



# Head's Weekly Newsletter

Issue 2, 11 September 2020



Mrs Ania Hildrey, Headteacher, [headteacher@abbotsleaschool.co.uk](mailto:headteacher@abbotsleaschool.co.uk)

Dear Students, Families, Colleagues and Friends,

Welcome to the second issue of this year's *Head's Weekly Newsletter*.

Today concludes the first full week of the whole school operation and, whilst we learn each day how to make things better and run our Covid-19 secure school smoother, we are getting there!

I wish to thank all of the staff for their hard work and acknowledge amazing cooperation from the families. We have had so many enquiries over the past few days and despite the governmental guidance confusing many of us, we have worked together in partnership to gain clarity where it has been lacking. If you, as a parent or carer feel that we should be providing you with more information, or different information, please let us know – we are keen to help and communicate “just right” – with enough focus on the joys of learning taking place, and sharing announcements and central messages we are asked to disseminate.

One of those is from Public Health England and I have been asked to make it prominent:

**“COVID-19 Public Health Liverpool update**

*Dear parents,*

*ALERT: We have seen a significant increase in COVID-19 positive cases this week in Liverpool. We need your help and ask that your child limits group contact with friends over the weekend. When out and about your whole family should stay at least 2 metres away from anyone not from your household, wash hands often and wear face coverings when appropriate. Thank you for your support. For further information visit: <https://liverpoolexpress.co.uk/message-to-schools/>”*

This notification is, of course, in addition to the guidance that many of you will be using in determining whether or not your child should wear a face covering (especially those under the age of 11 and any who may find masks detrimental due to health or disability reasons). This guidance still applies and can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>

Whilst the world around us continues to focus on the threats and risks, it is important to find the balance between the struggles and the successes. I trust that today's newsletter articles provide you with the flavour of our brilliant week, whilst adding reflection and advice where needed.

I wish you all a very restful weekend and look forward to next week's stories.

Kind regards

Mrs A Hildrey  
Headteacher

# School Photographer

Dear Families

**Ref: School Photographs**

Next week, on from Tuesday, 15 September until Thursday, 17 September 2020, our School Photographer will be in school to take students' individual photographs.

We renew photos of students (and staff) each year to ensure that our records have current versions of the pictures for administration purposes.

Please ensure your child attends school in full school uniform to have their photograph taken.

We will ensure that no student has their photograph taken on the same day that they have PE. Therefore, if your child has PE on any of these days they **should still** attend school in their PE kit.

There will also be the opportunity for you to purchase your child's photograph should you wish to and we will facilitate photographs of siblings, too.

You will be provided with details of how to place an order and you will be able to request for the photographs to be delivered directly to your home address, should you prefer this.

If you have any questions, please contact the school directly on 0151 428 1161.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ania Hildrey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small flourish at the end.

Mrs Ania Hildrey

Headteacher

## 2020-21 Term dates

**School day: 8:30am – 2:30pm**

Term 1:

**1 September 2020 – INSET DAY**

**2 September 2020 – ADDITIONAL INSET DAY**

Students start:

EY/KS1, KS2, KS3, KS4 – Thursday 3 September 2020

KS5 – Monday, 7 September 2020

Term ends: Friday, 23 October 2020

October break: Monday 26 October to Friday 30 October 2020

Term 2:

Students return: 2 November 2020

Term ends: Friday 18 December 2020 at 1:00pm

Christmas break: Monday 21 December 2020 to Friday 1 January 2021

Term 3:

**4 January 2021 – INSET Day**

Students return: 5 January 2021

Term ends: 12 February 2021

February break: Monday 15 February 2021 to Friday 19 February 2021

Term 4:

Students return: 22 February 2021

Term ends: Friday 26 March 2021 at 1:00pm

Easter break: Monday 29 March 2021 to Friday 9 April 2021

Term 5:

Students return: 12 April 2021

May day: Monday 3 May 2021

Term ends - 28 May 2021

May break: Monday 31 May to Friday 4 June 2021

Term 6:

Starts: 7 June 2021 – students return

**25 June 2021 – Leavers' Day (for Y11, 12, 13, 14) and end of KS5 programme**

**9 July 2021 – Transition INSET Day**

12 – 16 July 2021 - Transition Week

Ends: 16 July 2021 at 1:00pm

**19-20 July 2021 – INSET Days (worked as staff' extended twilight days throughout the year)**

**School holidays: Monday 16 July to Tuesday, 31 August 2021**



**ADDvanced Solutions**  
Community Network  
Supporting you to find the answers



## What's On in Liverpool: Autumn Half Term 2020

ADDvanced Solutions Community Network have a new, online offer to support children, young people, families and professionals in the Liverpool area. **We are offering telephone and email consultations so please get in touch by calling 0151 486 1788 from 9am-5pm Monday to Friday, or email us at [info@advancedsolutions.co.uk](mailto:info@advancedsolutions.co.uk).**

### Online Community Network Groups

Our new online Community Network Groups are an opportunity to develop your understanding around neurodevelopmental conditions (NDCs), to ask questions and share learning and experience. During this session, you can talk to other parents, the ADDvanced Solutions team and **visiting professionals** who can help and support you. These sessions are delivered through Zoom for Healthcare meetings, so please get in touch to register your interest and to receive your invitation. Groups are limited to ten people per session.

#### Tuesdays 10:00am-11:00am:

- 8th September:** Welcome Back: Identifying problems, finding solutions
- 15th September:** Choosing the appropriate school for your child
- 22nd September:** Embedding routines at home
- 29th September:** **Liverpool SEND Law Clinic**
- 6th October:** Supporting home organisation using visual resources
- 13th October:** **Sensory Integration Occupational Therapist**
- 20th October:** Supporting sleep difficulties

#### Wednesdays 5:00pm-6:00pm:

- 9th September:** Welcome Back: Identifying problems, finding solutions
- 16th September:** **Liverpool Local Authority Social Inclusion Team**
- 23rd September:** Choosing the appropriate school for your child
- 30th September:** Embedding routines at home
- 7th October:** **Liverpool SEND Law Clinic**
- 14th October:** Supporting home organisation using visual resources
- 21st October:** **Sensory Integration Occupational Therapist**

## **Our Online Family Learning Programme**

Our online learning programme for parents, carers and supporters who wish to gain knowledge and skills about their child's neurodevelopmental condition, with strategies to support the difficulties that may present around:

- Neurodevelopmental conditions/learning difficulties and associated mental health difficulties
- Autism Spectrum Disorder/Condition (ASD/C)
- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
- Sensory Processing/Integration Difficulties (SPD)
- Supporting behaviours associated with ND conditions
- Your local offer, welfare rights and special educational support

The programme will be delivered in webinar format, with the opportunity to ask questions at the end of the session.

**Monday weekly for six sessions  
from 10.00am-11.30am:**

**Monday 14th September**  
**Monday 21st September**  
**Monday 28th September**  
**Monday 5th October**  
**Monday 12th October**  
**Monday 19th October**

**Click [HERE](#) to register**

**Thursday weekly for six sessions  
from 6.00pm-7.30pm:**

**Thursday 17th September**  
**Thursday 24th September**  
**Thursday 1st October**  
**Thursday 8th October**  
**Thursday 15th October**  
**Thursday 22nd October**

**Click [HERE](#) to register**

## **Our Sleep Offer**

For parents/carers and supporting professionals who would like talk to our Sleep Practitioners, to be able to better support children and young people living with neurodevelopmental conditions experiencing sleep difficulties. Our sleep practitioners are available Monday to Thursday so please contact the office.

## **Young People's Offer**

If you are a parent/carer of a young person (aged 12-19) who would like one of our team to talk to them, to help them better understand their Autism, ADHD, sensory processing difficulties or other neurodevelopmental conditions, please contact the office.

## **Online Learning Workshops for Families**

Our learning workshops have been designed for families, to better recognise, understand and support their own needs and those of their children and young people living with neurodevelopmental conditions (NDCs). They are delivered as webinars through Zoom for Healthcare's webinar platform (which complies to stringent security standards and has the appropriate privacy shield in place). A webinar is a platform where you are not visible or heard by others joining the training. You can type any questions into the chat, and these will be answered at the end of the session.

**Please click the topic below which will take you to a short registration process. If you are using a phone, you will need to download the Zoom app beforehand.** The details we request are kept secure, used only for commissioning purposes and to help us make the right offer to you and your family. Registration will close 30 minutes before the session.

**If you are accessing our online offer using your mobile phone, please be mindful of your data usage. If you do not have an unlimited data plan, you may need to connect to a wifi connection to prevent charges.**

If there are other topics you would like us to cover in these workshops, please let us know.

### **Mondays 1:00pm-2:30pm:**

**7th September:** [Supporting your child through transition](#)

**14th September:** [Supporting your child through transition](#)

**21st September:** [Introduction to Sensory Processing Difficulties](#)

**28th September:** [Emotional Regulation and Praxis](#)

**5th October:** [Sensory Strategies](#)

**12th October:** [Eating Difficulties associated with NDCs](#)

### **Tuesdays 7:30pm-9:00pm:**

**8th September:** [Supporting your child through transition](#)

**15th September:** [Supporting your child through transition](#)

**6th October:** [Maths Difficulties and Dyscalculia](#)

**13th October:** [ADHD and Adolescence](#)

### **Thursdays 10:00am-11:30am:**

**24th September:** [Sleep Difficulties associated with NDCs Part 1](#)

**1st October:** [Sleep Difficulties associated with NDCs Part 2](#)

## TRANSITION: 1:1 ADVICE AND SUPPORT FOR PARENTS AND CARERS OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE LIVING WITH NEURODEVELOPMENTAL CONDITIONS

As the return to nursery, school, college and further education approaches, we are aware of the concerns of parents/carers of children and young people living with neurodevelopmental conditions (NDCs) about returning following a prolonged period away due to Covid-19.

In response, we are offering advice and support by either telephone or, if preferred, via an online meeting (Zoom for Healthcare) for parents/carers to explore their concerns and identify strategies to support transition. If your young person aged 11-19 would also like to speak to us, we can arrange this, with appropriate permission/consent in place for those under age 16.

Please contact the office by telephone on 0151 486 1788 or email [info@advancedsolutions.co.uk](mailto:info@advancedsolutions.co.uk) to book.

Sessions are running Monday to Wednesday and will be for a maximum of 45 minutes and any further sessions may be booked as required. You will also be offered a follow up conversation.

### **Reduce stress, get fit and relax!**

Our family yoga delivered by our qualified yoga teacher has been designed as an activity that anyone in the family can join in and enjoy.

#### **FAMILY YOGA:**

**Monday morning from 10:00am-11:00am**

**Monday 21st September**

**Monday 28th September**

**Monday 5th October**

**Monday 12th October**

**Monday 19th October**



**Please register for these sessions by contacting the office.**

**Please see the following page for our offer for professionals**

## Professionals Online Learning Workshops

Our Professionals Online Learning Workshops will focus on the challenges associated with neurodevelopmental conditions (NDCs). Each session will be delivered as Zoom for Healthcare webinars. This means that attendees will not be visible or heard by others on the learning workshop, but questions can be asked using the Q&A feature to be answered at the end of the session. Please click the topics below to register.

**Thursday 3:30pm-5:00pm**

**24th September:** [Supporting and Understanding Behaviour](#)

**1st October:** [Supporting Anxiety in the Classroom](#)

**8th October:** [Maths Difficulties and Dyscalculia \(4:30pm-6.00pm\)](#)

**15th October:** [Supporting Sleep Difficulties](#)

## Professionals Solution Focused Drop In and 1-1 Advice Sessions

Opportunities for professionals to bring any questions about children, young people or families living with neurodevelopmental conditions (NDCs) who you are working with to discuss and problem solve.

**For 1-1 advice:** please contact the office.

**To join our weekly drop in session: (every Friday 10:00am - 11:00am)** please contact the office to receive your link

## Virtual Coffee Mornings

We are happy to attend any virtual coffee mornings and online sessions to explain our current offer to families and professionals. Please contact the office.



 Follow us on Twitter: @ADDvancedSol  
 Follow us on Instagram: @ADDvancedSolutions  
 Like us on Facebook: ADDvanced Solutions Community Network  
Join our closed Facebook group for parents and carers:  
ADDvanced Solutions Community Network CIC

**For full details and descriptions of the events listed in this 'What's On' newsletter, please visit the What's On section on our website and view the calendar listings.**

## Crisis Support

ADDvanced Solutions Community Network is not a crisis service. If you, a child or young person is experiencing acute distress and is deemed to be a risk to themselves or others, we have listed the local area crisis contact details on our urgent support page, which you can find on our website: [www.addvancedsolutions.co.uk](http://www.addvancedsolutions.co.uk) under the 'Contact' menu option, where you will also find links to national organisations that can offer support.

Click [HERE](#)

## Deputy Headteacher

**Mrs Emily Tobin, Deputy Headteacher**

**E:** [deputy@abbotsleaschool.co.uk](mailto:deputy@abbotsleaschool.co.uk)



Dear Families,

This week I am writing to give you an insight into an exciting new initiative we are going to be rolling out over the next few weeks.

As you know, our Philosophy of Education: The ASD Model © concentrates on academic progress, offering the right specialist therapeutic support and developing a student's life skills.

For a long time in education we have had ways to demonstrate academic progress, through producing work in exercise books, for example. However, schools have traditionally found it harder to evidence successes and growth in a student's character curriculum; the skills they acquire which help them to build independence, foster relationships and deal with their emotions. However, by moving with the times and embracing the technology available to us, this is all about to change.

Miss O'Neill and I have been working for some time now on understanding an App called "Evidence for Learning." It is similar to the "2Simple" App which Miss O'Neill and her team currently use in Early Year and Key Stage 1. However, this is an App which will run all the way through the school.

Class teams will be able to take photographs of students' work and upload it onto the student's very own, personal profile. They will also be able to take videos of students acquiring and practising skills. This might include, for example, trying a different food at snack time, showing good turn-taking skills or tying their own shoelace!

In addition, it will allow us to capture more practical based learning. Imagine a video of somebody mixing the ingredients of a cake, or playing dodgeball in PE.

All of this will be documented in a student's profile in the "Evidence for Learning" App.

I am so excited about the software and how it will show us the whole student. Their varied strengths and their areas for development which we need to support. I simply cannot wait to get it up and running.

This system will take a few weeks to roll out as we move from purchasing the licence and setting up our Cloud account to starting to capture learning.

I will keep you updated on our progress!

I would like to take this opportunity to reassure families that although photos and videos may be uploaded onto this App, they remain for internal use. The App cannot be accessed without a Username and Password.

# Care and Safeguarding

**Ms Alison Twomey, Head of Care and Safeguarding**

**E:** [Alison.twomey@abbotsleaschool.co.uk](mailto:Alison.twomey@abbotsleaschool.co.uk)



I am writing this article on 10 September which happens to be World Suicide Prevention Day.

In the UK, suicide is the leading cause of death in young people, accounting for 14% of deaths in 10-19 year olds and 21% of deaths in 20-34 year olds. These are horrendous statistics to contemplate. Whilst this is an incredible difficult subject to read about, it is essential that the stigma surrounding mental health is removed and this can only be done by openly discussing the subject and allowing people the space and time to explore their own thoughts and feelings.

If you are concerned that your child may be experiencing thoughts of suicide, the only way to be sure is to ask them directly. We know that this can be difficult and some parents would worry about talking to their child about suicide. Research tells us that talking about suicide does not put the idea into their head. In fact, talking with your child about suicide creates a safe space for them to be open and honest about how they feel and they will see you as a safe person to turn to.

As a parent your first reaction will probably be to try and fix things for your child and to make things better for them. Hold back. Use your strength to stay calm and let them talk. They will need time and space to feel safe in talking through how they are feeling. Allow for silences and listen non judgmentally to what they have to say. Just being there in the moment with your child will show that you care and that you are a safe person for them to talk to. Connect with them and let them know how brave they are and that you are there to help them.

Recent research has indicated that asking a young person if they are experiencing thoughts of suicide can actually reduce the risk of them ending their life. Asking and determining if that person is feeling suicidal gives you the opportunity to explore those feelings further and support them to stay safe. Potentially, sharing these feelings with someone for the first time may give that young person a huge sense of relief.

Sometimes, children find it really hard to open up to their parents so it is important that they are aware of where they can go to get help. There are lots of different organisations ready and waiting to support children and young people who contact them needing support.

Please take a moment to look at the poster on the following page. It may be useful to show this poster to your child to see if they are familiar with the services and know how to contact them if they need support.

# WHERE CAN I GET SUPPORT?



## WHO YOU CAN CALL

24 hour NSPCC helpline:  
0808 800 5000

Alder Hey Crisis Team 24/7:  
0151 293 3577

The Samaritans: 116 123

Child line: 0800 1111

Youth2Youth (Y2Y) 020 8896 3675  
(Also online chat)



## MORE USEFUL NUMBERS

HopeLineUK – 0800 068 41 41

Saneline – 0844 561 6855

Cruse (Bereavement):

0844 477 9400



## APPS YOU COULD USE

Calm Harm – App and website

Kooth – Online counselling

Child line – Online chat service

Calm – Mindfulness app

Headspace – Mindfulness app

Mindshift – App to cope with anxiety

Mood tracker – Track mood and sleep patterns



YOU CAN FIND EVEN MORE  
RESOURCES TO USE ON OUR  
WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

[WWW.YPAS.ORG.UK](http://WWW.YPAS.ORG.UK)



@YPASliverpool

[www.ypas.org.uk](http://www.ypas.org.uk)

# School Business Support

**Mrs Michelle Griffiths, Head of HR**

**E: [michelle.griffiths@abbotsleaschool.co.uk](mailto:michelle.griffiths@abbotsleaschool.co.uk)**



We are at the end of our full first week back in school and I am amazed at how well our students and staff have settled back in to their routine after such a long time not attending our site. Our staff learning continued with a CPD session on Visual Stress and identifying students who may be experiencing this.

This week is National Know Your Numbers Blood Pressure Week which aims to raise awareness of high blood pressure , encouraging adults to get a blood pressure check. We have not been able to arrange any check this year but you might find the following information helpful to stay healthy.

Hope everyone has a restful weekend and I look forward to seeing you all next week.

**Know your numbers**

Almost a third of people with high blood pressure are unaware of it. Here are the numbers you need to know to reduce your risk of heart attack, stroke and other health issues.

<b>Blood Pressure</b>  Should be less than <b>140/90</b>	<b>Bad Cholesterol</b>  Recommended bad cholesterol level is less than three, or less than two if you have a history of heart related issues	
<b>Resting heart rate</b>  Between <b>60-100</b> beats per minute	<b>BMI</b>  A healthy range is between <b>18.5-24.9</b>	<b>Waist measurement</b>  No more than <b>men 94cm</b> <b>women 80cm</b>
<b>Fun facts...</b>  Exercising for 30 minutes 5 times a week can reduce your risk of high blood pressure and get your numbers down	 A healthy diet is key! Look at your food portions, eat lots of fruit, vegetables and whole grains - they're good for your heart and make you feel fuller for longer!	 Red wine contains antioxidants, but the evidence isn't strong enough to say it does anything for your heart health

**Mr Andrew Cocklin, Head of Finance and Operations**

**E: [andrew.cocklin@abbotsleaschool.co.uk](mailto:andrew.cocklin@abbotsleaschool.co.uk)**



First full week completed and school life is starting to get back to normal. It's great to have the school back up and running properly.

I just wanted to remind any families who may be entitled to Free School Meals we can conduct a very quick check for you, which will take less than a minute to complete. All we need is your

1. Full name
2. Date of Birth
3. National Insurance number

And we can run a check from school. No forms to complete, the checks can be done over the phone or you can email your information in, and we do not retain any of your personal information. If you are eligible, we will update our system straight away and your Local Authority is updated automatically as well. If you wish us to undertake this for you, then please get in touch with the school.

Also, if any families are not entitled to Free School meals, but may be struggling financially at present, again please get in touch with the school and we will see what help may be out there for you.

# Key Stage News and Updates

## Early Years and Key Stage 1 Miss O'Neill



[Maria.O'Neill@abbotsleaschool.co.uk](mailto:Maria.O'Neill@abbotsleaschool.co.uk)

### Ireland

Welcome to our new and existing students, you have all had a fantastic start to the new school year. I have enjoyed seeing all the rainbows and self portraits being created this week. Can't wait to see what you do next week.

In Ireland class this week, we continued our 'getting to know each other' activities and learning our new class songs. We went on a nature walk that turned into a bear hunt! It was fun! Everyone enjoyed our first PE lesson outside in the sunshine playing parachute games. We painted rainbows, became builders, worked on the farm and had fun on the trikes and scooters.

Have a great weekend.

### Wales

This week in Wales Class, we have had a rainbow week in aid of the NHS! We have had lots of fun learning the colours of the rainbow and creating our family clouds. We have also taken part in rainbow PE; we completed lots of different sensory activities and colour matched. We have also looked at our family pictures in lockdown and created a Chatta board explaining the fun activities we completed at home. We also shared some of our favourite things with our class, which helped us to get to know each other. We have had a fantastic week and are looking forward to the next!

# Key Stage News and Updates

## Key Stage 2

Key Stage Leader: Miss Sell

[Lorna.sell@abbotsleaschool.co.uk](mailto:Lorna.sell@abbotsleaschool.co.uk)



### Italy

Italy Class have had a wonderful week. On Monday, we made our very own sensory bags to play an Eye Spy Game. We had lots of fun challenging our friends to find lots of different things on our special Eye Spy Sheets. We also loved our first PE session back and showed off our amazing dancing and running skills. On Tuesday, we showed off our art skills and decorated new rainbows to thank the NHS for all of their hard work. On Wednesday, we enjoyed a discussion how we are all different and how it is important to accept and appreciate everyone's differences. On Thursday, we read a story called The Colour Monster and talked about our feelings. We made a feelings jar to help us express how we feel. On Friday, we learned about Team Work and read Snow White. We have had lots of fun playing with our friends, trying new foods in snack and settling back in to school! We hope you all have an amazing weekend! Ciao for now!

### Portugal

We've had a really fun first week in Class Portugal! Our theme has been superheroes and we've dressed up and thought about what our own superpowers are, including being kind and sharing. We read Supertato and had lots of fun acting out the story with real vegetables and we trapped the peas in the jelly using tweezers! Next week we will be moving onto People Who Help Us!

Have a lovely weekend!

### France

Hello France class! What a wonderful first week we have had together. It's been lovely to see how well you have all settled into your new class and how kind and welcoming you have been to our new pupil. This week we've enjoyed 'get to know me activities' and have been talking about our different feelings from the Colour Monster book. We've done lots of hands on, practical activities too and have created our own Colour Monsters as well as decorating our beautiful Bumble-bee cakes.

Well done and keep up the hard work! France class team

### Canada

Canada has had a great, first full week back in school. We have been doing lots of different activities and read some amazing stories. We talked about things we can and cannot do during Covid-19 and how we were all spending our time during lockdown. We looked at friendship and everyone contributed by saying what makes a good friend and how to be nice to one another. Canada class, thoroughly enjoyed our trip to the school's forest where we collected leaves and we determined what type of leaves they were. Staff are super impressed with everyone and how well they have all adapted. Well done to everyone!

## **USA**

USA class have had a fantastic week. We have had lots of fun exploring our lockdown memories. During circle time, we talked about our best memories that we had during lockdown. We then put our memories in a jar, with each colour of sand representing a different memory.

We read a book called 'Rainbows' we discussed the significance of the rainbow during lockdown and the meaning of NHS and who works for the NHS, including people that we know. We then created our own rainbows, using different materials. In Science, we carried out the skittles experiment, predicting what would happen when added water to our skittles. Yes you are right, it created a beautiful rainbow!

USA Class also read the book 'The Colour Monster' we discussed the book and how the different colours represented a different emotion. We then created our own monsters, using different colours to tell each other how our monsters were feeling. In addition, we created our monsters from coloured clay and plasticine. They looked AMAZING! Well done USA class you have settled in extremely well and have been an absolute pleasure!

## **Spain**

We have had a fun week in Spain class this week. We started the week with a fun game to help us remember how and why we wash our hands, we used chocolate sprinkles as germs and had to wash them off our hands and the table until they were clean. This week we have been reading a book called 'while we can't hug' about a hedgehog and a tortoise who are friends but due to Covid cannot hug each other and find ways to show they care for each other and came up with rainbows, on Tuesday we used paint to create rainbows in the morning and in the afternoon we had water play in the outdoor area which the students loved! on Wednesday we used play dough to create rainbows and in the afternoon we collected leaves and twigs for a class activity. On Thursday we used the leaves and twigs in the outdoor play area to decorate hedgehog templates, we also made sensory bags using gel and glitter, on Friday we planted magic beans to create our own magic beanstalk.

Have a good weekend

From Spain Class Team

# Key Stage News and Updates

## Key Stage 3

Key Stage Leader: Mr Richard Hodgson

[Richard.Hodgson@abbotsleaschool.co.uk](mailto:Richard.Hodgson@abbotsleaschool.co.uk)



### Brazil

This week has been a fantastic first full week back in Brazil class. All the students have settled in exceptionally and the staff in class are proud of their resilience and positivity. We have focussed on speaking and listening in English this week and the students have spoken about their experiences during lockdown, as well as their likes and dislikes. We have also started a new project in Design Technology creating our own board games, the students have used their own ideas to plan their own game which they will create over this term. A big well done to all the students in Brazil class for their amazing effort this week, we look forward to another great week next week!

### Peru

Peru class this week have had a great week getting to know their new students in class and re connecting with their previous class friends. We have been spending time this week finding out about one another and what we have done during lockdown. Spending lots of time washing our hands and staying alert. Have a good weekend and see you all next week Peru team.

### Mozambique

This week in Mozambique class, we have been looking at the days of the week and months of the year in maths and looking at the sugar content in foods in science. In Art we have been studying the artist Andy Goldsworth. The class went on a hunt around the school grounds and found a variety of different leaves to make different pictures and creations and in PE the class worked together and used listening skills to play games.

### Botswana

This week in Botswana class we have been concentrating on activities that make us feel relaxed. We have really enjoyed using playdoh to make models and shape different objects. We have also enjoyed talking about our lockdown experiences including our favourite and not so favorite things. We made a strawberry Eton mess which was rated a fantastic 10/10.

### Madagascar

A fantastic first full week back in Madagascar class. In English, we have been talking a lot about our lockdown experiences. We planned out some questions about lockdown that we could use in a conversation with our friends. In Maths, our focus has been addition and partitioning using column addition and we have enjoyed playing some bingo and board games too! In Science, we are looking at healthy eating and our lockdown diets. In Geography, we spoke about the different countries still following lockdown rules, and labelled them on a map using atlases. Our pupil of the week this week is Royle, for settling really well into class Madagascar and producing some lovely work. A brilliant effort everybody. Have a great weekend.

### **Kenya**

It is lovely to see everyone returning to school, looking so smart in their school uniform. Students in Kenya class has settled down really well in our new classroom following all the new routines and rules to keep ourselves and others safe.

Our theme for this term is focused on our lockdown experience and how we felt during our time off school. In class Kenya, students have been sharing their stories about what they have been doing during the lockdown. We have created a collage of images on the computer to show our lockdown experience. In maths, we have been looking at the units of time and calendar work. We have even challenged ourselves to work out how many full weeks we have been in complete lockdown for.

We look forwards to another fantastic week next week.

### **Seychelles**

In Seychelles class, we have all spent time getting to know our new class friends. In English we all took part in a speed chat session, we used a sand timer and spent two minutes with each student and staff member, asking questions to find out more about each other. Everyone really enjoyed this! We also had fun in our P.E lesson, which everyone took part in, we spent time playing games such as the traffic light games and all took a turn to be the leader, doing different actions for our friends and staff to copy. During Maths we focused on estimating time, we each estimated how long it would take Mr Griffiths to bounce a ball ten times, each student then participated in different activities for their peers to estimate how long it would take them to complete, we used a stop watch and had so much fun guessing!

Well done to all the students this week is Seychelles who have all worked extremely hard and we are looking forward to all the fun and exciting times we are going have this year!

### **Fiji**

Our first full week as class Fiji has been extremely busy. In Maths we have focused on time. We have practised our months and days and created songs to help us remember. In Art, we have looked at Rainbows and what they have represented over the past few months. The students then made their own rainbows to display in class. In citizenship we have focused on our class rules and the importance of following them each and every day. Finally, in science we have looked at our diet and the importance of a balanced diet. We researched the sugar content of all our favourite foods and decided if we thought they were good or bad for our bodies. We have spent time getting to know each other and sharing our lockdown experiences. Fiji class are looking forward to the remainder of term 1 and all of the exciting learning opportunities' that we have planned.

### **Cape Verde**

We've enjoyed exploring the outdoors in Cape Verde this week. It has been lovely to hear how our class would like to use the space this year. We've spoken a lot about growth mindset this week and how important it is to never give up on yourself or others.

# Key Stage News and Updates

**Key Stage 4**  
**Key Stage Leader: Mr Lyons**  
[matthew.lyons@abbotsleaschool.co.uk](mailto:matthew.lyons@abbotsleaschool.co.uk)



## **Australia**

We have had a fantastic week in Australia this week, students have been so welcoming to me as a new member of staff. They have worked hard and showed great team spirit. In literacy this week, we have looked into developing our own creative writing pieces using small prompts, there has been some fantastic short stories created. In Maths this week we have been working with budgets, this has been a great challenge for the students. In art we have had some amazing work which is displayed in our classroom. All KS4 did PE together in the hall and it was great!

## **Papua New Guinea**

We have had a fantastic week in PNG this week, students have done really well at settling back in to school life and have really got into the swing of things and the new rules in class and around school.

In literacy this week, we have looked into the 'gothic' genre and analysed the work of Mary Shelley's Frankenstein and the gothic language used to create suspense, tension and horror. We are looking forward to starting our own creative writing pieces within this theme next week.

In life skills, we discussed our emotions and reflected on when we might feel a certain way. We then talked about self-confidence and how we could boost/improve our own or advise others. Well done class for all your hard work this week!

## **New Zealand**

Well done New Zealand Class on your first full week back not just in a new class but also a new key stage, building and a very different routine! The transition back to school has gone really well so you need to be very proud of yourselves. We are all adapting to this "new normal" so keep talking to staff and at home about things you may have questions about; we will do our best to get answers!

This week we have spent some time reflecting on the recent past but also it has been really positive to begin looking to an exciting future; a fresh start for all and aiming high!

Have a great weekend everyone, you deserve it!

### **Samoa**

We have enjoyed getting settled into our new timetable this week, discussing the conventions of fairy tales in English, beginning to plan our own following a narrative sequence. Some brilliant imaginations. In maths we consolidated our knowledge of decimal addition and we began our Science qualification by looking at the changes associated with puberty. We discussed Hinduism in RE, took part in a KS4 fitness session for PE and then compared/contrasted the Spanish Flu (during world war one) with and Covid-19 in History. Some excellent answers and discussion! In ICT we have used independent research skills to complete a fact file on Hans Christian Anderson, tying in nicely with the fairy tale theme. In life skills we have produced a shopping list and a book review as part of the communication unit. Samoa class learnt all about the island of Samoa and where it is located. We finished off a brilliant week with employability, talking about positive friendships and the qualities that make a good friend, and completing a times games carousel to practise communicating with all members of the class. The Class Team would like to commend everyone on their extremely positive and motivated start to life in KS4. Well done Samoa!

### **Tasmania**

This week in Tasmania we have all enjoyed to get to know each better and finding out about what we did during lockdown. Our students enjoyed days out with family, playing in the garden, making cakes and watching some films.

We had fun playing in the sensory trays experimenting with textures and colours. We made unicorn foam! We also did some matching games and made some cakes! Thank you for all of your hard work Tasmania class.

# Key Stage News and Updates

## Key Stage 5

Key Stage Leader: Mr Ryan Mason

[Ryan.Mason@abbotsleaschool.co.uk](mailto:Ryan.Mason@abbotsleaschool.co.uk)



What a first week it has been in KS5! We have been focusing on Team Building and Team Work skills this week as the students have settled back into school after what has been a long time off due to the COVID pandemic. It is fair to say that every student has been busy doing lots of activities including Boxing, Sports, Survival tasks at Speke Hall, Dragon's Den tasks at Strawberry Fields and some cooking challenges. It has been great to welcome them all back and it has been a positive week with staff and students developing good working relationships.

Next week's focus is 'Exploring My Options' where the students will receive a range of activities that will help them to better understand and consider the concept of Colleges, Supported Internships and Apprenticeships. It promises to be another busy yet productive week as they continue their journey into adulthood! I would personally like to thank all staff for their hard work this week, and all students for their efforts and for adapting to the new look KS5!

Have a great weekend all!

### Christmas Island

Key Stage 5 have been very busy this week. We have been on outings to lots of places including Strawberry Fields, Speke Hall, Halewood leisure centre and Woolton High School. This week we have been focusing on working as a team to solve puzzles and complete survival tasks. It's been a fun week that has ended with us completing a 'Break out room' in class.

### Malawi

Malawi class has had a fantastic first full week in school with lots of exciting and new things! We have spent the week getting to know each other, taking part in various team building activities each day.

On Monday we spent the day at strawberry fields taking part in a dragons den themed day. The students worked in teams designing a new product, they came up with the costing and advertisement then presented their ideas to the rest of the class. All the students displayed amazing team work!

On Wednesday we looked at food hygiene, in small groups the students were given the title of a recipe and had to research the ingredients and method so they were able to cook the full recipe. Some students then went to the supermarket and independently shopped for the items they needed. By the end of the day we had a lot of delicious looking pizza crumpets!

On Friday our students enjoyed the Zoom assembly and learnt some French phrases! Then showed incredible puzzle solving skills completing a classroom break out room activity! Well done Malawi!

Have a lovely weekend and we look forward to seeing you all Monday morning!

Malawi class team

# Happy Birthday!



**TO**

**September Birthdays!**  
Lewis for the 09 September  
Flynn for the 16 September  
Jacob for the 17 September  
Nathaniel for the 18 September  
Charlie for the 19 September  
Alexander for the 22 September  
Oscar for the 22 September  
Alfie for the 27 September  
Mohamed for the 29 September  
Faye for the 29 September  
Yusuf for the 30 September  
Joseph for the 30 September

We wish you all a **Wonderful Birthday** and have fun!



# Students of the Week

Early Years and Key Stage One		
Ireland	Charlie	Settling into school and helping his new friends
Wales	Logan	For settling in so well to Wales Class!
Nurture		
Spain	Noah	For being here every day and engaging in all activities
Cape Verde	Andy	For Staying very positive and keeping happy!
Tasmania	Jessica	For attending full days in school
Key Stage Two		
Italy	Jack	For being kind and working hard
Portugal	Oscar	For fantastic sharing with his friends
France	Georgie	For settling into his new school so well and taking part in all activities!
Canada	Lotte	For working hard and always being happy!
USA	Tyrone	Tyrone has taken part in every activity this week. He has been extremely positive and has put a smile on all of our faces. Well done Tyrone!
Key Stage Three		
Brazil	Charlie	For settling into her new school well and requesting to take a break to help her calm
Peru	Joseph	For being kind and helping other
Mozambique	Ryan	Ryan has settled in really well, has been helpful in class and has continued to work hard in lessons
Botswana	Nathanael	For settling into his new class, having lovely manners and always following instructions. Well done Nathanael
Madagascar	Royle	For settling into Madagascar class really well and producing some beautiful work
Kenya	Sam	For being so mature and sensible at all times
Seychelles	Mason	He has settled really well into school and is a new student, he has mixed well with other students and made lots of new friends
Fiji	Lucas	Lucas has helped to support new students settle in to our class, tried really hard in all our lessons and has had a positive attitude to our new way of learning. Well done Lucas!
Key Stage Four		
Australia	Dominic R	For helping and supporting another student in our Maths lessons, encouraging him to never give up
Papua New Guinea	Paul	For being extra helpful in class and trying really hard in PE
New Zealand	Nicholas	For being a kind friend to someone in need. You were not prompted by anyone but you knew just what to do to make that person feel better. Well done Nick
Samoa	Flynn	For fantastic maths skills
Key Stage Five		
Malawi	Thomas	For showing amazing teamwork skills in all of the activities this week
Christmas Island	Charlie	For getting stuck in with all the week's activities and working well in a group during a tent building task

# Week 2 Photos









