



21st April

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.

Welcome back!

Welcome back to what is probably the strangest start to a Summer term we've ever had and will ever have! The great news is that we do have some sunshine.

We hope that you have enjoyed a restful and safe Easter break and for those who have continued to work, we hope you stayed safe and well. The children had a break from their home learning but teachers have been busy uploading new learning from today.



Department for Education



Department for Education

The DfE has continued to work hard to provide support for both schools and families during this time whilst schools are closed. In the last newsletter we mentioned a guidance document for parents and carers which is updated regularly. The most recent version from the 19th April can be found [here](#). This document has lots of links to a wide range of resources to support parents.

Another useful document has been specifically written to support parents with Home Learning and education whilst schools are closed. This document can be found [here](#). This document contains links to learning activities and websites which have been set up for parents and schools. Our teachers will be using some of these resources in the learning that they set but if you would like any additional learning material then there is a great deal out there for you to access.

Launch of BBC Bitesize

The BBC has launched an education package across TV and online, featuring celebrities and teachers, helping to keep children learning at home and supporting parents. BBC Bitesize can be accessed [here](#).



School closure

We are aware that there is a great deal of speculation about when schools might reopen and what plans might be in place to keep children and staff safe when they do. However, we really do not have any information on when this might be. We have been told that all early years settings, schools and further education providers will remain closed until further notice, except for children of critical workers and children who are vulnerable. The Government will only re-open settings when the scientific advice indicates it is safe to do so. When we have further information on this to share, we absolutely will.

Financial support

We are aware that some parent's financial circumstances may have changed as a result of the current situation. This may mean that your child may be eligible for free school meals when we return to school and whilst closed you could receive a £15 per week voucher. You are eligible if you are in receipt of any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Further guidance from Cambridgeshire Local Authority can be found [here](#) and an application form has been sent with this newsletter.



Acts of kindness

We would like to start a regular feature in our newsletters about how members of our school community might be helping others – no matter how small. Now is a time when we can look out for neighbours, pop an extra tin or two in the food bank collection box or raise money in some way. I'm sure we have all been greatly inspired by the amazing efforts of Captain Tom and I know

that in our own way, our community will be rising to the challenge of giving to others too. Please do let us know, by emailing the school office, if you have any acts of kindness, however small, you would like to share with us.

We'll start by sharing what our wonderful Mrs Nixon has been doing! She has been really busy sewing scrubs and scrub bags for Peterborough and Hinchbrook hospitals. Isn't she clever?



We also have staff who have 'twinned their taps'. Toilet, taps and training are a lifesaving trio that help flush away poverty and when it comes to stopping the spread of coronavirus in poverty-stricken communities, taps (for hand washing) and training (to understand how viruses spread) are vital. That's where Tap Twinning comes in.

Please do share your acts of kindness stories with us!

School Prayer

Our school prayer is an important part of our worship in school and is a way of demonstrating our togetherness as a family in school. Although we are not physically together, it would be wonderful if you could encourage your child to continue to say this so that it remains an important part of their identity as a vital part of our school.

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.