



19th June

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.

Week 3!

Once again, we're not sure where the summer has gone this week – we know that some families have enjoyed playing in puddles, watching thunder and lightning storms as well as finding frogs in overflowing water butts! We're pleased that the wet weather hasn't hampered the fun and learning!

Leading Learners

This week our worthy winners are:



Picasso class

We now have all of our Year 6 learners back at school and they have decided to celebrate each learning as a group in school.

Kandinsky class

Tacey (Yr5) - For her detailed responses to all of the English tasks that she has completed so thoroughly each week - great work Tacey!

Tristan (Yr5) - For his careful and thorough approach to calculations when completing maths work - well done Tristan!

Monet class

Lena (Yr 2) - For working incredibly hard in school and continuing this at home. We are really impressed with your commitment to learning and the wonderful writing that you are producing.

Keniya (Yr 2) – For the fabulous and touching letter that you have written this week and your bold, bright and beautiful poster about how to keep healthy. We are so proud of you.

Van Gogh class

Pareeka (YrR) – For trying so hard with all of her learning this week and using some great words to describe what happened to the gingerbread man when he went into the water! (You said that the biscuit had absorbed all the water!) Well done!

Joshua (Yr1) – For being so positive and expressing how much he enjoys his learning. He thought carefully about turning in maths, his eat-well plate was lovely and he retold the Gingerbread Man story to his mum using different voices.

Zoom calls for learners at home

It was delightful to see the children on Zoom calls this week; many were really animated and excited about sharing their news and the feedback from parents following the calls was also very positive.

Please see details below about the calls next week. As you can see, we have combined the Reception and Year 1 call as the number of children who are returning to school has increased. We have also changed the Monet class calls to the afternoon as we had so few children join this week and feedback from some parents was that the afternoon may allow more children to join.

Children in Kandinsky and Monet were asked to message their teachers with any ideas for the calls next week. Teachers will add this to their class page so your child knows what to expect! Mrs Wilcock will share a book with the children in Van Gogh class and they will be asked to talk about their favourite book too. Please support them with preparing for this. The **Zoom calls** will be as follows:

Reception & Year 1 children	Tuesday 23 rd June	1:00pm
Year 2 children	Tuesday 23 rd June	1:40pm
Year 3 children	Tuesday 23 rd June	2:20pm
Year 4 children	Friday 26 th June	1pm
Year 5 children	Fridays 26 th June	1:30pm

Please do look out for the email to be sent on Monday with details of how to join. If you do not wish your child to take part, please do let us know.

Opening to further children

Working under the present Government guidance, we have been able to provide a place at school for all children in Van Gogh and Picasso who wanted to return as well as all the key worker families who needed places. We have used all our available staff to teach in the bubbles and so are unable to open any further bubbles at this time. The Government's announcement at the end of last week made it clear that they will not be removing the current protective measures required in schools and as such they are not expecting schools to open to other year groups at this time. Under these circumstances, it saddens me to announce that we are unable to accommodate children from Years 2 to 5 back in school this academic year. This situation may change as Government guidance changes and we will of course keep everyone informed and updated.

We all appreciate just how challenging this has been and continues to be for everyone in our community. Many children would rather be in school and parents would like to see them return as soon as possible. Please know that our staff and Governors all wish for the same.

I know that our school community understands the challenges that we are facing and the current situation is completely alien to us all; we are a school community who is proud to wrap a loving arm around all and we openly show love and care in the positive relationships that we work hard to build. However, being apart from our families and children in our efforts to keep everyone safe, makes this extremely challenging. Please be assured that as soon as we are able to open our doors more fully, we will be nurturing your child and putting their safety, health and well-being at the forefront of all we do. Our Abbots Ripton family will be full of love and kindness. On behalf of all staff and governors, I would like to thank you all for your continued support.

School structure for September 2020

As you are aware, we plan our school structure each year using a range of information including children's needs as well as staff expertise and experience. At this time, our priority has been to keep as much continuity for the children as we possible can. Below, sets out our structure for September 2020.

Van Gogh class	Monet class	Kandinsky class	Picasso class
Reception	Years 1&2	Years 3&4	Years 5&6
Mrs Wilcock	Mrs MacLeod and Miss Slater (1 day)	Mrs Hawthorne and Mrs Whales (1.5 days)	Mrs Jackson and Miss Slater (4 days)

As yet, we do not know what the Government guidance might be for more children returning in September, and this guidance may affect our structure. If the above structure needs to change due to our approach to more children returning to school, we will of course share this with you when we can.

Some families may wish to share this with their children whilst others will want to wait until later in the year; you know what is best for your child/children. In July, we will offer some 'move up' sessions via Zoom with the children to learn more about their new class.

Van Gogh class

The children in Van Gogh class have been busy recording video messages for their dads/grandads. These are delightful and will be emailed to your child's email address in STARZ for you to share on Father's Day this Sunday. We hope you enjoy them!

Monet class

The children in Monet class have written some delightful letters in response to a learning activity this week. If your child is at school in our key worker bubble, please could you send in a stamped addressed envelope addressed to the person in your family that your child has written to so that we can post them. Thank you!

Reminders/new information for families with children in school

- From Monday, we will be operating across 4 bubbles as we have split the Reception and Year 1 children into 2 separate bubbles. Due to this, there are some minor changes which affect drop-off and pick-up for children in these bubbles as follows; on arrival at school, the Reception children will wait on the 2 metre markers near the gate with Mrs Wilcock and Year 1 will continue to use the 2 metre markers near the trim trail (no change); at the end of school, parents of Reception children should wait on the markers on the path between the 2 gates and Year 1 parents should continue to wait on the markers by the trim trail.
- We have found that the process for arriving at school has been incredibly successful and, because of everyone's prompt arrival, we are not utilising the 20 minute staggered start. Therefore, from Monday we will reduce the staggered start to our normal times of 8:40am to 8:50am and not 9am.
- A reminder that all children need a coat everyday please as we will try to be outside as much as we can. Ideally if this was waterproof that would be even better!
- A reminder to send in a fresh bottle of water on Monday and a break time fruit snack each day even if your child is having a school lunch.



Assembly led by The Duchess of Cambridge

This week, The Oak National Academy assembly was led by The Duchess of Cambridge who wanted to share the importance of spreading a little kindness for our mental wellbeing. This was uploaded to class pages on STARZ but if you haven't watched it with your children, it can be found [here](#).

Support for parents

With this newsletter we have attached a newsletter for parents from Zoe Hope, our Early Intervention Family Worker. It has some useful tips about dealing with 'school work battles' related to home learning as well as some top tips for dealing with resistance from children about going to bed. Zoe has also included her contact details if any parents think it might be useful to make contact for further support.

Department for Education



Department
for Education

As mentioned previously, the DfE has continued to update its guidance document for parents and carers. The most recent version was updated on the 18th June and can be found [here](#).

Research project

We have been contacted by a former student, Samantha Newman, who is looking to recruit participants for a postgraduate research project. Please see below from Sam: *I am recruiting parents of primary school aged children who have been working from home during lockdown to take part in a conversation-like interview over video call. The interview will last approximately one hour and will involve questions relating to your diet and exercise behaviour, as well as other experiences with your family during lockdown. For more information click [here](#). If you are interested in taking part, please email s.newman-19@student.lboro.ac.uk*

COVID19 and Free School Meal Eligibility

If your financial circumstances have been affected by the COVID 19 crisis you could now be entitled to Benefit Related Free School Meals.

The Covid19 crisis has also highlighted the difference between Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) and Benefit Related Free School Meals (FSM).

The government can only offer help to those who are in receipt of Benefit Related Free School Meals so we encourage applications from all year groups.

To find out if you are eligible please fill out the simple online application form at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals where you will receive an instant response as to your eligibility status. If you are eligible your child's school will be informed within 3 days.

FSM Criteria

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (unless you're also entitled to Working Tax Credit, and earn no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop receiving Working Tax Credit)
- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400)

If you have any queries regarding this information, please call the Education Welfare Benefits team on 01223 703200 or email ewb.fsm@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or look at the website www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

Our School Prayer

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