



16th November

School news Update

Our School Mission Statement: Together with God's help we: Grow in Faith, Learn for Life and Achieve our best.



Our Remembrance Week

Last week the children had the opportunity to reflect on the impact of war and to remember and give thanks to those who fought and died in the first and second world wars. Picasso class were moved to learn about the brave people from Abbots Ripton who fought and some who died. They visited the plaque in the church and thought about what life might have been like. All children made a poppy; some were printed using sliced fruit, some were collaged and some were folded to create a poppy windmill effect. These are now on display in school.

A huge thank you to the families who shared their family links with the war and for allowing the children to see some of the war time artefacts including medals. It makes history come alive when it relates to people that they are able to make a connection with.

Children in Need

Thank you to everyone for supporting the Children In Need fundraiser today. We raised £132! Thank you so much!



Late arrival at school



We have noticed again that too many children are not arriving onto the playground before the bell rings at 8.50am. Please ensure that you arrive in time for your child to line up with their class as starting the day late is unsettling for the children and some really struggle to settle in class when they are arriving after their friends.

Also, we start learning promptly first thing in the morning so your children are missing valuable learning time. Your support with this is really appreciated.

Parent Drop In sessions

As a school we acknowledge the importance of positive wellbeing not just in our children and staff but also in the parent community. With this in mind, we are really pleased that we now have a link Early Intervention Family Worker who will be providing a drop in session each half term here at school. There is no need to make an appointment, you can just come along and have a chat. The aim of these drop ins is to support parents with anything that they may want advice about; it could be how to manage sibling rivalry, what strategies to use with a child who is a fussy eater or a bed wetter and so on. It may also just be that you want to talk someone who is not connected to the school who will be a confidential listening ear.

Our first Parent Drop in session is between 2pm and 3pm on 29th November. See attached poster for more information.

Attendance % for W/E 16/11/18

Van Gogh ~ 93%
Monet ~ 95%
Kandinsky ~ 95%
Picasso ~ 100%

Swimming next term

Picasso Class will be swimming as part of their PE curriculum next term at St Peters Pool in Huntingdon. They will travel by coach on a Monday afternoon. Letters and payment plans have been sent home today. Please ensure your first instalment and permission slip arrives in school by Friday 7th December.



Christmas tree – plea!

Every year we have great fun on decorating morning making the decorations which go on our tree in the main corridor. Historically the tree has been donated by a family (who wish to remain nameless!) However, families move on to pastures new and we are wondering whether anyone from our current parent family would be willing to donate us a real tree. Do please contact Mrs Nixon in the school office if you are able to help.

The Rotary Club

The Rotary Club of Huntingdon Cromwell, in partnership with The Woodland Trust and The Abbots Ripton Estate are planting a wood of 420 trees at the back of Home Farm in the village. Those involved would like some of our children to be part of this project as they will be the adults in years to come who will reap the benefits of the wood. As Picasso were involved in planting spring bulbs in the village last year, we would like Kandinsky to take part in this project on the afternoon of Monday 26th November. If you are able to join us to help with supervising the walk to and from Home Farm as well as the planting please do let the office know. If we do not have enough willing volunteers then sadly the children will not be able to take part!

School Hot Dinner - Picasso

Currently any children having a packed lunch, who are in Picasso class, have their lunch in a classroom. Following discussion with Jo in our kitchen, we have decided that each half term we will select half the class to eat in the classroom and half the class to eat in the school hall. However, we are aware that children who are eating in the classroom all opt for a packed lunch but we are now able to serve a hot meal even if your child is eating in a classroom. Hopefully this may mean that children who want to eat with their friends can still have a choice about which meal they have, particularly as so many parents would prefer them to eat a hot meal.

Awesome Arctic workshop

Monet and Van Gogh will meet a real explorer next week! He has spent a great deal of time exploring the Arctic and he will share his equipment as well as photographs with the children alongside sharing his amazing stories about his time in this amazing part of our planet.

Golden Mile

During this term the children have been participating in The Golden Mile, an all year round initiative whereby they are encouraged to walk, jog or run around the 'Golden Mile track' on the school field during lunch times. We would like to give the children an opportunity to take part in this initiative before school each day. Therefore, starting on Monday, children and parents will be able to arrive at school from 8:30am, and complete as many laps as possible before 8:45am to give themselves a healthy and active start to the day. Parents will remain responsible for their children until 8:40am so will be encouraged to walk, jog or run with them. The route has been measured so we will mark out the lap with cones for next week until everyone becomes familiar with the route. All laps will be recorded on our page on the Premier Portal and this is then converted into total miles completed. Each child will receive a personalised certificate when they reach the 10, 25, 50, 75, 100, and 150 mile mark! There is no need for your child to change into sports kit for this activity.



Hair bands

Please can we remind you that if your child has long hair it must be tied back while they are in school. The band must also be in keeping with school colours i.e. blue or black.

Library after school homework clubs



Cambridgeshire Libraries are now offering term time after school Homework Clubs. The clubs offer children space to do their homework, with staff on hand to find any books or online resources they need, free use of computers, as well as free photocopies/printouts. Parents/carers are asked to say with children under 11. Locally the libraries in Huntingdon, St Ives and St Neots are running this club. To find out more including the days and times for the clubs please visit

www.cambridgeshire.net



STARS news

We just wanted to say thank you to the STARS committee and all supporters for the successful Camp Fire Cook out evening held last week. Thank you so much to everyone involved. They raised £197.40. Well done!

Our Christmas Fair is on the 7th December and preparations are well under way. We always need helpers on the day so if you have a spare half an hour do let the committee know. We are asking for a donation for the raffle hampers in exchange for a non-uniform day on Friday 30th November. Please send in your hamper donation on this day with your child.

Each class has been given a theme in assembly today from the following;
Green, Gold, Silver, and Red

Wreath Night

We are so excited to say that we still have a few tickets left, especially for the afternoon session. Do speak to a member of the committee to book your place.

Christmas Cards have now been ordered, thank you for your support. We will send them home as soon as they arrive.

6 Weeks to Go!

STARS are going to do a 'Count Down to Christmas' this year! Please do have a look each week for what the focus is for the week and how you can help; from donations for hampers to booking tickets to have Breakfast with Santa!

This week: Easy Fundraising, Jam Jar tombola and Toy Sale donations.



Easy fundraising

As you start to think about Christmas shopping, please remember to register for Easy Fundraising. You can shop at most of your usual online shops, but every time you buy via the Easy Fundraising link we get cash back! You can download an easy toolbar to remind you. Please check it

out at <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/starsabbotsripton/>

Jam Jar Tombola This is always a popular stall with the children. All you have to do is fill an empty jam jar with something that the children may like (sweets, hair accessories, Lego pieces etc.) and perhaps pop a bit of Christmas decoration on the jar. Please take them to the school office over the next week.

Toy Sale

Any good quality second hand donations for our Black Friday Toy Sale would be most appreciated. We will be collecting donations in the school car park from Monday 19th to Wednesday 21st November. The sale will be in the school hall from 2.30pm on Friday 23rd November. Please come along and have a look at the toys for sale and grab a bargain!



Diary Dates

Please see below the diary dates for the Autumn/Spring term 2018/2019

*Any new dates added in the future will be in **bold italics***

Date	Event
20 th November	Awesome Arctic workshop – Van Gogh and Monet class
21 st November	Nursery Rhyme Week – Van Gogh Parents invited 9am
21 st November	Picasso class sharing assembly – 2:50pm. Everyone welcome
23 rd November	STARS Black Friday Toy Sale – see poster sent
23 rd November	1:15 – 2:15pm Open Session for Prospective Foundation intake 2019
26th November	Kandinsky Planting trees with the Rotary Club
28 th November	Van Gogh class sharing assembly followed by an invitation to see Learning journeys in class– 2:30pm. Everyone welcome
30 th November	Whole School Christmas Decorating Morning – parents welcome to join us 9:15am – 11:30am
4 th December	STARS Wreath Making workshops – 1:30pm and 7pm
5 th December	Life Education Bus – Picasso and Kandinsky class (parents welcome 8:40-9am)
7 th December	STARS Christmas Fair 2pm in Village Hall
8 th December	STARS Carol Singing – Morrison's St Ives. Everyone welcome
10 th December	Foundation/KS1 Nativity Performance – 9:30am and 2:15pm
11 th December	Foundation/KS1 Nativity Performance – 9:30am
12 th December	Whole School Christmas Lunch
12 th December	Christingle – please note date change
14 th December	STARS breakfast with Santa
14 th December	STARS Christmas Shop
17 th December	Aladdin Pantomime in school
19 th December	Christmas Service – 2.30pm in the church
20th Dec to 3rd Jan 2018	Christmas Holiday
3 rd and 4 th January	Training days – School Closed
7 th January	School Starts
7th January	Picasso Class start swimming lessons
5th February	Young Voices concert at the O2 in London – Kandinsky and Picasso
18th – 22nd February	Half Term
15th March	Red Nose Day
5th April	End of Spring Term
8th – 22nd April	Easter Holidays
23rd April	Teacher Training Day – School Closed
24th April	Summer Term starts