



# End of Autumn Term 2019 News

## **What a fantastic term!!**

We have once again enjoyed a term full of laughter and learning. Staff have worked hard to ensure that our topics engage the children and excite their curiosity to learn more. The children have been extremely busy and many of them have taken their learning beyond their classroom. Children have enjoyed design and technology projects as well as opportunities for developing their artistic skills, computing skills as well as the skills needed to reflect on their learning and the world around them.

In the core subjects we have continued to foster a love of reading, with all children hearing high quality texts read to them by their teachers every day. This love of story is having a positive impact on the story writing produced by the children and as such we will continue to invest in this valuable time which the children enjoy so much. Our writing continues to span other curriculum areas with children writing in RE, Science and History; giving a sense of purpose and an audience for their writing.

In Maths we are developing a 'mastery' approach. This involves having an emphasis on developing fluency of essential skills and the whole class having a deep understanding of a concept before moving on to the next small step. With this approach, challenge is provided by going deeper into learning and not simply accelerating through topics. This depth of learning also means that teachers are now spending more time on each maths area before moving on to the next.

The Governors have also been extremely busy this term and their monitoring of the school continues to support us in our drive for continued improvements. Governors have observed maths teaching and looked at maths books to enable them to understand our mastery approach. They have also observed collective worship and talked to children about their views of collective worship. Governors have also supported the recruitment of a new staff member, the half yearly budget monitoring as well as health and safety walk rounds.

We were once again very proud of our older children who became school 'tour guides' during our recent open afternoons. Parents commented on how articulate our children are as well as how overwhelmingly positive they are about their time at school.

My sincere thanks to everyone who has been involved in the work of the school this term. Many hours are spent volunteering and attending events all of which means so much to us and the children – thank you!

As ever, I am thankful for the hardworking staff team who remain resolutely focussed on providing outstanding provision for your children. Staff routinely go above and beyond their role and I am grateful to each and every one of them for this.

### **Thank you all so much!!**

We have been very touched by the generosity of our school family. The chocolates, biscuits and wine donations are greatly appreciated!!! The Staffroom is bursting!

### **Celebration Token reward**

The Celebration token system is a way of rewarding children for hard work and effort, whilst teaching them about being part of a community. A child's individual token is put to a whole school treat.

With an overwhelming majority the winner for this half term is:

### **DVD and Popcorn**

We all enjoyed this reward this morning.

### **Attendance Cup**

Every week the Attendance Cup is awarded to the class with the highest Percentage attendance for the week. The cup is prized by that class and the competition is fierce!



Overall the Autumn Term Winners are: **Van Gogh Class**

We have reflected on our awards for children who receive 100% attendance each term and have decided that attendance is so far beyond a child's control that we will no longer give awards for this. This is not to say that attending school every day is not an achievement – it absolutely is but if a child has a genuine illness or an unavoidable appointment then they should not feel 'punished' for this. Instead we will let you know the number of children who have 100% attendance each term so that we can celebrate our overall number – for the Autumn term this is 26 children – well done to each one of you.

### **Internet Safety**

Over Christmas many of our children may be receiving gifts that connect to the internet or have access to things that connect to the internet – this may be via Bluetooth or via an APP and so on. In response to this, the 'ThinkUKnow' website has launched a really useful page of information for parents about IoTs (Internet of Things and Internet of Toys). This website answers the question, 'How can I make my connected home more secure?' and includes useful step by step guides about setting up parental controls. To access this website please click [here](#).



### **New staff member**

We are delighted to welcome Mrs McCabe to our support staff team. Mrs McCabe joins us in Van Gogh class with a wealth of experience across several schools. I know that she has been made to feel very welcome by all.



### **KS2 Swimming**

Year 5/6 start swimming on Monday 13th January. Please ensure that your child comes to school with their swimming kit. If you have not returned their permission slip please do so as soon as possible, with any payment required.



# Our very busy Autumn Term 2019



**Picasso Class went to the Ely Reflection Day**



**Harvest around the world. We learnt all about the Jewish festival of Sukkot and created our own Sukkah.**



**Our Harvest Festival donations were taken to Coneygear Court in Huntingdon.**



**The Whole School learnt about Remembrance Day and why we remember.**





**Van Gogh Class understanding the world both inside and out.**



**Monet class have loved their themed learning around chocolate, making hot chocolate and reading Charlie and the Chocolate factory.**



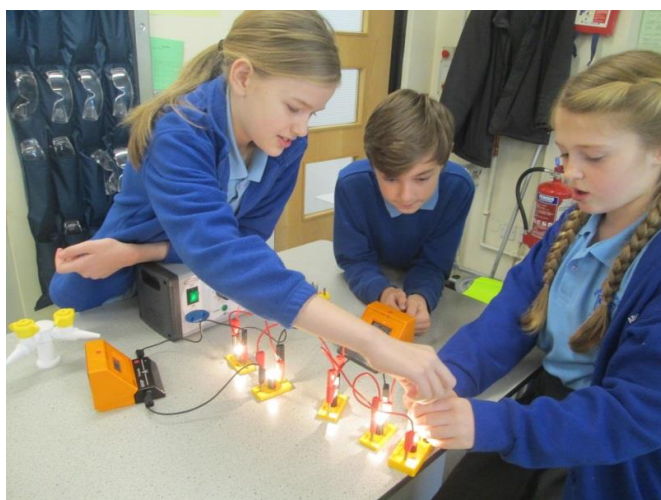




**Science in Kandinsky this term! Lots of fun exploring our Earth and Space topic, alongside investigating the three states of matter!**



**Building links with St Peters Secondary science department, Picasso Class investigated electricity with the wealth of circuit equipment available.**







Our beautiful new display which encompasses our school vision.

With what should we compare the kingdom of God or what parable shall we use to describe it?  
It is like a mustard seed which is the smallest of all seeds on earth.  
Yet when planted it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants with such big branches that all the birds can perch in its shade.  
Mark 4 : 30-32



Football festivals for Year 6 and 5.



Christmas Decorating morning.







## I'm Gonna Shine 2019





## Diary dates

Please see below the diary dates for the Spring term 2020

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

Date	Event
6 <sup>th</sup> January	Teacher Training Day – school closed
7 <sup>th</sup> January	Spring term begins
<b>13<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Year 5/6 swimming starts</b>
<b>17<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> February</b>	<b>Half Term</b>
<b>5<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Year 3 Football Festival</b>
<b>5<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>World Book Day</b>
<b>31<sup>st</sup> March</b>	<b>Year 2 Football Festival</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> April</b>	<b>Book Bus visiting</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> April</b>	<b>End of term</b>
<b>6<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Easter Holidays</b>
<b>20<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Teacher Training Day – school closed</b>
<b>21<sup>st</sup> April</b>	<b>Summer term begins</b>
<b>24<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Bikeability training day – Year 3 and 4</b>
<b>28<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Year 1 Football Festival</b>
<b>8<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Bank holiday – school closed</b>
<b>25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Half Term</b>
<b>10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Mount Cook Residential – Year 5/6</b>
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> July</b>	<b>End of term</b>
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> July</b>	<b>Teacher Training Day</b>

We have had a very busy term!  
We hope you have enjoyed looking back at some of the  
things we have done.

Everyone at Abbots Ripton School would like to wish you all a  
very Merry Christmas  
and a  
Happy New Year.

