



22nd May

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.

Summer term week 5!

Well we have come to the end of the first half of our Summer term and although it was only 5 weeks long, a great deal has happened in that time!



I am sure that you are all well aware of the current debate about whether children in selected year groups should be returning to school on 1st June and the difficult decisions being made by both parents and school leaders. At the time of writing, we are planning to be open and we will be operating a 'bubble' model. This means that children and staff will be grouped into bubbles which will not mix at all, reducing interactions and therefore risk. Over the last week, we have been busy rearranging classrooms to accommodate these bubbles as safely as we can, with a maximum of 15 children in each bubble. At present we are planning for 3 bubbles; a Reception/Year 1 bubble, a Year 6 bubble and a key worker children bubble. The announcement about whether schools will reopen to these year groups is not expected until the 28th May, and we will follow this advice i.e. if the decision is not to reopen, we will only open for our key worker children bubble and no one else.

Although this information doesn't apply to many of you, I hope to keep everyone informed of plans. As always, we do really appreciate your support and patience at this time.

Home learning

As it is half term next week, teachers will not be setting any learning via STARZ or responding to learning that is uploaded. However, we know that many of you will continue with your routines and there is a vast amount of support online to enable you to do this. If however, you decide to have a break and simply enjoy some family time, we hope you have a well deserved rest.

After the 1st June, we will share with you what you can expect from us with regards to Home Learning. Given that many staff may be back in school, it would be unrealistic to expect them to be teaching in school and to still engage with home learners in the way that they have been. However, we do recognise that the majority of our children will still be learning from home so this is important. We will share what you can expect from us nearer the time.

Online Leading Learners

This week our worthy winners are:



Picasso class

Claire (Yr6) – For her amazing Maths Problem Solving this week! Even when she messaged to say, “my brain hurts so much” from the problem solving she kept going!! Well done Claire!

Reuben (Yr6) – For the consistent high quality of all the Home Learning that he submits, together with the fantastic presentation. Great work Reuben...it is a pleasure to read and mark. Thank you.

Kandinsky class

George (Yr5) – For his brilliant problem solving in Maths which has really impressed us! He has been tackling all of the NRich problem solving tasks with such resilience – well done George - you are on fire!

Ethan (Yr4) – For being such a hard-working young man. We have loved receiving all of his online learning, which he completes with such enthusiasm in all subjects. Well done Ethan.

Monet class

Aiken (Yr 3) - For showing real enthusiasm and a keen sense of fun in his learning. He has completed more learning tasks than ever before this week. Way to go, Aiken! We are super proud of you.

Pippa (Yr 2) – For showing how thoughtful she is in all of her learning. Her English work is consistently imaginative and expressive with excellent understanding of terminology. Congratulations Pippa!

Van Gogh class

Ethan A (Yr1)- For all his hard work this week but particularly his amazing writing - great choice of words and beautiful handwriting

Myla (Yr1) – For working so hard on her beautiful dream catcher this week – well done!

Acts of kindness

Pippa in Year 2 has been very busy being kind! One day, she made the family breakfast AND lunch and she is apparently a very good chef! Also, on Saturday afternoon the Mummy duck, that had made her nest in a neighbour's garden, decided to walk her ducklings to the river. Pippa and her sister Olivia escorted the duck family to the river. They helped to stop the traffic on the main road (with a grown up!) so the duck family could cross and then encouraged them to walk the shortest route to the river where the ducklings took their first swim. What a lovely thing to do – and the photo is delightful!



Explaining Social Distancing

We know that explaining social distancing may be difficult, particularly for younger children and to show acts of love, sympathy, kindness and so on from a distance is certainly challenging. There is a wonderful online book called, 'While we can't hug' which explains this beautifully which is really worth sharing with your children – both young and old. Please do take a look, it can be found [here](#).

From us to you video!

HUGE thanks to all those parents who shared their feedback on our video – we would also like to apologise for not issuing a health warning that tissues might be needed before viewing!!!! We are so pleased that it brought joy to so many families. If you missed it, you can view it [here](#).

COVID19 and Free School Meal Eligibility

If your financial circumstances have been affected by the COVID 19 crisis you could now be entitled to Benefit Related Free School Meals.

The Covid19 crisis has also highlighted the difference between Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) and Benefit Related Free School Meals (FSM).

The government can only offer help to those who are in receipt of Benefit Related Free School Meals so we encourage applications from all year groups.

To find out if you are eligible please fill out the simple online application form at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals where you will receive an instant response as to your eligibility status. If you are eligible your child's school will be informed within 3 days.

FSM Criteria

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (unless you're also entitled to Working Tax Credit, and earn no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop receiving Working Tax Credit)
- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400)

If you have any queries regarding this information, please call the Education Welfare Benefits team on 01223 703200 or email ewb.fsm@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or look at the website www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

GENR8 Collective Worship



Once again, please find details of the next Collective Worship video from GENR8. It follows a similar pattern to the first two by including puppets, a bible story and song and aims to address some of the challenges that children will be facing at this time. Again there are some questions for reflection at the end and we have included a few activities that could be used as follow-up along with this newsletter.

The title of this Collective Worship is *'The parable of the Lost Sheep – The farmer who cares for every sheep'* and it can be found [here](#).

GENR8 would love some feedback so if you do share this with your children, please do let us know.

Department for Education



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As mentioned previously, the DfE has continued to update its guidance document for parents and carers. The most recent version from the 20th May can be found [here](#).

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