



# 18th September

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.*

## **Class Information and Curriculum Maps**

Parents have received an email today with 2 further documents. One is a pdf of the Class Information PowerPoint. At the start of the year we would usually invite parents into school to meet the class teachers and to hear a little bit about the class. Instead we have shared the PowerPoints that would have accompanied these meetings. We hope they are helpful but please do ask if there is any further information which would be useful. Secondly, the Curriculum Map which outlines the core learning for the class during this first half term. Again, we hope this supports parents to understand and then support their child with relevant learning.

## **STARz E-Learning Platform**

This term we will continue to set learning for children who are isolating via our online platform. All children have an individual log in and password which has been updated for this academic year; Van Gogh parents were handed these yesterday, Monet and Kandinsky children can find theirs in their reading diaries and Picasso children have theirs on paper to bring home. Children should only be accessing this learning if they are at home isolating. This may be because they or someone in their household has symptoms and are awaiting a test and results from this test, or because someone in the household has tested positive and therefore everyone in the household is isolating. If your child is away from school because they are unwell, they shouldn't be accessing this learning. We do understand that during a period of isolation, parents may be unwell themselves or may be working from home; this can be difficult to manage so please do not feel that this online learning must be completed and remember that we will support in whatever way we can. With this newsletter we have attached a Parent guide to support with how to use STARz.

## **Home Learning**

We have taken the decision not to set the weekly home learning grids for the first half term for several reasons. Firstly, children undertook a great deal of home learning during lockdown and so this gives them time to do other things at home instead. Also, children are working incredibly hard in school, adjusting back to routines and expectations. On the class information PowerPoints, teachers have made suggestions for spelling/phonics and reading which it would be useful to do at home. Reading, reading, reading is the biggest focus if your child would like to do some learning at home – hearing stories, discovering facts in books, listening to podcasts from authors etc. etc. We will of course let you know when we are starting home learning again.

## **Flu Vaccinations**

We have been informed that the Flu vaccinations will be available to every year group again this year. We have attached a letter with the portal login information for you to access to either give or decline permission for your child. It is given as a nasal spray and it is vital that all parents log on whether they are accepting or declining please.

The portal link will close on 30th September 2020 and the School Vaccination Session Date is 30th November 2020.



## **Harvest Donations**



Over the coming week we will be focussing on harvest in our collective worship and many churches will be celebrating harvest, including St Andrews Church in the village. We will still hold a harvest service in each class and this year we will be supporting Kings Ripton Court in Huntingdon who offer support for young single homeless people, aged 16-25, with support needs. We would be very grateful if you could send in a donation with your child at some time during next week. There will be a quarantine box in each classroom for the items they bring. Please ensure that the donation can be carried by your child (we would recommend no glass jars) as they will need to bring it in to school themselves. Kings Ripton Court would be particularly grateful for pasta sauce, tea and coffee as well as any tinned food.

## **Better Health – Every Mind Matters campaign**

Most families have experienced upheaval in their daily lives during the pandemic. With children and young people now back at school, the new Public Health England (PHE) [Better Health – Every Mind Matters campaign](#) provides NHS-endorsed tips and advice to help children and young people's mental wellbeing, and equip parents and carers with the knowledge to support them.

The new advice available on the [Every Mind Matters website](#) has been developed in partnership with leading children and young people's mental health charities, including [Young Minds](#), [The Mix](#), [Place2Be](#) and [The Anna Freud Centre](#). It is designed to help parents and carers spot the signs that children may be struggling with their mental health and support them, and also provides advice that can help maintain good mental wellbeing. The site also provides tools to help young people build resilience and equips them to look after their mental wellbeing.

## **STARS news**



S.T.A.R.S (Support Team for Abbots Ripton School) is the PTA (Parent Teacher association) for Abbots Ripton C of E Primary School and we start the year with the Annual General Meeting where we discuss the previous year and make plans for the coming year. The STARS AGM this year will be held via Zoom at 7pm on Wednesday 30th September. All parents are automatically members and are therefore invited to join. If you have any ideas for how to raise vital funds for the school in a virtual way or in a way that means we won't breach current guidance, then please do join to share your ideas.

STARS do a fantastic job to support the school by raising funds for projects, equipment and extra opportunities that enhance the learning environment for all of our children.

There are 4 main positions within STARS, some of which are statutory due to our charity status. These include Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. If you are interested in finding out more about these roles, or would like to nominate yourself, please contact Mrs Nixon in the school office before Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

Please see below Zoom link for the STARS AGM.

Topic: STARS AGM

Time: 30/9/2020 19:00

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81563039251?pwd=L1d3cCtzSUERtZdxbXhIRkM3TXlyUT09>

Meeting ID: 815 6303 9251

Passcode: 6WfRr7

STARS also have a Facebook page which is a closed group and therefore if you wish to join, please see the link below which will guide you to the page so you can request to join.  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1489422241352109/>

Please note that **this is not the main notification site for school information** but a site set up by parents for parents. Please continue to read the newsletter and flyers sent from school.

### **Year 6 Secondary School applications – Now Open**

Please see below a note from Cambridgeshire Admissions regarding the application process this year.

*The transfer group is now open for your year 6 students to apply for Secondary school for September 2021.*

*We will not be sending out the UID letters as we have in previous years. Could you please remind all year 6 parents that the process to apply for secondary school for next September 2021 is now open and will close on the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020. Parents will receive their offer on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021. Any late applications received after the 31<sup>st</sup> October will be allocated on the 27<sup>th</sup> April. Please encourage all parents to make on time applications to ensure the best opportunity of obtaining one of their 3 school preferences.*

*Could you please advise parents via your school communication process (i.e. Parentmail) that they will need to log into the Citizen Portal to make their application. Last year the majority of parents chose to make their applications for a school place online. Parents must apply via their home local authority (where they pay their Council Tax to) for transferring from Primary to Secondary school.*

*This is the link to the Cambridgeshire online application process:-*

*<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-learning/apply-for-a-school-place/secondary-school>*

*If parents do not wish to make their application online, paper application forms are available on request if they call 0345 045 1370. Any students that have deferred places must apply via a paper application as the portal will not accept their date of birth for this transfer group.*

*If you or parents have any questions about the application or online processes please refer to the booklet on our website "**Next Steps - Starting Secondary School; a guide for parents 2021-22**" or contact the Admissions Team.*

*Due to the pandemic we are unfortunately not able to run the 'Going up to Secondary School' events that we usually put on in the autumn term.*

*We normally arrange sessions across the county and invite parents of children in Year 6 to come along to hear about the admissions process and how they can support their child with the transition. As well as the Year 6s we also include parents who have a child in Year 5 with an EHCP. The process of selecting a secondary school starts sooner for these children so this gives them the chance to get some early information on the application process.*

*As we are unable to hold the usual face to face events this year we are working on providing some online alternative resources. As soon as they are available I will be in touch again to ask if you can let the relevant parents in your*

school know where they can be found. In the meantime any parent who needs help with making their secondary school application can still contact us by phone or email in the usual way. Details can be found on the admissions pages of our website - <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-learning/apply-for-a-school-place/support-with-choosing-a-school>

### **New menu starts next week**

Please find attached the new menu which begins next week.

### **Macmillan Cancer Support Coffee Morning**



For the past few years we have held a cake stall and non-uniform day to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. Due to the difficulties presented this year, we have decided that this year we will not be holding our cake sale as usual. However, if you still wish to donate please visit <https://macmillan-email.org.uk/O9G-717Y2-7HP5BH-46S4TR-1/c.aspx>

### **School photos**

The individual school photos are booked for Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October. As in previous years we will organise sibling photos in school although due to the current situation in school we are unable to offer preschool photos this time.



### **Van Gogh parents**

We are delighted to have introduced Tapestry, an online learning platform where you will be able to view and contribute to your child's learning profile. These will go live any day, so if you haven't received notification via email by Monday morning, please do email the school office. If you haven't returned your permission to share your email address with Tapestry, you will not be able to view your child's profile until we receive this.

### **Free School Meal Entitlement**

We understand that the times we are currently living in are both uncertain and challenging. Alongside this many families are facing changes in their financial circumstances.

If your circumstances have changed, and you believe that you now meet the following criteria, please complete an online application at [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals) where you will receive an **instant** response as to your eligibility status. The criteria includes anyone claiming the following:

- Income Support.
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance.
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance.
- Child Tax Credit - but no element of Working Tax Credit - and have an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC)) that does not exceed £16,190.
- If you are supported under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
- Guarantee element of State Pension Credit.
- Working Tax Credit during the four week period immediately after your employment finishes or after you start to work less hours per week.
- Universal Credit with an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400 (as from 1 April 2018).



**Are you entitled?**

If you have previously applied or been eligible for free school meals, you need not re-apply, as we will continue to re-check your entitlement each month and will notify you should you become re-eligible.

## 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



## Diary Dates

Please see below the diary dates for the Autumn term 2020

***Any new dates are added in bold italics***

Date	Event
<b><i>21<sup>st</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> September</i></b>	<b><i>Harvest focus – donations accepted in school</i></b>
1 <sup>st</sup> October	School photos – individual and siblings
8 <sup>th</sup> October	Van Gogh Parent Consultations via telephone: 2:30pm – 5:30pm
15 <sup>th</sup> October	Online Phonics Workshop for Foundation parents – more details to follow
<b><i>26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> October</i></b>	<b><i>HALF TERM</i></b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> November	School starts again
3 <sup>rd</sup> November	Monet Parent Consultations via telephone: 2:30pm – 5:30pm
4 <sup>th</sup> November	Monet Parent Consultations via telephone: 2:30pm – 5:30pm
4 <sup>th</sup> November	Kandinsky Parent Consultations via telephone: 3:30pm – 5:30pm
11 <sup>th</sup> November	Kandinsky Parent Consultations via telephone: 3:30pm – 5:30pm
12 <sup>th</sup> November	Picasso Parent Consultations via telephone: 3:30pm – 5:30pm
25 <sup>th</sup> November	Flu Vaccinations for all children
18 <sup>th</sup> December	End of Term
<b><i>19<sup>th</sup> Dec to 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan 2021</i></b>	<b><i>Christmas Holiday</i></b>
4 <sup>th</sup> January	Training day – School Closed
5 <sup>th</sup> January	Spring term begins