

Akrotiri School Newsletter

26th May 2017



Half Term Heroes

Isaac Freeman
Madison Chandler
Lily-Rose Parker
Grace Chappell
Hannah Todd
Autumn Deeves
Lily Davies
Isabella Lancaster
Jack Doherty
Lucy Donaldson

Ewan Melvin
Elana Hale
Logan Ellis
James Martin
Mia McCreedy
Layla McLean
Katie Sprawson
Naomi Williams
Millie Atkins



Head Teacher Update

Dear Parents/Carers,

Half Term

What a quick half term this has been! It has been very short with only 5 weeks. We have seen lots of exciting learning taking place as always. Year 5 had a successful residential trip and we have all survived SATs for another year. I hope that everyone enjoys the half term break and we look forward to welcoming the children back to school on **Monday 5th June** for our final half term of this session. Our last day of term will be on **Friday 21st July** and we will close for the holidays at **12pm**.

Official Opening

We had a fantastic day on Monday as we welcomed the Station Commander and the team from A&G to officially open the new outdoor area in Year 1. The children made biscuits to share and enjoyed showing our visitors how they learn in the different areas which have been made possible from the support from the workshops. We gave special thanks to Sgt Mark Porter and WO2 Dan Herbert as they have worked with us designing and creating the new space. We are delighted with the result and look forward to further collaborations. I hope you enjoy the article later in this newsletter which tells you more – some great photos are included too!

FS1 Shading

We would like to say a huge thank you to Sgt Andrews and Cpl Sen for providing us with some temporary shading outside the new FS classroom. We are very grateful for their support and what a brilliant service we received as they arrived at school and put it up for us in just a couple of hours. Many thanks again to Sgt Andrews and her team.

Extended Free Childcare Entitlement

As many of you will be aware, the entitlement to free childcare for certain groups of children aged 3 and 4 yrs old, is being extended in the UK from 15 hours a week to 30 hours a week. In order to be eligible for the additional 15 hrs of free childcare, each parent must be working (or the sole parent is working in a lone parent family) a minimum of 16 hrs each per week. Additional information is enclosed in a separate letter. I would be grateful if all parents with children aged 4 and under, read the enclosed leaflet and return it to us for MoD Schools to gather information regarding the demand for the additional childcare. If you have any further questions about this please don't hesitate to contact us.

Rebecca Robinson
Headteacher

Radio Interview

I had the real privilege of being invited to a BFBS radio interview this week to speak about our successful recent visit from Ofsted. I was joined by Dan Browning who is the Executive Principal at St John's and King Richard School. I really enjoyed having the opportunity to talk about the school and give a huge thanks to our fabulous staff team.

I hope that you all get the opportunity to hear the interview as it goes on air during the next few days.



Y1 New Outdoor Area Opening









BIG ARTS WEEK 2017



Big Arts Week 2017 will take place during the week beginning Monday 3rd July 2017. During this week the whole school will participate in a range of Arts based activities. The Arts are important to us at Akrotiri School and to develop them further Miss Flynn and Mrs Robinson are attending a course in the UK at the end of June that will be the start of our school's journey to receive the Artsmark.

The theme of the week is 'A lasting legacy' which links in with our 60th birthday and the aim of the week is that each year group creates a piece of artwork that can enhance the outside area somewhere in school. The teachers have come up with some amazing ideas (see table below).

We are delighted to be supported during the week by Cyprus Music Service, who will be working with groups of children across school and Mrs Hayley Lister from St. John's School will be working with children from FS1 to KS2 allowing them to take part in some fantastic drama activities. As a school we are going to record a dance video involving every child from FS1 to Year 6, dancing to an iconic song from the past 60 years.

The filming of which will not only take place in school but, with the kind permission of the Station Commander, KS2 children will be out about around Station filming their part of the dance.

We would love to see as many units as possible get involved and create a video show casing children and parents!

More information will be sent out via letters and school dojo as the week gets closer!

Foundation Stage 1 and 2	Creating a story shed in their shared middle area
Year 1	Creating a huge world map using bottle tops which will be placed in their new outside area.
Year 2	Creating an outdoor working area which will be decorated by the children which will go outside the Year 2 classrooms
Year 3	Creating a mural on the fence near the KS 1 quad
Year 4	An outdoor patio and stage area near the Year 4 classrooms which can be used by all the classes
Years 5 and 6	Creating a mural through the decades which will go on the wall at the end of the Y5/6 block

Foundation Stage – Admission Packs

Could all parents of children who will be 3 years old between 31st of March and the 31st of August, please come into the Foundation Stage office to collect an admission pack. Your child will be able to start school with us in September 2017. If your child attends Akrotiri First Steps you will have already been given an admission pack.

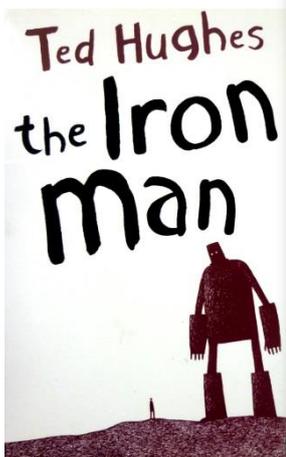
Please could you pass on this information to friends/neighbours whose children will be 3 but who don't have any connection with school as yet.

This week **FS2** have been learning about different countries. They have each had the opportunity to learn some of the language - saying hello/goodbye and counting to 10, as well as tasting the food and learning about the cultures of France, Spain, Germany and Greece.



Year 1 classes have been busy looking at Dino-dinners! We have found out what dinosaurs ate and how they found or caught their food.

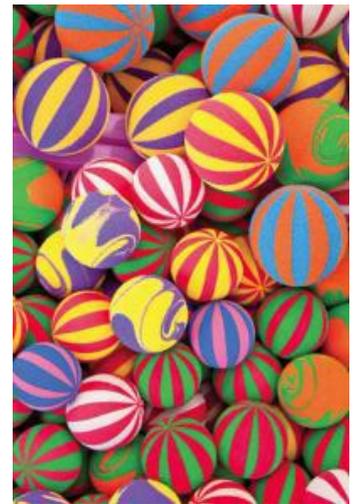
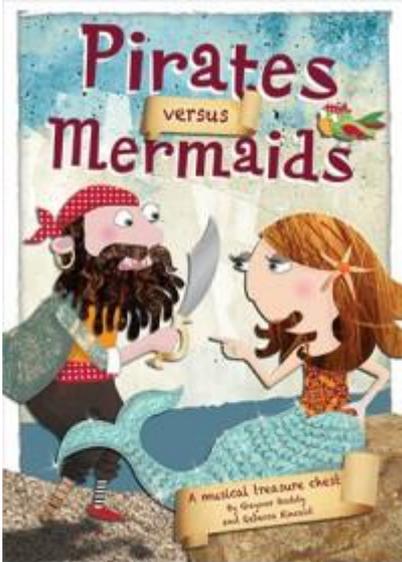
Last Wednesday, we also enjoyed finding out about our Earth and different habitats in the Explorer Dome. We found out how animals have adapted to hot and cold environments and found out about different rainforest animals.



Next term Year 3's topic will be MIGHTY METALS. We will be engineers, scientists and creators of men (iron men of course). We will explore the scientific world of forces and magnetism, metals and materials. Expand our minds as we test, trial, build and move. In English we will be reading the Iron Man by Ted Hughes. We will meet Hogarth, the Iron Man's companion. The Iron Man wants a friend. Can we build him one? We will have to make him strong, sturdy and ready to rumble! Year 3 will be a force to be reckoned with next term.

Land Ahoy!

This half term Year 2 have loved learning about all things explorer...culminating in a spectacular visit from Mr Verbout, who told us about how his job is to explore the extremes of the Earth's atmosphere - we loved finding out about different explorers! Mr Bennington even got to try on his very expensive suit! This half term has also seen us successfully complete our SATs, and share our learning with a spectacular show to the school and parents of 'Pirates versus Mermaids'. We have loved this topic, and all of the fantastic learning we have embraced. Next half term, our topic is BOUNCE, and will see us finding out about healthy living, exercise and games. This will start with a bespoke day spent at St John's experiencing all things bouncy - including trampolines! We can't wait to share all of our amazing learning at the end of the Summer Term.



Year 4 welcomed the dental hygienist, Julie Hanks and her very special partner, the Tooth Fairy to school last week. They came to talk to us about the importance of dental hygiene as part of National Smile Week.

They were both very impressed with the amount of knowledge Y4 already had and it was a delight to show off the children's recent learning.

Next half term our topic will be Traders and Raiders and we are looking forward to learning all about the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings.

Y4 had an amazing trip to Caledonia Falls. We saw lakes, reservoirs, dams, streams and even a waterfall. We also pointed out flood plains, foothills, mountains and all the features. It was great to see all our learning in real life. The children were fantastic and walked up and down with great energy and enthusiasm and really enjoyed sharing their knowledge. Thank you to Mrs Hale and Mrs Williams who supported us on the trip.





Year 5 returned (very tired) to Akrotiri on Friday 19th May, having enjoyed an exciting and educational

3-day residential trip to the Cyprus Environmental Studies Centre at Kritou Terra. For those who don't know, this is in the Akamas area, close to Polis. We followed a packed itinerary that took in a whole host of activities all linked to the English National Curriculum. For some, the prospect of being away from parents and family seemed daunting but the initial tears were soon forgotten as the bus rolled out of the station gates.

Over the 3 days we took in: a hike through the Avagas Gorge; a trip to St. George's Bay to go rock pooling; an ice-cream stop; a stop off at the Edro III shipwreck in Banana Bay; a bug hunt around Kritou Terra and much, much more. We also enjoyed a fantastic range of food in the local taverna, learnt a little more about being self-sufficient, had a film night and talent show evening...

The list goes on!

Here's what the children had to say:

"I feel more confident but sad that it's over." Kady, Y5A.

"I feel really proud of myself for staying away over night because I didn't think I could do it." Zoe, Y5A.

"The Avagas Gorge walk challenged me because it was a long way and very hot!" Aimee, Y5R.

"I enjoyed getting dirty and not being told off!" Syrlene, Y5R.



The Year 5 Summer 2 topic is 'Time Traveller'

We commenced 'Tom's Midnight Garden' in Summer 1 as part of our 'Allotments' topic and will continue with it into Summer 2, focussing on the central character's travels into the past. We will focus heavily on how the clock never stops from the moment we are born; how we grow and change. This will encompass character studies on historical figures and expand across the curriculum.

Year 6

This week, in Science, the children had the chance (if they wanted to!) to look at a pig's heart, lungs and liver kindly donated to us by Michael the butcher on the strip. This brought to life our work on the organs of the body and those who chose to stay in found this a very interesting experience.

Next half term we will continue with our topic of 'ID' as well as having a particular focus on transition, as we prepare the children for their move to Secondary school. We also will be reading the novel 'Kensuke's Kingdom' by Michael Morpurgo.



Father's Day Gift Sale

As in previous years the PTA (Akrotiri School Parent Teacher Association), are holding a Father's Day Sale.

Each child is able to bring €2.50 (please send your money in on the day, your child will visit the stall with their class), to buy a present for dad.

The children will choose a present from a selection of gifts and write the label. Then dads, you will have a nice surprise on Father's day!



Thursday, 15th June

FS1 & FS2 in the Art Room

from 0820 to 1230 hrs

Friday, 16th June

Y1-Y6 in the Art Room

from 0820 to 1300 hrs

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

SUMMER TERM 2017

Half Term	Monday 29 th May – Friday 2 nd June
Last Day of Term	Friday 21 st July – School closes at 12.00 hrs

SCHOOL TRIPS / EVENTS / ACTIVITIES

YEAR GROUPS	WHAT AND WHEN	TIME	WHERE	COMMENTS
Y1 & Y2	Sports day Thursday 8 th June	0815 hrs	Sports Fields	Parents are welcome
Y3-Y6	Sports day Tuesday 13 th June	0815 hrs	Sports Fields	Parents are welcome