



# Welcome back

## 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.*

### **Welcome back!**

We have 2 very important 'Welcome back' messages today. Firstly to all of our families and children who are now starting the second half of the summer term, still learning from their homes. Secondly, we are also delighted to welcome back 28 children today from Van Gogh and Picasso class as well as some of our children of key workers. The school is one again a buzz of learning, laughter and friendship.



As I'm sure you can appreciate, a great deal of planning and hard work has taken place over the last 2 weeks in order to reopen the school. There are so many guidance documents from both the Local Authority and from Government but we feel that we have worked diligently and purposefully to ensure that we have opened in the safest way possible for both our families and our staff. The details of our reopening were sent to those parents who had confirmed that their children would be returning today as they were our priority. However, all parents can now view this information on our [school website](#).

### **Home learning**

As many of our staff members are now back in school we have had to make some slight changes to our Home Learning platform. However, we do acknowledge that many of our learners will still be accessing their learning online so we hope the changes won't impact them too greatly.

- For some children, the feedback on their learning may not be from their usual teacher but another staff member as we try to share the workload.
- There will no longer be any 'group chats'
- A great number of children, particularly in key stage 2, were regularly direct messaging their teachers just to say hello and staff were engaging in this almost immediately because they were at their laptops. This is no longer the case for many teachers and although hugely valuable, we would ask that the children just use the inbox for urgent messages for example if they are struggling with something. We still hope to use this but as a support mechanism rather than a 'chat'. Please do talk to your children about this if this is something that you know they used.

- Some children have been uploading learning as a direct message to their teachers and receiving feedback as a direct message too. Please could we ask that all children now upload their learning via the Homework tab and their feedback can be accessed via the Homework Handed In tab. This will minimise the number of direct messages that staff are trying to respond to. Again, please do talk to your children about this if they are uploading their work themselves.

### **A few reminders for families returning**

Today has been extremely positive and so many children (and staff!) were clearly thrilled to be back at school. Some important reminders:

- Please leave our site as quickly as possible; avoid catching up with other families, although tempting, particularly at the end of the day as it may be more difficult to keep children apart whilst you are talking.
- All children need hats as the weather is sunny and learning for all children may take place outside whenever possible.
- Arrival at school must be between 8:40am and 9am. If any family is persistently late then sadly we may ask them to keep their child at home as they will be putting others at risk as their child will be coming into contact with office staff.

### **COVID19 and Free School Meal Eligibility**

If your financial circumstances have been affected by the COVID 19 crisis you could now be entitled to Benefit Related Free School Meals.

The Covid19 crisis has also highlighted the difference between Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) and Benefit Related Free School Meals (FSM).

The government can only offer help to those who are in receipt of Benefit Related Free School Meals so we encourage applications from all year groups.

To find out if you are eligible please fill out the simple online application form at [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals) where you will receive an instant response as to your eligibility status. If you are eligible your child's school will be informed within 3 days.

#### FSM Criteria

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (unless you're also entitled to Working Tax Credit, and earn no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop receiving Working Tax Credit)
- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400)

If you have any queries regarding this information, please call the Education Welfare Benefits team on 01223 703200 or email [ewb.fsm@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:ewb.fsm@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) or look at the website [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals)

## **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