



At A Glance

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.

Well what a whirlwind start to the Spring term!

There is a sense of frustration in school, and I'm sure in many households, about the timing of the announcement from Boris Johnson on Monday, although not a surprise given the current numbers of infections and significant stress on the NHS.

We communicated as quickly as we could on Monday and were able to open yesterday for the children of critical workers. I know that many children did log on to their remote learning yesterday and we have almost a third of the school requesting passwords to be reset or resent!!!

Before I share what you can expect from us regarding remote learning, I feel it is important to acknowledge that all home circumstances are different. We know that many of our parents will now be trying their very hardest to balance full time working from home with supporting home learning, possibly for several children. Below I have set out broadly what we will be providing for the children and ask that parents support their children to do as much as they are able, to the best of their ability in your home circumstances. We will check on children who are not logging in to remote learning and families who we have had no contact from but this is so that we can best offer support when needed.

Staffing

We have spent a considerable amount of time looking at timetables for staffing as we have some children in each class who are in school whilst others are at home. This is a challenging balancing act as teachers can't be both in school teaching and also online! We are fortunate to have an excellent staff team who know the children well and therefore your child may be receiving feedback on their remote learning from different adults in school. Class teachers are setting and monitoring learning for their class and the children who are in school are accessing their remote learning from the classroom. This will enable us to ensure some consistency in our curriculum for when we return to school.

Remote learning

All children have a STARZ log in and teachers are uploading learning each day. This will not always require technology and can be done at a time to suit your family. We would advise setting a structure to your child's day but we haven't prescribed this as we know it may be different for all families.

On STARZ we are setting the following each day and below is a guide for how long this learning is likely to take your child:

Van Gogh

The key learning activities each day will be linked to phonics and reading as well as Maths. Some learning will be updated daily and some will run across the week and given the age of the children, timing very much depends on your child. There will also be a range of activities across the week which link to a variety of areas of the Early Years curriculum such as Understanding the World. This will ensure curriculum coverage. We know that it is likely that it will be adults accessing STARZ and as such Mrs Wilcock will make the instructions for adults very clear.

Monet

English 40 to 50 minutes

Phonics/Spelling and grammar 20 to 30 minutes

Reading 20 to 30 minutes

Maths 40 to 50 minutes

These will be set each morning and will be available from 9am every day.

Kandinsky and Picasso

English 50 to 60 minutes

Spelling and grammar 20 to 30 minutes

Reading 30 to 40 minutes

Maths 50 to 60 minutes

These will be set each morning and will be available from 9am every day.

For Monet, Kandinsky and Picasso there will also be 5 learning activities available which relate to other subject areas including science, RE, PE, creative subjects such as art etc. These 5 activities can be completed throughout the week, ideally one each day.

We have decided that we will not be delivering 'Live' lessons for several reasons. Firstly, it relies on children all logging in at the same time which may not suit all families and also teachers are in school supervising learners who are at school which makes the timing of this difficult. However, teachers will be regularly recording themselves (at least twice a week) for your children to watch, for example they made read a story or introduce some learning or simply say hello! Links to these videos for children will be uploaded to STARZ.

Recording learning

Parents should not feel that they need to purchase exercise books etc. Any notebook or pad of paper is fine. Similarly, if there are worksheets for example with maths calculations, this doesn't need to be printed but could be copied onto a sheet of paper or answers simply recorded onto plain paper. We would ask that children are encouraged to take pride in their learning and that your expectations on presentation (particularly handwriting) are high as this will support your child's return to school.

Feeding back on learning

There is no need for extensive evidence of learning to be uploaded to STARZ as this will be time consuming. We know that older children will be doing this for themselves but for younger children just 1 photograph is sufficient or even a note on how your child did if it is a more practical task.

Communication

We will continue with a weekly newsletter in order to remain in contact with parents but please do email the office if you have any queries or questions. If your query or question relates to learning, please message your child's class teacher using STARZ but please be understanding that staff are extremely busy.

Use of technology

Many families completed our IT questionnaire last term to let us know about any concerns with accessing technology from home. We are currently prepping some school iPads which will be available to loan to parents by Friday. We will be in contact with those families directly as we will need you to sign a loan agreement.

If for any reason you are unable to access STARZ, for example if you have internet issues or you are sharing technology between children, the BBC has announced that they will be broadcasting curriculum-based programmes on TV from Monday. This will include three hours of primary school programming every weekday on CBBC. The primary programmes, which will be broadcast on CBBC from 09:00 every day, will include BBC Live Lessons and BBC Bitesize Daily as well as Our School, Celebrity Supply Teacher, Horrible Histories and Operation Ouch. Obviously we haven't seen these programmes or the format but it might be worth having a look and possibly recording them for use at any time.

Children who are in school

Some reminders if your child is in school:

- Please send them in uniform which can be used as PE kit as they will be physically active i.e. jogging bottoms and trainers and a school jumper/cardigan.
- All children need a coat every day.
- Children will require layers of clothing as we will keep classrooms well-ventilated.
- Please return your child's lunch menu by the end of school tomorrow – payment for children in Years 3 -6 can be passed to the adult on the gate in the mornings (£2.40 per day.) Foundation – Year 2 are entitled to Universal Free School Meals.
- Please limit what your children bring into school – ideally we would like packed lunches to be in a disposable bag (paper bag or plastic bag) which we will dispose of once your children have finished eating.
- We know that we will not be receiving any of the free fruit (Van Gogh and Monet) or milk (for under 5s) and therefore please feel free to send a fruit/vegetable snack for your child to eat at break time.
- Please arrive promptly at 8:50am using the top gate (on the right as you look at the field from the car park). At the end of school, please come through either gate and wait on a blue line. Please avoid clustering near the gates so we can limit the need for parents to pass by one another.

Children of critical workers

The reason for the current national lockdown is to reduce contacts and therefore the spread of the virus and the key Government message is to STAY AT HOME. Whilst the guidance does say that school places must be available to all children of critical workers, we know that many of our critical worker parents have been able to keep their children at home and we thank you for this.

In order to support us with consistency in planning provision please could I ask that anyone who is a Critical Worker who needs a place or their child/children in school to apply by the end of school tomorrow (7th). Obviously, if working patterns change or you start a new role which is critical then we will accommodate this with a place in school. Your support with this is appreciated.

Free School Meal Entitlement

Thanks to the wonderful work of Marcus Rashford and others, the Government have made a commitment to support families during school holidays. This is in the form of a £15 per week, per child voucher which comes directly to parents from the Local Authority. This voucher can be used in most of the main supermarkets and the next voucher will be sent during February half term. We also offer food parcels to families whilst children are at home during school closure, for example the next 6 weeks.

Checking your eligibility is really easy at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals where you will receive an **instant** response as to your eligibility status. We would encourage families to check as so many family circumstances have changes over the last year.



Application to Primary School for 2021



Do you have a child, or do you know of someone, who has a child due to start school in September? The application process is live online and all applications need to be submitted to the admissions team by **January 15th 2021**. Further information is available from our website. Please pass this information on to anyone you know who might be interested.

Contact details

Please let us know if you have changed any of your contact details e.g. telephone numbers etc. even if your child is not currently in school. Many thanks



School Prayer

Our school prayer is an important part of our worship in school and is a way of demonstrating our togetherness as a family in school. Although we are not physically together, it would be wonderful if you could encourage your child to continue to say this so that it remains an important part of their identity as a vital part of our school.

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.