



11th December

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.

Van Gogh and Monet Nativity

As you are aware, we have been unable to perform our nativity to a live audience in the usual way this year. However, we are delighted that the children have all taken part in our own style nativity and this has been filmed by Mr and Mrs Ellison. We will be uploading this to the school YouTube channel and a link will be sent to you towards the end of next week so that you can view this. In addition to this, Mr and Mrs Ellison have kindly offered to burn the film onto DVDs which are available for parents to buy via <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/stars/index.cfm?event=event&eventId=33822#.X9M-gSXfWaM>



All proceeds will be donated to STARS. Given the very short time frame and the very kind offer from very busy parents, all orders must be placed by the start of school on Monday morning at the very latest.

End of term

You may be aware through the media that the DfE announced this week that schools could move one of their teacher training days to Friday 18th December. This is because they recognise that schools have a responsibility with the track and trace process if we were to be informed of a positive case of COVID-19 among pupils or staff. By opening on the 18th December this responsibility remains until the 24th December. However, we have decided that we will remain open on the 18th as planned as we recognise the impact for parents of closing early with such short notice.

We would like to ask parents to support us with our track and trace responsibilities by following the advice below:

- If your child develops symptoms at any time between the 18th and the 21st December please inform us via the office@abbotsripton.cambs.sch.uk email address.
- Please visit a test centre rather than requesting a postal test as results are returned much more quickly.
- Please inform us of the result of your child's test as soon as you can, again via the office email address above.
- If we are informed of a member of school staff or a pupil testing positive, we will follow Public Health advice regarding who to inform and will do this by telephone for anyone who needs to isolate because they have been in contact with the positive case.

We continue to be vigilant in school and your support in keeping the whole school community safe is appreciated. You can support further with this by minimising your contact with other families and leaving our site promptly over the next week.

Christmas Lunch – Wednesday

Just a reminder that our Christmas Lunch is on Wednesday. We are inviting your children to come to school wearing a Christmas jumper in stead of their school jumper or cardigan for this day.

Christingle Service



Despite not being able to hold our own Christingle Service this year, we are pleased to be joining the live service from Ely Cathedral led by Bishop Stephen. All parents are welcome to join this service too on Monday 16th at 1:30pm. The service will be streamed through the Diocesan website: [Ely Cathedral - Live Streamed Services](#). The order of service can be found [here](#). The children will be learning about the Christingle, what it signifies and thinking about others at this time. There are some lovely family activities related to the service which you may like to use at home which can also be found [here](#).

We would also like to invite everyone to "Flood the Night with Light" on Sunday 20th December at 6.30pm. Simply light your Christingle(s) and place them in a window that looks out onto the street - you can share the pictures of your house or street "Flooding the Night" on the Diocesan Facebook page 'Ely Cathedral Learning Fun for Families'. *Please be very careful when you light your Christingle - make sure you don't leave naked flames unattended or near any flammable materials such as curtains.*

End of Term Services

Sadly, Rev'd Mandy will now be conducting our end of term services via Zoom and not in person. We will not therefore be inviting parents join us.

Fostering - message from the Local Authority

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough fostering services are asking people to make space around their tree this year and consider becoming a foster carer and offer children and young people the love and support of a family.

Many of our children and young people will spend Christmas Day away from their families but with your help we can give them the support they deserve. Our young people said the qualities they look for in foster carers include someone who is empathetic, caring, resilient and open minded – does this sound like you? Fostering can fit in with your lifestyle so contact us now to find out more. We offer generous allowances, continuous training and 24-hour support, so you will never feel alone. You need to be over 21, have a spare bedroom and be available to care for children and teenagers. You can be: Single, married or living with a partner, Living with a disability, in a same sex relationship, in work, unemployed or retired or living in your own home or renting.

So what are you waiting for? Give the gift of family and make this Christmas a special one! Register online at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/fostering or www.peterborough.gov.uk/fostering or text FOSTERING to 60777.

What's on in Hunts

With this newsletter we have sent a What's on in Hunts newsletter from the locality team. Apologies that we are so far through December but we have only just received this.

COVID-19 Winter Grants Scheme

A letter was sent home earlier this week regarding financial support through the Winter Grant Scheme for families. Cambridgeshire have a website with further details [here](#). Also, if you would like to check whether you are eligible for free school meals, please click the link [here](#) to put in a few details and a response will be received immediately.



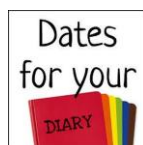
Goodbye

Today we say goodbye to Archie and family from Year 1 who are starting a new adventure in January in Australia! We will be very sad to see you go but wish you all every success in the future. Do keep in touch.



Final day for the Silent Auction and Virtual Christmas Fair!

Do have a look and support our school with these two online events – please see the email sent earlier this week for more details. The STARS team have worked incredibly hard to put these together so please share the links as widely as you can with family and friends.



Diary Dates

Please see below the diary dates for the Autumn term 2020

Any new dates are added in bold italics

Date	Event
14 th December	Virtual Christingle Service held at Ely Cathedral 1:30pm – <i>details above</i>
16 th December	Christmas dinner day – wear a Christmas jumper
<i>18th December</i>	<i>End of term services led by Rev'd Mandy- just for in school and not streamed for parents.</i>
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