



11th March

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.

Covid Update

As you will be aware, we have had 6 positive cases of COVID over the last week so sadly took the decision to keep collective worship in class groups and also to keep Picasso and Kandinsky in their classrooms for eating lunch. Staff are also continuing to wear face coverings when in communal areas of the school. We have continued to have the whole school mixing together when outside on the playground/field. We will continue with these measures for the next week and review cases again at this point.

We are extremely grateful to parents who continue to test their children regularly as this is how cases are coming to light.

War in Ukraine

Several of our older children have asked about whether we are able to undertake some fundraising to support the people of Ukraine. We are involving the children in our planning and will let you know as soon as we have a fundraising plan in place. To those children who have approached us about this, we thank you – it shows a real empathy for others to be compelled to take action.

If you would like some support with how to talk to your children about what is happening, Unicef have produced a resource for parents about how to talk to children about war and conflict. It can be accessed [here](#).

Bikeability

We have informed Picasso class today that we have taken the decision to postpone their Bikeability. As part of the pre-visit conversation we are asked about the number of positive COVID cases and overall pupil absence. At the time of this conversation we had more than 20% of the class absent so it seemed the fairest thing to postpone to enable as many children as possible to take part. We hope that a new date can be found as soon as possible. Many thanks for your understanding with this.

Dogs

Following an incident several years ago, where a dog bit a child, the Governors decided that for safety reasons that dogs were not allowed on the school site.

We have noticed an increase over the past few weeks of dogs being brought onto the site and although some of these are only puppies, we would appreciate it if you do not bring these onto the school grounds. Many thanks.

18th March – Comic Relief Day

This year's Comic Relief day is on Friday 18th March. We are going to ask you to come to school dressed in something red or dressed as a super hero – remember not all heroes wear capes! We are asking for a donation to our Comic Relief Just Giving page – please donate [here](#)



Term dates 2023/2024

We sent out the term dates for 2022/2023 last term and have now confirmed the term dates for 2023/2024. We do hope by sending these now it will help families in planning your holidays. Please find attached the PDF copy for your calendars.



West Stow visit

The Kandinsky children are very excited about their visit to West Stow on Tuesday next week. A few reminders:

- Children should all wear a school jumper or cardigan so that they are recognisable. Please wear black tracksuit bottoms from your PE kit on the bottom so that you are warm and comfortable.
- The children will spend time outside even if it is raining so a waterproof jacket would be better than a big winter coat.
- All children will need a pair of shoes for outside - most have outdoor shoes/wellingtons in school already and they will take those. If your child doesn't have a pair of outdoor shoes in school, please send them in on Monday in a named plastic bag.
- Their bag just needs to be big enough for their drink and lunch. Please include a snack for mid-morning and a water bottle for use throughout the day.
- A packed lunch will be required (please ensure there are no nut based products, no glass bottles or fizzy drinks please) unless you pre-ordered one from school. This will be given to your child on the day.

The coach is due to leave **promptly** so please ensure your child arrives at 8:40am so we can get everyone ready. We will be back in time for the end of the school day at 3:15pm.

Change to lunch menu next week

Just a reminder that the menu next Wednesday and Friday has changed to the following:

Wednesday 16th March

*Fish Cake or Cheese Pizza with chips
Sponge cake*

Friday 18th March

*Roast Gammon, Yorkshire pudding and roast potatoes or Cheese and baked bean slice or Jacket Potato
Fruity Friday*



Staffing changes

We are delighted that Miss Slater is returning to school following her maternity leave. She will be working alongside Mrs MacLeod in Monet Class on a Thursday afternoon and all day Friday starting on 24th March. Next week she is visiting to meet the children, as many won't remember her being in school.

We are sad to be saying goodbye to Natalie who has worked as Midday supervisor in the lunch hall for the past few years. Natalie is leaving us to move on to a new challenge and we will be very sad to see her go.



STARS News

Playground Furniture

You will no doubt have seen the lovely new benches and tables in the playground over the last couple of weeks. In Abbots Ripton blue nonetheless!
And the children in Van Gogh have a new pirate ship to play on!



Thanks to the funds raised with your support, STARS have been able to purchase these for the children to enjoy. The children are loving these.



A MASSIVE THANK YOU to the following families who gave up their time over two weekends to put the furniture together:

The Stevens family

The Ward family

Mr Marshall-Roberts

Thank you, thank you, thank you. You are superstars!

FUND-Raisin

Thank you to all the families that participated in the FUND-Raisin. £157.73 was rais(on)ed!
A big thank you to ***Jo Brett-Orchard*** for organising this fundraiser and ***Buzz Marketing*** for donating all the raisin boxes. Another superstar!

Events coming up this half term....

Mother's Day Cream Tea - order by 23rd March

Order a Cream Tea for a Mother's Day Treat (Mothering Sunday is on 27th March!).

Order by 23rd March & collect on 25th March after school.

Available to purchase online at PTA events.

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/stars/#.YipUh3zP2Uk>

Mother's Day Shop - 25th March

The Mother's Day shop returns! The Mother's Day shop is an opportunity for the children to purchase small gifts during the school day for their Mums / Grannies / Aunties / whoever they are celebrating on Mother's Day.

The children will be able to choose from a selection of items and we expect that the prices will be in the region of £1.

We have obtained some lovely gifts for the Mother's Day shop already but we won't spoil your Mother's Day surprises! We still need some more stock and so if you have anything to offer that we can put in the shop, it would be greatly appreciated. Please do let one of the committee know if you can help.

Payments can be made in cash but there will also be the ability to pre-pay on PTA-Events. More details to follow shortly.

P.S. There will be a Father's Day shop next term! :-)

Easter Egg Hunt - 1st April

On the last day of term (during the school day), STARS are organising an Easter Egg hunt for the children. There will be a chocolatey reward at the end of the hunt!



Diary Dates

Please see below the diary dates for the Spring 2022 term
Any new dates added in the future will be in bold and italics

Date	Event
14 th – 17 th March	<i>Bikeability for Year 5/6 – POSTPONED</i>
15 th March	Kandinsky Trip to West Stow Anglo Saxon Site
18 th March	Comic Relief Day – wear red or dress as a super hero
<i>23rd March</i>	<i>STARS Deadline for orders for Mother's Day Cream Tea Treat</i>
<i>25th March</i>	<i>STARS Mother's day stall in school for children to visit</i>
<i>1st April</i>	<i>STARS Easter Egg hunt</i>
1 st April	Easter Church service - TBC
1 st April	End of Spring term 2022
19 th April	Teacher Training Day – school closed
20 th April	Summer term begins
2 nd May	Bank holiday – school closed
27 th May	Teacher Training Day – school closed
30 th May – 3 rd June	Half Term
6 th – 8 th July	Stibbington Residential – Year 5/6
21 st July	Summer term closes
22 nd July	Extra bank holiday owed due to Queens Jubilee. School closed.