



3rd March

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.

Although our usual day for sending our newsletter is a Friday, we thought it would be helpful for parents to receive this today so that you still have a couple of days before the children return on Monday to ask any questions or seek clarification on anything if needed.

Plans for re-opening on the 8th March

Many of our routines and procedures will remain exactly the same as they were in the Autumn term. However, the key message is that we are still in a national lockdown; the opening of schools does not coincide with any further easing of lockdown measures so it is vital that parents do not mix or gather together. This is so important so that cases remain low and schools can remain open – we all need to play our part in continuing to minimise contacts and our efforts in school are undermined if families tempted to gather together outside of school. We really do appreciate your support with this.

As a reminder we have included the following:

Arriving in school

- Children may arrive at school anytime between **8:40am and 8:50am**.
- Please be on time as arriving after 8:50am will make it necessary for your child to use the main office door, increasing their contact with adults.
- Anyone walking from the village may enter the site by the main entrance gate to avoid needing to walk on the road to the back car park gates. Children should walk to their usual classroom entrance from here.

Car park

- If the gates on to the school field are closed, please wait in your car until a member of staff opens them in order to avoid gathering at the gate together with other families. *This includes not allowing the children to 'queue' at the gate.*
- Please leave the car park promptly.
- A polite reminder that the area of woodland just beyond the school car park is private land. We have been given permission to use the 'wild wood' area as part of our school day but children and their families shouldn't be using this area outside of the school day.

Education Transport

We have been informed that the school bus will resume its normal collection and drop off times from Monday 8th March. Please can you let the school office know, via email, what your child's pattern for using the transport will be so we know who to expect and when.

Entrances and exits

Please see below details about which gates to use and where to wait for your child.

Van Gogh class

Start of the day (8:40am-8:50am)	End of the day (3pm)
Enter the site using the left hand side gate (bottom gate) as you look at the field from the car park.	Enter the site using the right hand side gate (top gate) as you look at the field from the car park.
Where to go	Where to go
Turn left only. Mrs Wilcock will meet the children on the blue dots in front of the willow tunnel at the end of the playground.	Turn right only and wait on a blue line on the path which runs parallel to the road. An adult will walk the children out to you to dismiss them.
Leaving the site	Leaving the site
Parents (if you have entered the site) should leave the site using the same gate.	Your child should stay close to you as you walk back to leave the site using the same gate.

Monet class

Start of the day (8:40am-8:50am)	End of the day (3pm)
Enter the site using the left hand side gate (bottom gate) as you look at the field from the car park.	Enter the site using the left hand side gate (bottom gate) as you look at the field from the car park.
Where to go	Where to go
Turn left only. Enter the school via the bottom corridor door.	Turn left only and wait on a blue line on the path near the climbing wall. An adult will walk the children out to you to dismiss them.
Leaving the site	Leaving the site
Parents are discouraged from entering the school site unless absolutely necessary.	Your child should stay close to you as you walk back to leave the site using the same gate.

Kandinsky class

Start of the day (8:40am-8:50am)	End of the day (3:15pm)
Enter the site using the right hand side gate (top gate) as you look at the field from the car park.	Enter the site using the left hand side gate (bottom gate) as you look at the field from the car park.
Where to go	Where to go
Come straight across the field and enter via the classroom fire door.	Turn left only and wait on a blue line on the path near the climbing wall. An adult will walk the children out to you to dismiss them.
Leaving the site	Leaving the site
Parents are discouraged from entering the school site unless absolutely necessary.	Your child should stay close to you as you walk back to leave the site using the same gate.

Picasso class

Start of the day (8:40am-8:50am)	End of the day (3:15pm)
Enter the site using the right hand side gate (top gate) as you look at the field from the car park.	Enter the site using the right hand side gate (top gate) as you look at the field from the car park.
Where to go	Where to go
Turn right only and walk around the field, parallel to the road and enter the classroom by the side cloakroom door.	Turn right only and wait on a blue line on the path which runs parallel to the road. An adult will walk the children out to you to dismiss them.
Leaving the site	Leaving the site
Parents are discouraged from entering the school site unless absolutely necessary.	Your child should stay close to you as you walk back to leave the site using the same gate.

If you have siblings split across the two collection times, please either wait in your car between 3pm and 3:15pm or if staying on site, please keep your child/children with you.

School uniform

Children should continue to wear their PE kit on the bottoms (black tracksuit bottoms/shorts and trainers) with school uniform on the top (polo top and school cardigan/sweatshirt). However we do understand that children may have grown and uniform may not fit anymore! Uniform can still be ordered online from our suppliers but if this is difficult, please send your child in with a plain blue/black sweatshirt. All classrooms will have their windows open as much as possible so we would also encourage children to wear additional layers if the weather is cooler e.g. a vest underneath or school fleece on top. **Please name all uniform.**



There is no longer a need to send a change of shoes/wellington boots (except Van Gogh) as the field is now much drier. The footwear that the children wear should however be suitable for PE as the children will not be changing for their PE lessons.

Further reminders

- All children will require a water bottle on the first day of school. These will remain in school and we will wash and fill them in school.
- Please limit what your children are bringing into school – they really don't need big ruck-sacs, PE kits or pencil cases. They do need a change of bottoms including underwear and socks if they are in Reception or if they have the occasional accident and are in Year 1 or 2. **ALL** children will need a coat everyday as they will all be spending time outside and Reception will need a pair of wellington boots to keep at school.
- If you have any messages to pass to staff, please avoid face to face discussions and visiting the office as much as possible. However, please do email the school office (office@abbotsripton.cambs.sch.uk) as all messages are passed on and a telephone conversation can be arranged if needed too. We really do appreciate your support with this.
- Please wear a face covering when on our school site and limit adults dropping/collecting to one. Again this will support us with limiting interactions.

Coronavirus testing for households, childcare or support bubbles of pupils at school

From 1 March 2021, if you are a member of a household, childcare bubble or support bubble of a pupil attending school, you can get twice-weekly tests in the following ways:

➤ **Take a test at a rapid lateral flow test site**

You can take a rapid lateral flow test at a local site. Testing at these sites is assisted, which means you will swab yourself under the supervision of a trained operator. You may need to book an appointment. Find your nearest rapid lateral flow test site [here](#).

➤ **Collect test kits**

You can collect up to 4 home test kits at a local collection point. Each kit contains 7 tests. Anyone 18 or over can collect. You can find your nearest collection point [here](#).

➤ **Order home test kits online**

If you are unable to go to a test site or collect test kits, you can order a home test kit online. Do not order online if you can get a test through other methods. This frees up home delivery for those who need it most. Tests can be ordered [here](#).

Staff testing for Coronavirus

A reminder that staff in school are also testing for the coronavirus twice a week. If a staff member tests positive, we may need to contact parents to ask you to isolate your child and this contact is likely to be in the evening and the phone call may come from a 'no caller ID' phone number. Please do support us by ensuring that we have the most up to date contact number for you and that you answer this call!



New school menu

From the start of this term, we have run our own school kitchen rather than running it through a catering company. Jo is still our cook and she has been enjoying making some changes to our meals such as increasing portion sizes and varying the meal choices. We will share further details of this with you for after Easter but with this newsletter you will find an interim menu for the remaining 3 weeks of this term. If you decide to make changes to your child's usual pattern of hot meals/packed lunches as a result of seeing what is now on offer, please do email

Mrs Nixon in the school office. Also, a polite reminder that meals should be paid for in advance; the cost per day remains at £2.40 and if your child has a meal every day, it is £36 up to the Easter holiday.

Returning IT equipment

If you borrowed a school iPad during lockdown, please could we ask that these are returned during the first week back to school. They can be brought to the school office and passed to Mrs Nixon who will ask you to sign your loan agreement to agree that it has been returned in the same condition as it was loaned. Many thanks.

World Book Day – 4th March 2021

We hope the children are looking forward to World Book Day tomorrow. Some have been completing activities already – well done to Joseph, superstar reader, who decided to write to the author of Monster Max, Robin Bennett. The publishers put this lovely picture on their social media page! We have also had some lovely feedback from children who have been so grateful for the new books collected from school.



We have received our £1 book tokens which we will give to your children on Monday. The token can be swapped for one of the exclusive, new and completely FREE World Book Day books available from participating supermarkets (sadly bookshops are closed and they can't be redeemed online) or used to get £1 off any full price book or audiobook instead (as long as the book or audiobook costs at least £2.99).

The tokens are valid until Sunday 28 March 2021. In 2021 participating booksellers will honour the tokens beyond the 28 March while stocks last. To see the full range of £1 books click [here](#).

Rise and Shine Before School Club

We have been informed by St Ives Football club that due to their growing costs they will be increasing the charge for our Rise and Shine Before School Club to £3.50 a session after Easter. Please pay direct to Jack when dropping your children at the sessions.

Daisies Montessori Nursery School Relocation

Many thanks to those parents who have contacted us about a meeting to discuss the plans for the relocation of Daisies Montessori Nursery to our school site. Governors would like to invite parents to a Zoom meeting on Thursday 11th March at 7pm. The link to join this meeting is below.

Join Zoom Meeting

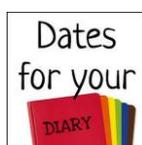
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89919971621?pwd=cEJ0MWdteGFvTTJ4S1dsV2piTktEdz09>

Meeting ID: 899 1997 1621

Passcode: 522826

Parent Consultations

Information regarding the times for Parent Consultation for this term were sent home on Monday via email. If you have not replied to book your slot then please do so by 8th March. We will let you know by email the time you have been allocated when the appointments have been arranged.



Diary Dates

Please see below the updated diary dates for the Spring/Summer term 2021

Date	Event
4 th March	Picasso Parent Consultation
11 th March	Picasso Parent Consultation
11 th March	Daisies relocation Zoom meeting for all – 7pm
15 th March	Van Gogh Parent Consultations
15 th March	Monet Parent Consultations
16 th March	Van Gogh Parent Consultations
22 nd March	Monet Parent Consultations
22 nd March	Kandinsky Parent Consultations
23 rd March	Kandinsky Parent Consultations
26 th March	End of Term
27 th Mar – 11 th Apr	Easter Holiday
12 th April	Teacher Training Day – School closed
13 th April	Summer term begins