



27th November

Autumn Term 2020

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.

Covid- 19 update

As I'm sure you will be aware, we will be moving into a 3 tier system with regards to Covid measures from Wednesday next week. Cambridgeshire will be in Tier 2 and whilst this won't impact greatly on our Risk Assessment in school, we would like to remind parents of some important things that they can do to support us in keeping everyone safe:

- * Please do wear a face covering when coming onto our school site, particularly if you are talking with other adults.
- * Lots of parents are gathering at the gates (maybe to be able to leave promptly) but please do follow the paths round and wait on the blue lines to keep the gate area free for others to pass.
- * Please keep your children with you so that they are not tempted to play with other children from other classes.
- * Please leave the site promptly and avoid gathering in the carpark and the Wild Wood area.

Many thanks for your support with this; we must all be extra vigilant in the run up to Christmas when we may be mixing with other members of the family who we want to protect.

Christmas Lunch – Wednesday 16th December

Information was included in last week's newsletter regarding booking your child a Christmas lunch. Just a reminder that Monday is the deadline for booking, so if you have not done so yet, then please complete and return the form with payment via your child or hand to the adult on duty on the field. If your child usually has a lunch on a Wednesday, you do not need to fill the form in. Payment is only required if your child is years 3-6.



Flu Vaccinations



Just a quick reminder that if you signed your child up to have the nasal Flu vaccination in school, these are taking place on Monday morning. The nursing team will be in school and all Covid protective measures will be followed. There will be information sent home shortly if you missed the opportunity, on how to book a local clinic appointment.

Class Sharing Assemblies

As some of you may be aware, there were some internet issues during the class sharing assemblies this week and we had said that we would look into a way to share recorded versions with parents. We are currently seeking advice from our data protection officer at County about whether we need further permissions from parents to use a platform such as YouTube, even if the video can only be accessed via a link and not publicly available. We will let you know when we have received further advice.

Packed Lunches

If your child brings a packed lunch, we ask that all food brought into school is in a suitable container, with relevant cutlery. Children should not bring in fizzy drinks, cans, glass bottles or sweets and the lunch should be balanced in terms of nutrition.



In the interests of minimising risks to pupils and staff with nut allergies, we ask that you do not send your child into school with any nut-based foods. We thank you for your understanding and co-operation.

Child and Family Centre Survey

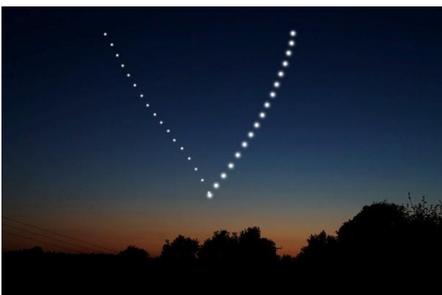
We have been asked to share a link to the annual Child and Family Service survey. It can be completed online at <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/Chilldandfamilycentre2020/> This survey is crucial to gain constructive feedback to be able to better the services provided. In order for the survey to be as effective as possible they need to gain as many responses as possible. Thank you for your participation. The link is live until 31st December.

Advent

Starting on Monday, our Collective Worship in school will be linked to Advent as a time of waiting and preparation for the birth of Jesus. The Church of England have developed some wonderful resources and will hold services on each Sunday of Advent with the theme, *Comfort and Joy*. This theme relates to the hope that Christmas will bring joy and celebration after a uniquely difficult year with



an acknowledgement that – for those who have lost loved ones or livelihoods, or who are potentially still not able to be together with loved ones, a time to comfort. Attached with this newsletter is a Comfort and Joy advent calendar aimed at families with primary aged children, which suggests activities to firstly reflect on what brings joy and then who may need comfort. We hope that some of our families may make use of this lovely resource. For further details, please visit the Church of England website [here](#).



Something else which families might enjoy is planet gazing!! This Advent, the night sky will offer something special. If you look to the south-western horizon on a clear evening, soon after sunset, you should see two bright lights: the planets Jupiter and Saturn. Each evening, they will move slightly closer. Just before Christmas on the 21st December, Jupiter will pass in front of Saturn: what astronomers call a 'Great Conjunction'. On the longest, darkest night of the year, the two will seem to merge into a single light that shines with truly exceptional brightness.



STARS have some wonderful (virtual) events planned for this half term, look out for the flyers.

Wreath Making Event – 1st December

We are delighted to say that we have sold 63 wreath making kits! These will be available for you to collect from the school field on Monday ready for you to take part in the online demonstration on Tuesday. If you are unable to take part on the evening then the video link will be shared shortly.

Silent Auction – Starts 4th December

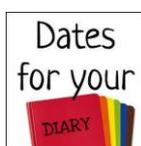
Don't forget the Silent Auction starts next Friday. Please spread the word – more details will follow shortly on how to bid and what's on offer. Do have a look at the trailer via wetransfer [here](#). You will be prompted for a password which is silentauction.

Virtual Christmas Fair – 4th December

Again the event will go live on Friday 4th December so please again spread the word!

Jam Jar Tombola

Donations for the Jam Jar Tombola can be passed to a member of the STARS team now. Please find an empty jar at home and fill it with anything you think the children will enjoy; sweets, little toys and gadgets, lego, pennies, hair bobbles etc. We would be very grateful for any donations.



Diary Dates

Please see below the diary dates for the Autumn term 2020

Any new dates are added in bold italics

Date	Event
30 th November	Flu Vaccinations for all children
1 st December	STARS Virtual Wreath making workshop 7pm
14 th December	Virtual Christingle Service held at Ely Cathedral 1:30pm – more details to follow
16 th December	Christmas dinner day – wear a Christmas jumper – more details to follow

18 th December	End of term service led by Rev'd Mandy 1:15pm Van Gogh and Monet, 2pm Kandinsky and 2:45pm Picasso Zoom link to be shared with parents to join virtually.
18 th December	End of Term
19 th Dec to 3 rd Jan	Christmas Holiday
4 th January	Training day – School Closed
5 th January	Spring term begins
15 th – 19 th February	Half Term
26 th March	End of Term
27 th Mar – 11 th Apr	Easter Holiday

Our School Prayer

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