



15th January

School news Update

Our church school creates a firm foundation where together, with God's help and with the help of others, we learn for life, achieve our best and grow in faith.

Week 2!

Well I'm writing again from 'lockdown' which we know is challenging for everyone but we also know that there is a need to keep everyone safe and to support the effort to reduce contacts. I was delighted that we were able to start our remote learning offer so quickly and that even on the first day of term, despite the very short notice of closure, we had children logging in and completing learning.

It is important to acknowledge once again, that we do understand that all family circumstances are different and we know that parents are doing their very best. There are some external expectations on schools to be providing at least 4 hours of learning each day for children in primary school during lockdown, but we also know that for some families this is not realistic. Children at home are accessing learning which is in line with those who are in school as critical worker children or those classed as vulnerable, so we know that learning can take 4 hours. This is in no way intended to add pressure to parents; please do as much with your child/children as you are able and try to also enjoy some family time together which is separate and distinct from school learning as we know that the children will appreciate this.

Leading Learners and Headteacher's Awards

We have created a Celebration Assembly presentation which reveals all of our award winners for this week. The link to this has been shared with the children via their STARZ accounts. Please do take a look as we have included examples of the learning that we are celebrating too. Well done to all of you!



Links to support learning

With this newsletter we have developed a comprehensive list of links to websites which have some excellent resources for use at home. These are just to support if helpful. One in particular which is a brilliant local resource is:

- [Cambridgeshire libraries](#)

You can join the library online and access lots of e-books, e-comics, e-audiobooks and online resources. If you are already a member you just need to log on with your library number and your PIN.



Accessing learning with an Xbox or PlayStation

We have some useful instructions for how to access the internet, and therefore STARZ, using an Xbox and PlayStation. This may prove helpful to some and my thanks to those parents who tested this for me; living in a home without any gaming devices meant this was difficult for me to do myself! To view this click [here](#).

STARZ

Teaching staff have asked me to remind parents that in order to see the feedback on your child's learning, you need to click on 'My Class', then 'Homework Handed In'. If you then choose the task completed there may be a brief mark or a more detailed comment if it has been necessary. Please show this to your children too as we think that some children have not been accessing their feedback.

Online Safety

We know that many children will be accessing the internet for home learning and so we thought it might be a useful time to share some sites where parents can access advice about online safety:

[Internet matters](#)

[London Grid for Learning](#)

[Net-aware](#) - for support for parents and careers from the NSPCC

[Parent info](#)

[Thinkuknow](#) - for advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online

[UK Safer Internet Centre](#)



Zoom contact with children



During the last lockdown, we found the face to face contact between teachers and children, as well as children and their peers, very useful in ensuring that children felt connected with school. We will therefore be sending Zoom links to parents for the calls next week. These will be sent on Monday and we would just like to remind parents about some ground rules, some of which we appreciate you sharing with your children:

- It must just be the child who is on the screen for others to see and no one else.
- Your child must be supervised by you, in the same room, for the duration of the zoom meeting.
- Your child must be dressed appropriately – imagine you are coming to school on a non-uniform day.
- Please do not screen shot the meeting in any way – these would be images in people's homes and would not be appropriate to share with others.
- Please discuss expectations about conduct with your child – they should conduct themselves in the same way that they do in school. They will each be given a turn to share something that they have been doing and must listen to others when it is isn't their turn.

Of course, if you would prefer not to take part or you are unable to join the meeting for some reason, please do not worry.

Reminder about wet weather clothing for children in school

We will be going out to play in all weathers, even if it is very wet, so please can you ensure that your child always has a coat, preferably with a hood and a pair of wellington boots in school.

Make it a Happier New Year for children and young people in care – message from the Foster Team at Cambridgeshire

2020 has been a difficult year for us all, but even more so for the children and young people who go in to 2021 without a stable home and loving family. This New Year we are looking for people who are determined, energetic and caring, to become foster carers.

Fostering with Cambridgeshire County or Peterborough City Councils means you are fostering with a local authority that truly cares about you and our children. We offer comprehensive training courses both before and during your fostering adventure with us. We also allocate a

social worker who will support you and we also provide a 24/7 helpline so you will never feel alone!

Remember if you are a Cambridgeshire County Council or Peterborough City Council employee and undergoing an assessment as a foster carer for either council, (with agreement from your line manager), you are entitled to additional annual leave of up to 5 days to attend training courses.

So whether you are single, married, retired, working or a full time parent to a birth child YOU CAN FOSTER! Make this a happier New Year for our children and young people. To find out more, call 0800 052 0078, text FOSTERING to 60777, email fostering@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or visit www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/fostering

NHS message



The NHS has asked for this message to be shared with all parents. Undiagnosed Type 1 diabetes in children requires urgent medical attention.

If your child has ANY of the main symptoms of Type 1 diabetes please make an urgent GP appointment or contact the Out of Hours service. The main symptoms are known as the 4 Ts – Thirst, Toilet, Tiredness, Thinner. If you notice your child is thirsty or using the toilet more frequently, is always feeling tired, or has lost weight recently, seek immediate medical advice.

NHS services are very well equipped to look after children safely if they are unwell. Please do not delay seeking medical advice because of Covid-19.

There is more information available here:

<https://www.diabetes.org.uk/diabetes-the-basics/diabetes-symptoms>

Our School Prayer

As part of their regular routine in school, children are used to saying aloud our school prayer. They may like to do this at home, so please do share this with them or if you are able to print it and have it displayed somewhere for your children, that would be wonderful.

Dear Lord,

All together we are Abbots Ripton School
Bless each one of us this day
Bring joy to our lives
Open our hearts to peace
Together we pray to you our Father
Stand by us as we grow

May we

Reflect your goodness
In all that we do
Protect the world around us and
Take care of your creation
Our family and friends we trust to your care
Now and forever we say

Amen