMUNITY FIRE SAFETY – CELEBRATE SAFELY

Celebrations are an excuse to have fun, not an excuse for a fire.

FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE EMERGENCY NUMBER

112

Further advice on Community Fire Safety, is available from your local: Fire and Rescue Service
Community Fire Safety Cell on Telephones:
Military: 8079 & 8082
Civil: 25968079 & 25968082
Email: BFC-DFRMO-HQGpMailbox@mod.uk

SM Aristos Aristidou
Community Fire Safety and Development Support Manager
DFRMO Cyprus AMT
Episkopi

DECORATIVE LIGHTS

Decorative lights don't get used every day so give them a bit of extra though

- Check the maximum amps that can be handled by the fuse in the plug.
- If bulbs blow, replace them.
- Turn decorative lights off at night and when you go out.
- Don't let bulbs touch anything that can burn easily, like paper or fabrics.

CANDLES

Treat candles as you would any other flame

- Don't leave them unattended.
- Put them out completely at night.
- Keep them away for anything that can catch fire, like Christmas trees, decorations, curtains and so on.
- Make sure they are in secure holders on a heat-resistant surface.

FIREWORKS

Don't fool with fireworks – they are explosives not toys.

- Only buy fireworks marked with British Safety Standards 7114 and always read the instructions.

DECORATIONS

Given half a chance, paper decorations will burn

- Use your common sense and keep decorations and greeting cards away from heaters, lights, the fireplace and candles.

HAVING A PARTY

Do yourself and your visitors a favour – don't leave fire safety to the morning after!

- Let your guests know where to find door and window keys.
- Look out for elderly people, children, and anyone with problems getting about.
- Make sure exits are kept clear.
- If people are smoking, put out extra ashtrays and make sure all cigarettes are put out properly.



DOGS ARE NOT ALLOWED ON THE SEASHORE WITHIN THE WSBA



Did you knowits an offence to walk your dog on or off the lead within the Western Sovereign Base Area Seashore?

Dogs can dig up turtles nests, disrupt birds nests, foul our beaches and create public and wildlife health risks.



If you are caught with a dog on the seashore you could be issued with a fixed penalty notice for **€85** or face prosecution. If you are prosecuted you could be fined up to **€854** and/or imprisoned for up to three months.



Sovereign Base Area
Multi Agency Civil
Enforcement team