



3rd December

Autumn Term 2021 News

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 Cases in school

Thank you to everyone for your support in helping to keep the children and staff safe this week by testing your children and if they show any symptoms, following this up with a PCR test. We are also aware that many, many families are regularly using lateral flow tests and that this is helping to identify asymptomatic cases quickly. Identifying positive cases is vital in helping us to stop the spread in school. Although we are still seeing some new cases, we hope that by working together we can all have a safe and happy Christmas holiday when it arrives.

Children in Need – Fancy Dress Friday

Thank you for all your kind donations. We raised £261.00, which is an amazing amount. Well done!

Foundation/KS1 Nativity

We have very sadly made the difficult decision to cancel this year's nativity play. There are 3 main reasons for this; firstly over the last 10 days we have averaged around 50% absence across Monet and Van Gogh classes, making it incredibly difficult to teach songs and practise lines. In addition, we were advised to 'ring-fence' Monet class as numbers of cases were rising and this has meant that they have not been able to practise or learn alongside Van Gogh class at all. This has meant that we can't rehearse together. Lastly, staff absence due to Covid has put a great deal of pressure on staffing and our priority has been to ensure continuity of learning for all children, both at school and those accessing learning from home and this has left very little capacity to focus on the nativity.

Whilst we appreciate that this is disappointing, I am hopeful that parents will understand the difficulties that we have faced, and continue to face this half term. We do hope to do something later in the year if we are able.

Welcome

We would like to welcome Benjamin and his family to our school community. Benjamin joined us last week in Picasso Class. We do hope you enjoy your time at Abbots Ripton.

Homework

A quick reminder that the whole school home learning is on the STARZ website for your children to complete. All children have their logins so should be able to access this online.

Token Reward – Friday 10th December

The children have been working hard this half term to earn tokens. The choices were Onesie/PJ day, Christmas Cookie decorating and Christmas DVD and popcorn. We have counted the tokens today.

Christmas DVD and popcorn – 149 tokens

Onesie/PJ day – 201 tokens *WINNER*

Christmas cookie decorating – 112 tokens

Therefore, although we still have two weeks of term, we have decided that next Friday 10th December will be a whole school Onesie/PJ day! However, please ensure that your child has something to warm to wear over the top to go outside for playtime.

Chicken Pox

We have had two cases of Chicken Pox in Kandinsky class over the past couple of weeks. We are sharing this as it is important for anyone in our community who is pregnant and not immune to chicken pox to be aware and inform their midwives if appropriate.



Picasso swimming next term.

A letter with permission slip and payment plan has been sent home with Picasso class today. Please can you complete and return the slip as soon as possible. The first instalment of the payment plan is due by Friday 17th December.

National Height and Weight

Information regarding the National Height and Weight check for children in Reception and Year 6 was emailed out last week. These checks will be completed in school on Thursday 13th January at 9am.

If you do not want your child's height and weight to be checked, please email eh.ncmp.healthyyou@nhs.net with your child's official name, date of birth, school and year group confirming you would like to opt out your child. The deadline for opting out is Friday 10th December 2021.

Christmas Lunch

Please see attached the flyer for Christmas lunch. If your child does not normally have a hot school lunch and they wish to join us for Christmas lunch on Thursday 16th December then please complete and return the flyer by Monday 13th December. We invite everyone to wear a Christmas jumper on that day too!

Christmas Cards

If your child wishes to send Christmas cards to their friends there will be a box in their classroom to post them in if they are for a different class, rather than the normal whole school post box.

Please can we request that all cards be brought in between Monday 6th and Monday 13th December.

We will then quarantine them and give them out in one big Christmas delivery! However, we would appreciate your support with a few things; please only send cards between the dates above, do not allow your child to lick the envelopes – wet kitchen towel works just as well and please include the class or year group on the front of the card as we have several children in the school with the same name. Thank you.



Household Support Fund and the Christmas Holidays

With this newsletter is a letter and frequently asked questions document from the Local Authority Service Director for Education regarding the Household Support Fund. This fund is aimed at supporting vulnerable households over the winter months in response to Covid-19 via a Direct Food Voucher Scheme. Any eligible families will therefore be receiving vouchers to cover the Christmas holiday period. For more information and to check your eligibility please see the attached information.

The Local Authority recognise that there is a need to offer support for families who may not be eligible for the Food Voucher Scheme but who may still need support and again details of how to access this are in the letter attached.



Silent auction

After the success of last year's STARS Silent Auction we are running it again this year. There is a great selection of lots including a pair of festival tickets for the SOLD OUT Secret Garden Party, several lots with wines and spirits, an opportunity for Sammy The Pony to visit your home, and lots lots more! The auction will run from Friday 3rd December till 23:00 on Saturday 11th December, with winners announced in the days after closing. Please share the auction with others, and please bid generously!

Link for online catalogue:

<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:b34dda32-6780-43ba-9470-a93ee9d52a45>

Amazon smile

If you are likely to use Amazon for some of your Christmas shopping, please link your Amazon account to STARS so that we receive a commission (at no cost to you) that we can use to support our wonderful school. Amazon will donate 0.5% of net purchase prices on eligible products. It honestly only takes 2 minutes to sort.

How to sign up for AmazonSmile

How to use AmazonSmile on a web browser:

Visit smile.amazon.com

Sign in with the same account you use for Amazon.com

Select your charity

Start shopping! Remember to checkout at smile.amazon.com to generate donations for your chosen charity.

Tip: Add a bookmark to make it easier to shop at smile.amazon.com.

How to use AmazonSmile using the Amazon app on your mobile phone:

Open the Amazon Shopping app

Navigate to the main menu (=)

Tap on Settings and then select "AmazonSmile"

Select your charity and then follow the on-screen instructions to turn ON AmazonSmile in the mobile app

Once AmazonSmile has been activated in your app, future eligible app purchases will generate a donation for the charity you have selected.

Note: The tablet app is not yet supported. Please visit smile.amazon.com/ontheago to learn more.

Amazon Wishlist

If you would like to buy the school a Christmas present, the school has a Wish List on Amazon. If you are looking for a way to make a contribution to the school at any time, please take a look here. This is regularly updated with items the school would appreciate quickly. Please follow the link here:

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/dl/invite/gznYEd9?ref=wl_share You will need to then login with your account details if you already have an account with Amazon to see the list.

Wreath Making

Thank you so much to everyone that ordered a wreath making kit. You helped STARS to raise a huge £775! A massive thank you to all the STARS that helped prepare the wreath making kits and to Mallory for your live demonstration! **It was a lot of work and your efforts are really appreciated.**



Class representatives

Thank you to those of you that have volunteered as the Class Reps. Details below:

Foundation - Anna (Lena's Mum)

Year 1 - Jo (Florence's Mum)

Year 2 - VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Year 3 - Francesca (Freddy's Mum)

Year 4 - VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Year 5 - Heledd (Emily's Mum)

Year 6 - VOLUNTEER NEEDED

We still need a few volunteers, so please do let anyone on the committee know or email the school office if you think you could be a class representative and Mrs Nixon will pass it on to us. We do not anticipate that this will be a role that will take up a lot of time, but we would love a representative to help spread the news and reminders regarding STARS events.

Thank you so much for your ongoing support for STARS and our wonderful school.

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 Autumn 2021/Spring 2022

All new dates are added in bold and italic.

Date	Event
6 th December	Open Session for Foundation intake 2022 ~ 1:30pm Postponed
8 th December	Foundation/KS1 Nativity Performance ~ 9:30am & 2:pm Cancelled
9 th December	Foundation/KS1 Nativity Performance ~ 9:30am Cancelled
11 th December	Onesie/PJ Day
16 th December	Whole School Christmas Lunch including Christmas Jumper day
17 th December	Christmas Christingle Service ~ 2.30pm in the church In school - children only
17 th December	End of term
18 th Dec 2021 to 3 rd Jan 2022	Christmas Holiday
4 th January	Training day ~ School Closed
5 th January	Spring term 2022 begins
11th January	Picasso Swimming starts (5 weeks)
13th January	Height and Weight checks for Reception and Year 6
14th – 18th February	Half Term holiday
14th – 17th March	Bikeability for Year 5/6
1st April	End of Spring term 2022