



End of Autumn Term 2020 News

What a term it's been!!

I am so thrilled that despite all of the ongoing challenges with the current pandemic, our school has remained open and teaching and learning has remained at a consistently high standard for all children. The children have adapted brilliantly to new routines and new ways of working; they have accepted that they must remain in their class groups and have found ingenious ways of communicating with each other. Once a week have been able to come together virtually in a collective worship and it's delightful to see the children waving to each other and saying hello. As a staff we have also missed having contact with all of the children; it was so lovely when the older children saw Jo, our school cook, this week for the first time this year!

With regards to teaching and learning, we have adjusted our curriculum delivery to take account of any core learning which was missed from the summer term. The children have enjoyed a range of topics and this term they have particularly enjoyed some creative science learning which has focussed on hands on investigative skills.

As a staff team a great deal of training linked to well-being has been undertaken and continues to be a key focus in order for us to be better able to support children. This term our key areas of learning have been linked to resilience and anxiety.

I couldn't write this end of term message without saying a very public thank you to our amazing STARS team, particularly Noush who has been inspiring in her leadership of a dedicated and hardworking team of volunteers, many of whom have given up lots of hours to create some amazing virtual events this term. My thanks too to all who logged on to bid on a lot, to make a wreath, to buy a raffle ticket or to encourage their children to take part in the Christmas Fayre fun. The money raised really does mean a great deal to us and means we can continue to provide resources and opportunities beyond our school budget.

Lastly, again a very big public thank you to our hardworking and dedicated staff team. Every single member of this team is resolutely focussed on providing outstanding provision for your children and regularly goes above and beyond their role. The challenges of socially distancing from each other hasn't stopped us from continuing to be a very close staff team as this is what gives us the strength to face the challenges within the current climate. It is so heart-warming that many parents have recognised this too in their Christmas well wishes which are genuinely appreciated by us all.

Thank you all so much!!

We have also been very touched by the generosity of our school family. The chocolates, biscuits, cakes and wine donations are greatly appreciated!!! A HUGE thanks from us all!

Goodbye

Today we say goodbye to Charlie and his family from Year 1 who are moving house to a new area. We will be very sad to see you go but wish you all every success in the future. Do keep in touch.

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 was:

DVD and Popcorn

We have all enjoyed this reward at some point this week.



Message from Santa!

We cannot believe that despite Santa being so very busy at this time of year, he took the time to send our wonderful children a message. He has kindly said that we can share this with parents to enjoy! It can be viewed on this link: <https://youtu.be/ID8QOR4MnbQ>

Daisies Montessori Nursery School

The Governors have been working hard over the last 6 months on an exciting new development for our school which I am now delighted to be able share with parents. We have had approval from the Diocese and the local PCC to move to the planning application stage of Daisies Montessori Nursery School relocating from Little Stukeley to our school grounds. A new purpose built eco-building with stunning outdoor space has been designed and will hopefully be located on the grass area next to Van Gogh's outside area. This will run independently of the school and will remain a privately run nursery although we expect that it will enhance our provision as a school greatly. A planning application is currently underway and if this is successful then we anticipate that the new building will be ready in the Autumn 2021. This is a wonderful opportunity and we will be offering parents and the local village community an opportunity to hear more about these exciting plans early next year.



STARS

We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of our school family in your support of the many Christmas events organised by the STARS team. Thank you so much. Please find attached information and photos from the Christmas Fayre competitions and proof of the Dare a Teacher results if you didn't get to see them in person!

The raffle was drawn yesterday for the bath bomb and Christmas tree.



The winners of the bath bombs were Carrie Gould and Helen Cobby. Rebecca Carmody won the Christmas tree. Congratulations! The Nativity DVDs which were kindly made by the Ellison family have been sent home with the children today and all profit from this has been donated to STARS too.

Altogether, these events have raised an amazing £3000 which is a huge amount for such a small school. WELL DONE TO ALL INVOLVED! School staff will make some suggestions for what the money could be spent on and STARS will let you know as soon as a decision has been made.

Christmas Day Church Service

St Andrews Church Abbots Ripton with Woodwalton will be holding their Christmas Day Church service at 11am. Only 50 people (including children) will be able to attend due to the current restrictions. All those who wish to attend must inform Valerie Scothern 01487 773213; vscothern@btinternet.com

They will be given a ticket (free) which will have to be produced at the Service.

Facemasks must be worn, track and trace will be in operation and sanitiser will be available to all.



Covid update

With this newsletter we have attached a letter from Dr Liz Robin, the Director of Public Health for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. It contains some important reminders about the current tier 2 restrictions for Cambridgeshire and also some important information about the 5 day Christmas period when the restrictions are slightly different. This has been specifically written for schools so is an important read.

We would also like to remind parents that we do have a responsibility with tracking and tracing contacts of confirmed positive cases until the 21st December. Therefore, it is vital that parents do let us know if their child develops symptoms at any time between the end of school today and the 21st December. Please inform us via the office@abbotsripton.cambs.sch.uk email address. We would also request that if your child does develop symptoms, you visit a test centre rather than requesting a postal test if possible as results are returned much more quickly. Please then inform us of the result of your child's test as soon as you can, again via the office email address above.

If we are informed of a member of school staff or a pupil testing positive, we will follow Public Health advice regarding who to inform and will do this by telephone for anyone who needs to isolate because they have been in contact with the positive case whilst in school.

Our Autumn Term 2020



Our Harvest Festival donations were taken to Kings Ripton Court in Huntingdon.



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



Class Sharing Assemblies with a difference!





Christingle 2020



Our decorated Christmas tree



Christmas Lunch

Nativity 2020





Spring term 2021

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

Date	Event
4th January	Teacher Training Day – school closed
5th January	Spring term begins
8th January	Virtual tour for Prospective Parents 9:30am
15th -19th February	Half Term
4th March	World Book Day
26th March	End of term
27th March – 11th April	Easter Holidays
12th April	Teacher Training Day – school closed
13th April	Summer term begins
3rd May	Bank holiday – school closed
31st May – 4th June	Half Term
7th June	Picasso Class swimming starts – more details to follow
22nd July	End of term
23rd July	Teacher Training Day

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.

