

ABBOT'S LEA SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mrs Ania Hildrey, M.Ed, B.Ed(Hons), NPQH

15 April 2020



Dear Families

Ref: Continued closure of Abbot's Lea School and support on offer

I write to you in light of continued national lockdown and all the challenges it brings to every member of the society.

Our priority is the health and safety of our students, staff and the wider population. As a result, Abbot's Lea School will remain closed to all students and all staff for as long as the governmental decision is to:

- Maintain national lockdown, and
- Close all schools, and
- Recommend social distancing.

The school will therefore remain closed until further notice.

Term 5 arrangements

Upon the start of Term 5 on Monday, 20 April 2020, the class teams will be, once more, in weekly touch with every student and family to maintain the relationship and offer support. Teaching teams will also continue to work hard to develop and deliver a range of home-based learning opportunities tailored to the needs of the students and manageable, in light of such a different reality. More detail on the exact planned activity will follow next week.

As stressed before, engagement in any such home-based learning will be optional for the students. We are fully acceptant of the challenges many of our students and us, their families, face when it comes to home-schooling. We are here to held, guide, support and celebrate, but we do not expect any particular level of engagement from the families or students – the pressure can, at times, be worse than the benefits of any such programmes.

Liverpool City Council childcare provision

Children of essential key workers who do not have any alternative childcare, as well as children classed as too vulnerable to be care for at home, may be offered a place in one of the LCC hubs. Please contact your nearest hub for more information by searching for Liverpool City Council Hubs, or by following the link below:

<https://liverpool.gov.uk/communities-and-safety/emergency-planning/coronavirus/childcare-hubs-and-education/childcare-hubs-for-key-workers/>

Liverpool City Council “Urgent Needs” Fund

I want to share with you our city’s support fund called “Urgent Needs” Fund. ‘Urgent Needs’ Fund is for people who are currently experiencing hardship, due to the coronavirus outbreak.

The fund is open to anyone who is experiencing the following issues:

- People who have no food, gas or electricity
- People who have received benefit sanctions or who have applied for benefits but haven’t received an award yet
- People who have been put on Furlough by their employer and are experiencing hardship as a result of the 20% reduction in their salary
- People who have a number of children at home and are unable to feed them due to school closures
- Any other issues that cause hardship

Process

The support worker or the person experiencing hardship should call telephone number: **0151 233 3053** to speak to an operator. A series of questions will be asked to determine if the person is eligible for support. If they are, they or you will be supported over the phone to complete an online application form. A decision will be given within 2 days of the application being accepted. The award given does not need to be paid back.

Free School Meals Vouchers

During the school closure, students eligible for Free School Meals are entitled to vouchers, issued to their families.

Initial Liverpool City Council scheme will be replaced by the national scheme from Monday, 20 April 2020. Vouchers for next week have already been ordered by us and sent to the eligible families. We will then order vouchers each Monday for the following week and distribute them to each family. There have been some difficulties reported with the system by other schools but, thankfully, so far at least, we have experienced no problems and were able to send the support to those who need it.

Free School Meals entitlement is easy for us to check and is also likely to rise, in light of the economic impact of the COVID-19 and so, if you feel you might be eligible for this support, please contact us and we will be able to run a check based on a few bits of information. To do so, please contact Mr Cocklin, Head of Finance and Operations, on Andrew.cocklin@abbotsleaschool.co.uk

Contact details

Your primary contact remains the Class Teacher, who can be contacted by email, using firstname.surname@abbotsleaschool.co.uk formula. If you have difficulty contacting your child’s Class Teacher, please contact Mrs Tobin, Deputy Headteacher: deputy@abbotsleaschool.co.uk and she will be able to assist.

Additionally, other key personnel are able to also offer assistance from next week:

| Area | Name | Email |
|---|---------------|--|
| Primary Department (including: Early Years, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2) | Miss O'Neill | Maria.o'neill@abbotsleaschool.co.uk |
| Key Stage 3 | Mr Hodgson | Richard.hodgson@abbotsleaschool.co.uk |
| Key Stage 4 | Miss Dallas | Katie.dallas@abbotsleaschool.co.uk |
| Key Stage 5 | Mr Mason | Ryan.mason@abbotsleaschool.co.uk |
| Supported Internships | Miss Caddick | Claire.caddick@abbotsleaschool.co.uk |
| Deputy Headteacher - Teaching and Learning | Mrs Tobin | Deputy@abbotsleaschool.co.uk |
| Care and Safeguarding | Miss Twomey | Alison.twomey@abbotsleaschool.co.uk |
| Family Advice | Mrs Sharpe | Lisa.sharpe@abbotsleaschool.co.uk |
| ICT Advice | Miss Shipley | Jennie.shipley@abbotsleaschool.co.uk |
| Autism Research and Development | Miss Grimshaw | Micah.grimshaw@abbotsleaschool.co.uk |
| Free School Meals entitlement and vouchers | Mr Cocklin | Andrew.cocklin@abbotsleaschool.co.uk |
| Headteacher - school leadership and governance | Mrs Hildrey | Headteacher@abbotsleaschool.co.uk |

I realise that this is a very challenging time for us all – our students, families and the staff alike - and yet, the quickest route to our safe return to normality (whatever that proves to be) is for us all to do all that we can to stay at home and limit the spread of the pandemic.

My thoughts are with all of you and, in particular, with those who have suffered ill health or lost their loved ones during these difficult times.

We are here to help in any way we can whilst maintaining the safest possible approach to our operation until things get safe again.

Until then – please stay well and do follow our updates on our website and the social media sites – Facebook and Twitter are the two sites we now use for all of the news.

Yours faithfully



Mrs A Hildrey
Headteacher