



22nd November

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.

Sad goodbye

Last Friday we said a sad goodbye to Zoe and Orzora who are relocating with their family. We will miss you both and wish you well for the future. Do keep in touch.



Children in Need – Friday 15th November

Thank you to everyone who joined in with the non-uniform Children in Need day last Friday. The current total is £ 269.

If you have not yet donated there is still time. Please click [here](#) for our just Giving Page.



Poppy Appeal

Picasso class took responsibility for selling the Poppy Appeal items, taking around the poppies to each class. Thank you to everyone who donated.

All children made a poppy in their classes, whilst learning about the importance of Remembrance. These are displayed in the main corridor and look beautiful.

Children's design Christmas cards and gifts

Huge thanks to those families who ordered Christmas cards and gifts with their child's design on. The shop has reopened until noon on 25th November 2024 if you still wish to order.

Flu Vaccination Clinic

Please see below information about Catch up clinics that Vaccination UK are holding across Cambridge and Peterborough in November and December. If your child missed the flu vaccination while the team were at school, please follow the link below to book your child into a specific clinic and specific time. Appointments only! All clinics run from 10am - 2pm. We are sharing this as the team are not returning to school for a second visit.

Please follow the link below to book:

[Vaccination UK East Anglia Immunisation \(schoolvaccination.uk\)](https://schoolvaccination.uk)

Please type the name of the centre in the search not the name of the town to book your slot.

23rd November – Peterborough – Gladstone Community Centre, 896 Bourges Boulevard, Peterborough PE1 2AN

23rd November - Cambridge – Trumpington Pavilion, Paget Road, Trumpington CB2 9JF

30th November – Wisbech- Oasis Centre, St Michael's Avenue, Wisbech PE13 3NR

7th December - Cambridge – Trumpington Pavilion, Paget Road, Trumpington CB2 9JF

7th December – Huntingdon – The Coneygear Centre, Buttsgrove Way, Huntingdon PE29 1PE

7th December - Peterborough – Gladstone Community Centre, 896 Bourges Boulevard, Peterborough PE1 2AN

14th December – Huntingdon – The Coneygear Centre, Buttsgrove Way, Huntingdon PE29 1PE

Picasso class are off to the theatre – Monday 2nd December



Thank you everyone who has replied to the google form regarding the theatre trip. If you stated that your child would be going on the coach, the cost is £15.50 per child. Please send this into school in a named envelope or directly into the bank with the reference 'Kim' and your child's initials. The children will be leaving school at 12.15pm so please can you provide a packed lunch on that day. If you have already paid for school meals for that day then this will be a credit on their account. The coach is due to return to school at approx. 3.50pm so will not be back in time for after school buses. The Sports club after school will still run and any children who normally attend can join when they get back.

Kandinsky class are off to Flag Fen – Wednesday 4th December

All arrangements are now in place for the Kandinsky Class trip to Flag Fen on Wednesday 4th December. Your children can wear non-uniform with a school sweatshirt or cardigan, including a coat. Children will require a packed lunch and a snack. Please ensure the snacks can be eaten with little mess e.g. a packet of crisps or cereal bar. Please do not send chocolate, sweets or anything that contains nuts. Payments towards this trip are due today.



Macmillan Coffee morning

The final total raised for the Macmillan coffee morning was £356!! Thank you so much – this is a huge amount for a small school!

Morning routines

As the weather has now turned icy, we may not be doing the morning mile for safety reasons. The grounds are assessed every morning so if you arrive before 8.40am and the gates are still closed, please do not enter the site until an adult is outside, as the children will then be sent straight into classes. Also, if the path is very icy, we may walk across the field for safety. Please be mindful that your child's footwear is suitable.

Tickets for this year's Nativity are now on sale!

Rehearsals are under way for this year's nativity performance which will be performed on **Monday 16th and Tuesday 17th December**. Booking forms for tickets have been sent home today. Tickets are allocated on a first come first served basis and seats are numbered. If you wish to book tickets please return the form to the school office by **Friday 6th December**. If we have any spare tickets after this date we will let you know.



Christmas Decorating Morning – Friday 8th December

We are really looking forward to the Christmas decorating session on Friday 6th December. You are very welcome to join us from 9:00am -10:30am to participate in the fun! There will be tea and coffee available in the school hall on arrival.

The children will be making a variety of Christmas decorations to put on the whole school tree in the corridor. They will be in their classes rather than in sibling groups as the decorations are age appropriate. Ideally, please avoid bringing younger siblings if you are able to.

Please come to the main school entrance to sign in on arrival. We look forward to seeing you there!



STARS Christmas raffle hampers

We will be holding a non-uniform day on Friday 6th December (Christmas Decorating morning) in exchange for a gift to be added to the STARS Christmas Raffle hampers. The 4 hampers each have a colour theme and all gifts are made into a hamper to be won on the Christmas raffle. The colours for each class are as follows:

- Red gifts – Picasso Class
- Gold gifts – Kandinsky Class
- Purple/Green gifts– Monet Class
- Silver gifts – Van Gogh Class

Get creative with your gifts – as long as they are the correct colour! Please bring these to school on Friday 6th December. The raffle will be drawn after the Nativity performance on Tuesday 17th December and winners will be notified.

Christmas Lunch booking

Please find attached the booking form for this year's Christmas lunch on Wednesday 18th December. If your child **does not normally** have a school meal, please can you complete the attached form and send into school with £2.60 (Kandinsky and Picasso Class) by Friday 6th December.

Cambridgeshire Gardens Trust

We were lucky enough to receive a £500 grant from the CGT in the summer of 2023. This was to create some allotment beds for the front of the school on an unused area of the playing fields (photo 1) and which would be looked after by the Environment Club, which meets once a week during the lunch break. Over the following months the detailed plans were developed and refined with the help of a few of the PTA, Support Team for Abbots Ripton School (STARS).



In the spring of 2024 the material for the raised beds was purchased and the allotment beds were built by a child's father(Thank you Mr Scott!) Four large and four smaller beds were built. Word went round about the allotment beds and offers of top soil and plants came in. Then the STARS team became stars again by moving and re-flooring an unused shed at the school, to the allotment area. This is now very conveniently sited for storing the gardening equipment (photos 2 & 3).

By late spring the beds were built and the Environment Club children filled them, learning about the use of cardboard as weed suppressant at the base of the beds, which would then also rot down over time, improving the soil. Next they added straw, left over from last year's summer fair, and compost made at the school, before finally adding the top soil. The Environment Club children planted tomatoes, cabbages, celeriac, courgettes, strawberries and pumpkins, which they had been given, and also sowed beetroot, salad leaves and chard seeds (photos 4-7). They also planted sunflower plants in one of the beds, closest to the school's entrance, which looked very pretty and helped the pollinators.

After the summer holidays the Environment Club harvested the tomatoes, which the school cook prepared for the children's lunch. They also took home some chard (photos 8 & 9) and have harvested the pumpkins, which the school cook will use in the children's lunches.

The Environment Club is looking forward to planning what to grow in the allotment beds for themselves next year and for the school cook to use for lunches and have already been given some vegetable and flower seeds which they can start sowing in the new year.

A huge thank you to Miss Ann for applying for our grant!



STARS news

Thank you so much to the STARS team for organising the Camp Fire Cookout and to everyone who came along and joined in the fun.

There is a very busy few weeks coming up. Please see the posters, attached again for information. Booking is required for each event. They are also holding a silent Auction as well as the annual Christmas raffle.

Events coming up...

Friday 29th November 3.30pm – 7.30pm

The Elf Workshop Experience – (a new style of Christmas Fair)



The ticket includes many activities for the children, including making reindeer food, decorating a biscuit and lots more!

Tuesday 3rd December 7.00pm – 8.30pm

Come along and create a beautiful Wreath for your front door.

No experience is required. These are the wreaths created last year! Do come along and join in the fun. If you are able to help in anyway, please contact a member of the STARS team.

Friday 13th December – 8.00am – 8.40am

Drop your children off to join in with a breakfast with their friends with a very special visitor!!



Friday 13th December

Also on Friday 13th the STARS team will be running the Elfridges shop where the children get an opportunity to buy a small gift. Vouchers must be bought via the PTA events QR code as no cash is taken on the day.

As well as the Silent Auction!! A letter requesting any donations for this was sent out last week. The full catalogue will be available soon.

Thank you in advance for your support for our school. We do know that we offer a lot of events coming up to Christmas and please do not feel you have to join in with every event. Please be aware that all funds raised will directly enhance the provision given to your children in school and we are very thankful for your continued support.



Diary Dates Autumn 2023/Spring 2024

Dates highlighted in grey are local Church services and not school church services.

Date	Event
29 th November	Elf Workshop Experience
2 nd December	Picasso visit to Kimbolton School Theatre to see The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe – details to follow
3 rd December	STARS Wreath making 7pm ~ details to follow
4 th December	Kandinsky trip to Flag Fen
5 th December	Open Session to view for Reception intake 2025 ~ 1:30pm – 2:30pm
6 th December	Whole School Christmas Decorating Morning. Parents invited. Bring a donation – Non Uniform day
11 th December	Height and Weight check for Year 6 and reception
13 th December	STARS Breakfast with Santa 8am (for children)
13 th December	STARS Elfridges Christmas shop (for children)
16 th December	Reception/KS1 Nativity Performance ~ 2:15pm
17 th December	Reception/KS1 Nativity Performance ~ 9:30am and 2:15pm
18 th December	Whole School Christmas Lunch including Christmas Jumper day
18 th December	Santa dash – running a mile in Christmas jumpers
20 th December	Christmas Christingle Service ~ 9:30am in the church
20 th December	End of term
21 st Dec 2024 to 5 th Jan 2025	Christmas Holiday
6 th January 2025	Training day – school closed

7 th January 2025	Spring Term Opens
3 rd February 2025	Young Voices 2025 at the O2
11 th February 2025	Vision screening for Van Gogh Class
12 th February 2025	Van Gogh and Monet trip to the theatre to see The Gruffalo
17 th February –21 st February 2025	Half-Term
27 th February	Year 6 Rotary Quiz 7pm
4 th April 2025	Spring term Closes
22 nd April 2025	Training day – school closed
23 rd April 2025	Summer Term Opens
5 th May 2025	May Day Bank Holiday – school closed
26 th May –30 th May 2025	Half-Term
2 nd June 2025	Training day – school closed
23 rd July 2025	Summer Term Closes