



4th September

WELCOME BACK!

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.

We are absolutely delighted to be welcoming children in Years 1 to 6 back to school on Monday (7th) after what for some has been a very long time away from school. We are also looking forward to welcoming our new Reception children for the first time on Wednesday (9th).

First day back

We understand that there are likely to be very mixed emotions about starting back to school and we would like to reassure parents that we have read and followed all guidance on the safe reopening of schools. Our Risk Assessment is thorough and we remain vigilant in our desire to keep our staff, children and families as safe as possible.

The Local Authority has produced a really useful document for parents which focusses on returning to school and how to support children. It includes information about the importance of routines, supporting with anxiety about returning to school and a great deal more, including school transport and attendance. It also gives information about the test and trace process and how parents can support schools. We have attached the leaflet with this newsletter.

On the 1st September, the Government also updated their guidance for parents about the return to school and this can be found [here](#). We have also attached a Government leaflet about returning to school with this newsletter.

To support parents with preparing their children for the return to school, each class teacher has recorded a 'welcome back' message, which includes a brief look at the classrooms so that children know what to expect when they return. We hope that these will be useful for you to share. Please click the relevant links below:

- [Van Gogh](#) message from Mrs Wilcock
- [Monet](#) message from Mrs Macleod
- [Kandinsky](#) message from Mrs Hawthorne and Mrs Whales
- [Picasso](#) message from Mrs Jackson and Miss Slater

Important messages

Below, we have given some important reminders for parents, as well as new information which we hope you will read before your child/children start back.

Arriving in school

- Children may arrive at school anytime between 8:40am and 9am.
- Please be on time as arriving after 9am will make it necessary for your child to use the main office door, increasing their contact with adults.
- We know that some children may be anxious at the gate but please do encourage them to enter on their own as much as possible. We will support as best we can where children are finding this tricky and we will have additional adults available for the first few mornings to support this.
- We also know that this time may be challenging for some parents too. Some families will have been with their children everyday, without leaving them with anyone else for nearly 6 months. If you are anxious about this, please try to be reassured that we will care for your children and it's OK to let us know if you have any worries or concerns.

Car park

- All families will be using the school car park. If there are already several adults and or children in the car park, please wait in your car until it is less busy.
- If the gates on to the school field are closed, please wait in your car until a member of staff opens them in order to avoid gathering at the gate together with other families.
- It is vital that all families leave the car park as promptly as possible; we understand that you may not have seen others in a long time but we really do need to free up as much space as we can in the car park.

Entrances and exits

Please see below details about which gates to use and where to wait for your child. Again, please remember to leave promptly when collecting at the end of the day.

Van Gogh class

Start of the day (8:40am-9am)	End of the day (3pm)
Enter the site using the left hand side gate (bottom gate) as you look at the field from the car park.	Enter the site using the right hand side gate (top gate) as you look at the field from the car park.
Where to go	Where to go
Turn left only. Mrs Wilcock will meet the children on the blue dots in front of the willow tunnel at the end of the playground.	Turn right only and wait on a blue line on the path which runs parallel to the road. Mrs Wilcock will walk the children out to you to dismiss them.
Leaving the site	Leaving the site
Parents (if you have entered the site) should leave the site using the same gate.	Your child should stay close to you as you walk back to leave the site using the same gate.

Monet class

Start of the day (8:40am-9am)	End of the day (3pm)
Enter the site using the left hand side gate (bottom gate) as you look at the field from the car park.	Enter the site using the left hand side gate (bottom gate) as you look at the field from the car park.
Where to go	Where to go
Turn left only. Mrs MacLeod/Miss Slater will be waiting on the playground by the play tower.	Turn left only and wait on a blue line on the path near the climbing wall. Mrs MacLeod/Miss Slater will walk the children out to you to dismiss them.
Leaving the site	Leaving the site
Parents (if you have entered the site) should leave the site using the same gate.	Your child should stay close to you as you walk back to leave the site using the same gate.

Kandinsky class

Start of the day (8:40am-9am)	End of the day (3:15pm)
Enter the site using the right hand side gate (top gate) as you look at the field from the car park.	Enter the site using the left hand side gate (bottom gate) as you look at the field from the car park.
Where to go	Where to go
Come straight across the field to Mrs Hawthorne/Mrs Whales who will be waiting on the field for you.	Turn left only and wait on a blue line on the path near the climbing wall. Mrs Hawthorne/Mrs Whales will walk the children out to you to dismiss them.
Leaving the site	Leaving the site
Parents (if you have entered the site) should leave the site using the same gate.	Your child should stay close to you as you walk back to leave the site using the same gate.

Picasso class

Start of the day (8:40am-9am)	End of the day (3:15pm)
Enter the site using the right hand side gate (top gate) as you look at the field from the car park.	Enter the site using the right hand side gate (top gate) as you look at the field from the car park.
Where to go	Where to go
Turn right only and walk around the field, parallel to the road and Miss Slater/Mrs Jackson will meet you at the gate into the staff car park.	Turn right only and wait on a blue line on the path which runs parallel to the road. Miss Slater/Mrs Jackson will walk the children out to you to dismiss them.
Leaving the site	Leaving the site
Parents (if you have entered the site) should leave the site using the same gate.	Your child should stay close to you as you walk back to leave the site using the same gate.

Further reminders

- All children will require a water bottle on the first day of school. These will remain in school and we will wash and fill them in school.
- Children should wear their PE kit on the bottoms (black tracksuit bottoms/shorts and trainers) with school uniform on the top (polo top and school cardigan/sweatshirt. However we have been made aware that there are delays with some orders from the suppliers. If this is the case please send your child in with a plain blue/black sweatshirt, for example the one from their PE kit. All classrooms will have their windows open as much as possible so we would also encourage children to wear additional layers if the weather gets cooler e.g. a vest underneath or school fleece on top. **Please name all uniform.**
- Please limit what your children are bringing into school – they really don't need big ruck-sacs, PE kits or pencil cases. They do need a change of bottoms including underwear and socks if they are in Reception or if they have the occasional accident and are in Year 1 or 2. **ALL** children will need a coat everyday as they will all be spending time outside and Reception will need a pair of wellington boots to keep at school.
- For at least the first week we won't be sending home reading books/home learning books.
- If you have any messages to pass to staff, please avoid face to face discussions and visiting the office as much as possible. However, please do email the school office (office@abbotsripton.cambs.sch.uk) as all messages are passed on and a telephone conversation can be arranged if needed too. We really do appreciate your support with this.

Staffing information (Monet and Picasso)

When we planned our staffing structure for this academic year it was our intention to support Miss Slater's professional development with KS1 experience and she was, therefore, going to teach Monet class on a Friday and Mrs Jackson was going to stay in Picasso. However, having reflected on this, we have decided that Mrs Jackson will teach Monet class on a Friday and Miss Slater will remain in Picasso class. Mrs Jackson has a great deal of KS1 experience and knows the curriculum well and is therefore better placed to teach in Monet at a time when we feel our priority must be the needs of the children.

Book amnesty

During the first week of school please could we ask that any school reading books which are at home are returned to school in order that they can be 'quarantined' before being put back into classrooms. Please encourage your children to look under beds, on book shelves and in cupboards – we had one Year 6 family who returned 32 school books when their child left so you have a record to beat!!!!

Parent/Carer support

A reminder that the locality team are still able to offer parents and carers an opportunity to speak to a friendly professional from the Early Help District Children's Team about any child or young person aged 0 to 19.

You can ask a question, request support about your child's or young person's behaviours, get help with new routines and boundaries, or maybe just talk about how you are managing parenting in the current situation.

They will give you advice, support, and help with signposting or just listen to your parenting experiences.

You can telephone or email for support at any time, please leave a message with your contact details and someone will call you back within 5 working days.

You can phone 01354 750420 or email

districtearlyhelpteam.cambridgecity@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

New wraparound care

Some of you may be aware that we now have a local nursery school who are offering before and after school care for children from our school. They are based locally and will be using a minibus to drop and collect children to and from our school. They are currently only accepting children from our school and have a maximum of 12 spaces in a separate wraparound care area i.e. not with the nursery children. If you would like to find out more they have information on their website which can be found [here](#). Alternatively, please call 01487 773136 or email theanchor@goldenapples.co.uk.

We are aware that some children have already been booked in for after school care and are starting next week. We would ask that parents email the school office to let us know which days they are using this service. Unfortunately we won't release the children on to the after school club minibus without your written permission!

Have a restful weekend and we look forward to seeing you next week!