



8th March

School news Update

Our School Mission Statement: Together with God's help we: Grow in Faith, Learn for Life and Achieve our best.



World Book Day

We had a lovely time dressing up for World Book Day! There were lots of different book characters from the Demon Headmaster (Mrs Matthews) to Little Miss Naughty (Mrs Jackson), The Cat in the Hat to Frida Kahlo. We thank you all for joining in the fun. More photos of the day can be found on the gallery on the school website.



The Bedtime story was special too! Everyone enjoyed some hot chocolate and a biscuit whilst listening to a variety of stories. Thank you bringing your children back for this lovely experience.

Friendship bench

We would like to say a huge thank you to the Denny family for the beautiful new Friendship bench which arrived over the weekend.

Rotary Club Quiz

A team of Year 6 children took part last week in the Rotary Club quiz. They were fantastic and worked so well as a team and it was a really enjoyable evening. Overall we came fourth – we are very proud of you all. Well done.



200 Million Minutes - We have started counting!

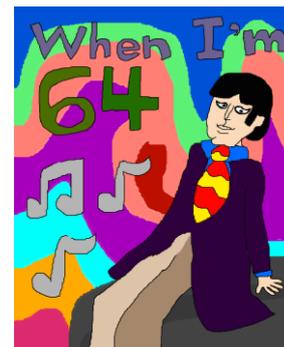
On World Book day, Achievement for All (AfA) launched a global challenge for children and young people from around the world to read 200 MILLION MINUTES! We have signed the children up for this challenge and ALL READING counts – it might be a magazine, a book, a newspaper etc.

The challenge will run until Tuesday 2nd April 2019. We will log all the minutes of reading in school and are asking for your support to log the minutes read at home. These can be added into your child's reading log – please write MM followed by the number of minutes. We will then collate these and enter them onto our school area of the AfA website. There will be a prize for the child in each class who reads the most minutes and our school can win a fantastic prize if our average number of minutes per child is the highest overall!!! PLEASE, PLEASE do encourage lots of reading!!! If your child is in Van Gogh or Monet, you may include the number of minutes spent listening to an adult reading too.

Lent Challenge

Once again, Bishop Stephen has sent a Lent Challenge to all Church schools in the Ely Diocese. This year, the challenge focusses on different generations, and ways of showing love for one another. The overarching theme is, 'When I'm 64' – considering older members of our community and their needs as they grow older. Lent is about 'giving up' but also about making time to do something more, to learn and contribute, to give and to spread the word. We will be embracing this challenge in school by learning about the work of Age UK, meeting elderly residents from a local care home by visiting them and also by inviting them into school to share a lunch with us as well as by reflecting on the elderly in our own families and communities.

If you have an elderly relative or neighbour who you think would like to spend some time in school, or would like to share a lunch with us, please do let the office know.



Teach First placement

We are delighted to welcome Mr Halliday to our school for part of his teaching placement. He is spending a week with us a contrasting school to the school where he is based. Mr Holiday will be joining Monet Class so please do say hello and make him welcome.



Fair-trade week

The winner of the Fair Trade School Council competition was Lena Year 1. Well done! Thank you for everyone's support for this week, particularly the school council and Mrs Jackson. They will be writing up what we have been doing in school and we will share this with you in the next newsletter. We hope to have achieved our Fair trade Aware mark. We will keep you updated.

WorthLess? campaign

As you know, the 'WorthLess?' campaign for fairer funding was started by a group of Headteachers who were concerned about the crisis point being reached in many schools due to huge financial pressures. With this newsletter is a letter regarding school funding which I hope many of you will read.

Wrap around care

Today we have sent home a survey regarding possible before and after school provision in Abbots Ripton. This was written by a local person who has a great deal of experience in child care and pre-school provision and she is looking to possibly run a business from the village, if there is enough interest. Please do complete this and return it to school so we can pass on the information.

Home time!

We are growing increasingly concerned about the number of families who are staying to play on the school site long after school has finished at 3:15pm. We are particularly worried as we do not have any insurance if there were to be an accident on our grounds or our equipment such as the trim trail. Unless supervised by school staff, or taking part in a school planned activity, anyone on our school site after 3:30pm is technically trespassing and we are being urged by the Health and Safety team at County to put signs up around our site to state this. Having said all of that, we do understand that we are a great place for a run around and a safe place to play, particularly as the weather gets nicer. However, we do hope that parents will understand and respect our concerns. With thanks.

Parent Consultations

We are looking forward to seeing you all at our parent consultations next week. Slips with your allocated time have been sent home with your child today.

Year 4 Football festival

Well done to the team from Year 4 who took part in the St Ives Football festival yesterday. We got through to the final and ended up as the runners up! A fantastic achievement against lots of other schools.



Make Do And Mend Day – Saturday 23rd April

We sent home a flyer last week about our Make Do and Mend day on Saturday 23rd March from 9:30am – 3:30pm. There will be a free flowing supply of hot drinks, squash and biscuits as well as jacket potatoes over lunch time. Please let the office know if you are able to attend and if you will require a lunch (12ish) by emailing the school office by 15th March so that we can order enough to go round. Even just an hour of your time could make a huge difference!

We have a very long list of jobs that need doing so have put together the following so you know what to expect. We have also included a list of items that we will need for the day. We will buy these in advance but if you have any spare items in your garden shed that you can donate that are on the list then please let us know so we don't buy them. Funds are limited so any donations will be gratefully received!

Jobs List

All things wooden!!

1. Recoat all the sheds with green stain
2. Fix any holes in sheds with shiplap
3. Rowing boat - sanding and re-varnish in Foundation area
4. Take down pallet playhouse on field
5. Fix the 'stage' area
6. Paint clock tower blue
7. Re-stain the well in the 'eco garden'
8. Stain the bench in the maze
9. Corner planters by the maze – needs attention!!
10. Flat stepping stones in Foundation need the numbers repainting
11. Gate need to be fixed – longer latch in Foundation area
12. Rebuild gas cupboard doors and roofing
13. Perspex for gardening shed by bin storage area
14. Musical instruments to be made up for outside, use area behind climbing wall
15. Re-bark the maze, surplus to go to the secret garden area
16. Removal of rotten benches
17. British Values signs to be put up on PE shed and STARS shed
18. Sand and stain wooden slats in the Foundation dome
19. Put up bird boxes/ladybird boxes

General gardening

20. All flower beds to be turned/weeded
21. Fill the planters by the staff room with compost.
22. Fill holes in the field with top soil and seed with grass seed

Miscellaneous

23. Clean external windows
24. Litter picking around the boundaries

To buy/donations

2 tonnes Bark
2 tonnes Top Soil
10 bags Compost
Shiplap wood panels
Clear Varnish for Boat in Van Gogh area
Plants (Rosemary bushes, Thyme, any flowers etc)
Combination cable Bicycle padlock x 2
Shed stain – green or brown
Grass Seed
Planter lining sheets

Equipment needed

(please bring with you if you have these)

Wheelbarrows/Trolley (to move bark and top soil)
Shovels/Spades
Paint brushes for wooden sheds
General gardening tools
Electric Sander
Power drill

Playground markings

We may have limited access to the playground on Monday (and possibly Tuesday) next week as we are having some new playground markings! Please look out for any changes to drop off and pick up on these days in case these are affected by the work. These markings were chosen by the school council and we hope that they will be enjoyed by the children.

Red Nose Day

A competition flyer has been sent home by the School Council today to design a red nose character. See the flyer for further details.

On the day itself (Friday 15th March) in return for wearing something red please bring in some spare change to put on our whole school giant Red Nose! We hope to fill this.

Attendance % for W/E 08/03/19

Van Gogh ~ 98.4%
Monet ~ 96.6%
Kandinsky ~ 96.2%
Picasso ~ 99.7%

Do you know about MOMO?



A recent social media challenge targeting children and young adults called the "Momo Challenge," has created concern throughout the country and in many schools. The "Momo Challenge" is being spliced into YouTube videos; you may have seen in the press that videos including content from Peppa Pig and Fortnite are being targeted when they are viewed through YouTube (not through official sites for these games). The "Momo Challenge," a 'game' found on Facebook and the app, WhatsApp, features a frightening avatar who asks its viewers to perform dangerous tasks and provide photos as proof. The "Momo" threatens those who do not perform the tasks. Thankfully, we have not been

informed about any of our children coming across this but if they do mention it or are frightened by it, we have put some useful links below to support you in supporting your child.

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/three-minute-briefing-momo-challenge>

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/resources/platform-guides/momo-online-safety-guide-for-parents/>

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>



Diary Dates

Please see below the diary dates for the Spring 2019 term

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

Date	Event
13 th March	Parent Consultations 3.30pm – 7.30pm
13 th March	No Judo Club today
14 th March	Parent Consultations 3.30pm – 5.30pm
<i>14th March</i>	<i>Dodge ball club will be outside</i>
<i>15th March</i>	<i>Red Nose Day – see newsletter for information</i>
15 th March	STARS Family Bingo and pizza 3:30-5:30pm
21 st March	Kandinsky Class trip to Flag Fen
25 th March	Monet Class assembly at 2.45pm - Everyone welcome
28 th March	Year 3 Football Festival – All day St Ives
29 th March	STARS Mother's Day Shop in school
29 th March	Mums, Grandmas, Aunties Invitation to join us for lunch – booking form to follow
<i>3rd April</i>	<i>Lent challenge – Invite for residents of Rose Cottage care home to join us for lunch</i>
3 rd April	Kandinsky Class assembly at 2.45pm - Everyone welcome
4 th April	STARS Easter Egg hunt and picnic – more details to follow
5 th April	Easter Church Service at 2.30pm - Everyone welcome
5 th April	End of Spring Term
8 th – 22 nd April	Easter Holidays
23 rd April	Teacher Training Day – School Closed
24 th April	Summer Term starts