



27th September

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.

Harvest Donations

Our Harvest Thanksgiving Service will be on **Thursday 3rd October** at 9:30am across in the church. Parents are invited to join us in the church, but if you have a child in Van Gogh Class we would be grateful for your support in walking with the children to the church – just 1 adult per child please to be at school for 9:20am if possible. All other adults can meet us at the church!



Donations again this year will be taken to the Salvation Army's Kings Ripton Court in Huntingdon. Kings Ripton Court is a Salvation Army Lifehouse based in Huntingdon that supports young people aged 16-25 years, experiencing homelessness.

Through your generosity in donating food produce, they are able to provide new residents with a food parcel on arrival as part of their 'welcome pack' so that they can focus on settling in during their first few days. Donations also enable the team to provide emergency food provision to any residents who may be struggling financially and also use the produce as part of their Lifeskills Programme which helps the young people develop skills needed for independent living.

They would particularly appreciate donations of drinking squash, dried pasta, rice, long life milk and tinned food (e.g. tuna). Donations can be brought into school from Tuesday via your child. Sadly they are unable to accept any fresh produce.



Macmillan Coffee morning

A reminder that we would also like to invite parents to pop in to school for a coffee and cake straight after the Harvest service to support us in raising funds for this great charity. Please bring cash only to make a donation!

Any donations of nut free cakes (bought or homemade) would be gratefully received on Wednesday 2nd October. Please bring to the school office.

Any unsold cakes will be available to buy after school on Thursday.

Screening for Diabetes study

Thank you to everyone who has already signed up to take part in the diabetes study as mentioned in the last newsletter. We have been given the opportunity to offer all children here at school an early screening test for type 1 diabetes. This testing programme hopes to identify diabetes in children early in order for treatment to be started sooner. All information is in the letters which have been emailed today as well as details of how to register. The screening will take place at school on Tuesday 22nd October but if interested please do sign up before 15th October.

EBooks



Apologies for any confusion caused earlier this week regarding the ebooks for Little Wandle phonics on the Collins Hub. All children in Monet class now have their username and password stuck into their reading diaries and the parent guide attached to our email on Wednesday explains how to log in. You do not need an email address, just the username and password. The site has been upgraded so will look slightly different but books were added in to your child's library yesterday and will be added each Thursday. Please try to read at least 3 times before Monday when the children will begin reading practise in school with a new book.

Wet weather

Please could we remind parents about sending their children in to school **every day** with a coat. Too many children do not have a wet weather coat and we do try to keep children outside as long as possible so a coat really is needed. Similarly, we have lots of children without a change of shoes (old trainers or wellies) and this means that they are only allowed to play on the playground. Some children find this tricky if their friends are allowed to play on the field as they have a change of shoes. Please send these in as soon as possible in a named bag.



Please note that staff will be writing names in all unnamed wellies next week so please do let us know if you would prefer to do this yourself so that we can send them home.



Sports kit

Some of you may remember that last year we asked whether anyone in our school community had a business link that would consider sponsoring our school sport kit. I am delighted that Florence's Dad (in Year 1) generously offered to sponsor this kit and this has now arrived in school! This kit will be worn when our children represent the school at sporting events! Our huge thanks to **Brinkley Aerospace** for their generosity.



Term dates

With this newsletter you have received our term dates for the academic year 2025/2026. We hope that by releasing these early, parents can plan ahead for holidays etc.

Attendance

Governors have recently ratified our new attendance policy which is now in line with statutory guidance from the department for education which came into effect in August this year. This guidance is set out in a document, Working Together to Improve School Attendance which can be found [here](#).

Our school Attendance policy and Application for term-time leave of absence can be found on our school website, click [here](#) for the link.

Goodbye

Today we have said a sad goodbye today to Ettie from Picasso Class and Otilie from Monet Class. We are very sad to see you go but wish you every success in the future. Do keep in touch.

Admissions Information

Reception 2025

Do you have or know someone who has a child due to start school in September 2024?

The booking portal for a place in our Reception Class in September 2025 is now open.

Please help us to promote our school! We are holding open sessions for prospective parents for Reception intake 2025 on the following dates:

Thursday 3rd October - 1:30pm or 2.00pm
Wednesday 6th November -1:30pm or 2.00pm
Thursday 5th December - 1:30pm or 2.00pm

Please contact the school for more information. Booking is required.

STARS news

Thank you everyone who came along to the AGM last night.

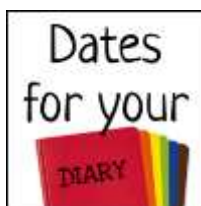
Firstly, we would like to say a huge thanks to 3 committee members who have stepped down from their roles. Firstly, Tim Bonner who steps down as treasurer, Holly Jones who steps down as secretary and Kags Alexander-Cahill who steps down as vice-chair. Their combined years on the committee exceed a decade and so we have a great deal to thank them for!

We are delighted that James Stevens was re-elected as Chair and that Emma Wadsworth has been elected into a combined role as secretary and communications. The role of treasurer remains vacant and we would ask any member of our school community to let us know whether they would be interested in taking on this important role. Tim is happy to support anyone new to this role which is brilliant.

The Fundraising Summary (attached with this newsletter) outlines some of the activity from the last year which exceeded all expectation – events were well attended and enjoyed by many. STARS were able to give the school a **HUGE £14,544.04** over the course of the last academic year which has made an immeasurable difference to the school and the children.

We have a focus for this academic year on raising money for iPads and laptops for the children to use as the stock in school is getting a little outdated. This is a great focus for our activity this year and we look forward to a great year ahead!

With that in mind, you will see from the diary dates that we have added several events which we hope will be well attended and enjoyed by many. More details of the events will be shared in the weeks to come but please do add them to your diaries so that you don't miss out!



Diary Dates Autumn 2024/Spring 2025

All new dates added since the previous newsletter are in bold italic

| Date | Event |
|--|--|
| 3 rd October | Harvest Service in St Andrew's Church 9:30am ~ all welcome |
| 3rd October | Macmillan Coffee morning ~ in the school hall following the church service ~ all welcome! |
| 3 rd October | Open Session to view for Reception intake 2025 ~ 1:30pm – 2.30pm |
| 9 th October | Reading/Spelling Workshop for Parents of Monet class ~ 2:45pm in school |
| 15 th October | Parent Consultations ~ 3:30pm – 7:30pm |
| 16 th October | Parent Consultations ~ 3:30pm – 5:30pm |
| 22 nd October | Screening for Diabetes |
| 28th October – 1st November | HALF TERM |
| 5 th November | Flu Vaccinations for all children. Opt out details will follow. |

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| 6 th November | Open Session to view for Reception intake 2025 ~ 1:30pm – 2.30pm. |
| 8th November | STARS campfire cook out 5pm ~ details to follow |
| 11 th – 15 th November | Anti-Bullying Week |
| 15 th November | Children in Need Day |
| 15 th November | Van Gogh Nursery Rhyme session – parent invited 3:00pm |
| 3rd December | STARS Wreath making 7pm ~ details to follow |
| 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. |
| 6th December | STARS Elfridges Christmas shop 1pm (for children) ~ details to follow |
| 13th December | STARS Breakfast with Santa 8am (for children) ~ details to follow |
| 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 |
| 18th December | Santa dash – whole school running a mile in their 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 |
| 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 |