



Head's Weekly Newsletter

Issue 7, 16 October 2020



Mrs Ania Hildrey, Headteacher, headteacher@abbotsleaschool.co.uk

Dear Students, Families, Colleagues and Friends

Welcome to today's issue of the newsletter. Thank you for your hard work this week!

If you had asked me on Monday as to whether we would be open today, I would have seriously doubted it. We had near 50% of staff absent and nearly 60% of students also affected by Covid-19. Unprecedented indeed! And yet – here we are and, despite the challenges, we have kept the school opened, provided fantastic learning (both on site and for those who were self-isolating) and we just keep going! The formula is rather simple in theory: one day at a time, one problem at a time, one task and obstacle at a time. Finding a solution to problems, which seemingly, seem insurmountable, is now officially our new badge of honour here at Abbot's Lea School!

A lot has happened this week in the city – we have entered Tier 3 – and with it came discussions, debates and also gossip about the possible closure of schools for an additional week around the planned half term break. At this moment in time (Friday noon), there has been no confirmation of any such circuit-breaker week being introduced at Abbot's Lea School and so, I have no news on the matter.

That said, we all know that the interruptions to our students' education is inevitable at some point – next week, next month or next year – it is likely to affect most.

Whether your child is unable to attend school because of their Bubble or Zone closing or they are absent due to the legal duty to self-isolate, the best way to manage it is to accept such risk and plan ahead for how best to manage it.

Over the past few weeks, the class teams have been preparing for the eventuality of blended learning. We are now confident that each child unable to learn at school will be able to learn for at least four hours daily. Therefore, when we switch to home-based learning, there will be a mixture of direct teaching, self-directed or parent-led learning and play-based learning, including physical activity, where permitted.

Today, I have written to the families who confirmed they have not got suitable ICT equipment to facilitate their child's online learning and we are sending hardware home with the students this and next week to offer practical support. Equally, we recognise that for some students the context switching is a challenge and they struggle to do school work at home. We understand and accept this and will be providing alternative, highly personalised interest-based learning ideas to try at home.

We hope that our readiness will prove helpful to our students and to the families when, inevitably, an interruption to our planned on-site provision comes.

With kindest regards and best wishes for the weekend,

Mrs A Hildrey
Headteacher

Deputy Headteacher

Mrs Emily Tobin, Deputy Headteacher

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Dear Families

Tommy Jones

I want to tell you this week all about a boy called Tommy Jones. For the students in USA - you will probably already know what I am going to say!

As a young child, I was looked after quite often by my Grandparents.

At 5pm, my Nanna Megan would go and make tea and I would cuddle up to my Grandad Walter who would tell me all about a boy called Tommy Jones, and what he had been up to that week.

Tommy used to get into all sort of mischief – a 1980s version of Horrid Henry!

This tradition – telling stories about the mischievous, fictional Tommy Jones - has continued, and forms part of the bedtime routine for my son. He will ask us what Tommy Jones has done that day and we will need to create a story!

This week, I explained to class USA that I was running out of ideas, and asked them to help me create some more stories.

They came up with some great ideas (and I have used them!).

I would encourage you to tell imaginary stories and ask your children to make some up, too.

My experience is that the students, with whom I work, think of far more creative ideas than I do!

Have a great weekend, and despite all of the restrictions around us, do not allow your imaginations to be stifled!

Mrs Tobin

Deputy Headteacher

Care and Safeguarding

Ms Alison Twomey, Head of Care and Safeguarding

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I have returned to school today following an immensely enjoyable two days delivering Team Teach training to our new staff at Woolton High School.

A huge part of this course covered theoretical aspects of our Positive Behaviour Support policy and I was able to lead a number of discussions around the use of Positive Psychology approaches when supporting students. Both Team Teach and our Positive Behaviour Support policy encourages staff to appreciate the influence they can have on feelings, thoughts and behaviour of those they care for. It is important for families to note that the term 'Team Teach' describes a broad spectrum of risk reduction strategies; restraint is only a very small part of the framework.

One of the theory modules of this course, focused on the use of dynamic risk assessments and how we can use these effectively. A dynamic risk assessment is done in real time. It involves staff quickly thinking and evaluating the likely outcomes of available options before deciding which to choose. Staff need to consider what will happen if they do option a, b or c as opposed to doing nothing at all. We train staff to use the following rule thought as a good guide to follow: 'what would you want somebody else to do in similar circumstances if that was your child or other loved one?'

The focus of our Positive Behaviour Support policy is meeting individual student need whilst encouraging growth and development through learning. The use of Team Teach is just one aspect of this process but it is integral to everything we are trying to achieve. During training, I was delighted with the level of commitment our new staff were already demonstrating to students they had yet to meet. I have no doubt that they will continue to flourish within a classroom and our workforce will be made stronger by their arrival.

School Business Support

Mrs Michelle Griffiths, Head of HR

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This week we have welcomed several new staff to school in a number of different class based roles. Staff have attended a two-day induction programme followed by a two-day Positive Behaviour Support (including Team Teach) training course. Today, their new classes welcomed them for the first day of teaching and learning activities. Thank you to the whole team for supporting the induction programme this week.

This week's announcement about the Liverpool City Region entering Tier 3 lockdown will have caused increased anxiety for a lot of us who worry about the safety of our family and friends. It is important for us to each find ways of staying focussed on what makes us happy and reduces anxiety. Some further information is available on this link from the NHS website https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/coronavirus-covid-19-anxiety-tips/?WT.tsrc=Search&WT.mc_id=Corona&&qclid=CjwKCAjw5p_8BRBUEiwAPpJO6-M32_zkUzRRLoxoiqQy9zr75w_V0h03kYOoexxDzYfV66z-t3ebURoCsCsQAvD_BwE

Mr Andrew Cocklin, Head of Finance and Operations

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Next week I will be catching up with our Finance Link governor, Tom Drost, to review our progress over the past few months, prior to our full governing body meeting on 21 October.. These catch ups are really important to not only keep governors up to date, but also for them to provide appropriate challenge to make sure that what we are doing is in the best interests of Abbot's Lea School.

The role of the governor is such a vital one for schools. I have been a school governor myself for 8 years now at Woolton Primary School, initially as a parent governor, but retained on a co-opted basis once my son moved to secondary school.

It is such a rewarding role to undertake, in that you are able to help support and shape the future of a school, ensuring the best possible outcomes for students. It also gives me an insight into how the school runs the pressures they face on a daily basis, and the fantastic work that every member of the school team undertakes, prior to me moving to the education sector. I know that today is the deadline day for our parent governor ballot, and I would like to wish whoever is successful all the best in the role and to thank them for making the time and effort to help with the governance of Abbot's Lea School.

Key Stage News and Updates

Early Years and Key Stage 1
Miss O'Neill



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Ireland

We have been getting into the autumn spirit this week. We have dressed for the weather, used the falling leaves in our artwork and counting activities and learnt about the different seasons. We were excited by our new counting shed this week and have already used it to store our autumn objects and number books.

Have a lovely weekend

Wales

This week in Wales Class, we have had a very busy week! We have enjoyed learning about our current season autumn and exploring autumnal changes around us. We went on an autumn walk around our school grounds and discussed the changes to our trees and weather. We explored the appropriate autumn clothes that should be worn and we used our senses to explore how our environment changes in autumn by listening to the crunchy leaves, feeling different leaves, acorns and conkers and looking at how the colour of the leaves change.

We also had hot chocolate and sat around a fire on our classroom board, which made us all warm and cosy, which is lovely to do on a cold autumn night. This week in English, we read 'Owl Babies'. We completed a hot seating activity, each one of us had the chance to be a character from the story and others asked those questions, we discussed which animals are nocturnal animals and how they adapt to seeing at night. We also created our own owl fact file! In Maths, we have explored different autumn number activities, which were lots of fun. We have been taking part in daily sensory activities, and have created autumn gel sensory bags. We have had a brilliant week and are looking forward to the next.

Have a lovely weekend,

Wales Class Team

Key Stage News and Updates

Key Stage 2

Key Stage Leader: Miss Sell

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Italy

Italy have been working hard all week during their self-isolation. We read a new book every morning, and then completed tasks about the book, including, Lost and Found by Oliver Jeffers (we all made a new home for the penguin), Leafy the Pet Leaf by Philip Ardagh and Elissa Elwick (we created our own unusual pet), and Wacky Wednesday by Dr. Seuss (we all created our own wacky images). I am very proud of how hard Italy have all worked this week.

Portugal

This week in Class Portugal, we have been learning all about transport! We have read the story 'Naughty Bus,' and taken parts in lots of nice messy activities!

We have also taken part in our judo lesson, which we are getting really good at!

Have a lovely weekend! 😊

France

We have had another busy, fun week in class France. For English this week we have focused on the story Knuffle Bunny where little Trixie loses her favourite toy, Knuffle Bunny. The pupils have enjoyed going on their own Knuffle Bunny hunt and used prepositions in their sentences to describe where they found them. They also worked hard writing a book review about their favourite part of the story and creating 'Lost' posters in Art. For Food Technology we created our own delicious Pizza's and practiced our chopping and food hygiene skills. In PE, we have been practising our gross-motor skills and completed dance routines in our classroom. Keep up the hard work class France!

Canada

Students in Canada class have carried on learning remotely this week; they have all adapted really well and engaged each day in our zoom sessions. We have looked at different stories and practised our comprehension skills by taking part in quizzes. The students have talked about Teamwork, Lying and Being Kind. We have also continued with our tasks given to us on a daily basis. Well done to Canada class for another week, you have been fantastic and we look forward to seeing you back in class soon.

USA

In maths we have been looking at doubling numbers, some of us used Numicon to help us and others worked out the answers in our heads with our knowledge of 2 times tables.

We also wrote a re-count of what we did at the weekend and shared with each other our experiences. In life skills, we have been talking about kindness, and happiness and what we can do, to help others feel better.

We have all been working on our sensory circuit with Mrs Davies who is helping us to prepare our minds and bodies for the school day. Thanks Mrs. Davies!

We hope everyone has a great weekend.

Spain

Spain started Monday morning by sharing their news from the weekend, taking turns to talk and listening to their classmates as they talked about their weekends. The class then took turns to ask questions about each other's weekend. Spain class then listened to the 'Little Red Hen' and made their own loaves of bread to take home. In the afternoon, the class made their own red hen out of a paper plate. The outdoor area had great tough trays for the week so the class could use their imagination and enjoy messy play.

We then read the 'The Enormous Turnip' and made our own Vegetable Soup cutting up the vegetables and cooking the soup in Mrs Rodway's Soup maker. In the afternoon, we played with a variety of balls in PE and then ate the soup we made in the morning with the bread we had made on Monday.

We also read 'The Gingerbread Man,' and made our own gingerbread men and decorated them in the afternoon. We also made fluffy paint as messy play in the afternoon.

We continued the week looking at people who help us and then went for a bus trip around Liverpool

Have a good weekend

Spain Class

Key Stage News and Updates

Key Stage 3

Key Stage Leader: Mr Richard Hodgson

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Brazil

This week in Brazil class, we have continued to complete activities at home. Students have engaged well with online work set on Education City, Bug Club and Purple Mash. Attendance has been high at both the morning and afternoon Zoom sessions with students participating in a number of social interaction activities, the highlight of these has been our Kahoot quiz where students have shown healthy competition to try to get as many answers correct as possible.

During these Zoom sessions, Mr Roach has continued to set a series of Life Skill challenges, which we have reflected on the following day. It has been great to see so many students engaging with these challenges and completing activities such as making their own bed, helping with the cleaning and showing an act of kindness to an adult at home. We look forward to a full week back in school next week."

Peru

Peru class have enjoyed learning about poetry in English this week looking at different poems and writing their own poems. Maths we have been continuing to look at money and the different values of each coins, notes and working out how much change they will get from buying items. In Science, we have been looking at the human digestive system works.. We have explored what different organs in the body do. In Life skills, we looked at 'World food day' talking about healthy and non-healthy food designing a poster to promote healthy eating. Have a great weekend see you next week.

Mozambique

This week in Mozambique class we have been looking at our heroes in English and been thinking about what qualities heroes have. We have also been reflecting on how we can be our own heroes and what we can do to ensure we take care of ourselves. We have been looking at roman numerals in maths and we have been having a go at reading and writing roman numerals. We have continued to develop our skills in computing and used purple mash to write up a game review. We have also had our yoga session this week and have learnt some new poses! In life skills, we have been learning about friendships and forming positive relationships, including what makes a good friend. In science, we have continued to look at the solar system and focused on ordering and naming planets.

Botswana

On Monday, we all enjoyed making a French cuisine and tasted lots' of French foods! We have made omelettes using many skills and then enjoyed eating them. We have written our own lyrics this week, and did a performance to the whole class. Botswana class you have also shown fantastic reading skills this week – well done to everyone, see you next week and enjoy your weekend. ☺

Madagascar

Another great week in Madagascar class. Highlights include learning about germs in Science - we conducted an experiment to grow our own mould on bread! We have also been looking at ways to extend our writing using a variety of different conjunctions.

Kenya

Kenya class has been isolating this week and it has been great to see you on zoom! We have gone through the digestive system with more details on Tuesday. We recapped on the functions of the different parts of the digestive system and talked more in detail on how the liver, gall bladder and pancreas play an important part in the digestive system even though food does not pass through these organs.

We did an analogy demonstration over zoom to help us visualise how the digestive system works. It was disgusting, but was great fun at the same time. I cannot wait to see everyone from Kenya class have a go at doing the digestive system analogy activity themselves when they are back to school next week. In English, we have looked at facts and opinions. We tried using different phrases to help us express our own opinions on different topic. It was interesting to see how the class had split into 50/50 opinion on whether Jaffa cake is a cake or a biscuit. It was great to see that some pupils had given a reason to support their opinions making it a stronger argument. Well done!

Seychelles

In Seychelles class this week, we enjoyed going for a walk to Reynolds Park, practicing road safety! We all used great communication and showed excellent behaviour whilst out of school. This week in PE, we continued learning different skills in Basketball and all played a great game together! We also spent time cutting different parts of facial features out to create a new face collage; we all really enjoyed this and created some fantastic work!

Fiji

Fiji class have started the week in Isolation and finished the week in class. Fiji have been excellent and have completed all tasks set online and at school. We have started our environmental projects and used recent documentaries by David Attenborough and John Bishop to support this learning. Finally, we have celebrated World Food Day as a class. We have tasted some foods from around the world and talked about ways we can help stop world hunger. A fantastic week overall.

Cape Verde

This Week we have enjoyed plenty of time in the mild autumn weather, we are loving the trees and this has influenced our artwork, we have used the autumn leaves to create wonderful pictures. We drew our own animals based on Charlie Mackesy's book The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse. The artwork the children have created has blown us away! Some fantastic artists in Cape Verde!

In Science this week, we talked about the NHS and how Dentists help us, we investigated which teeth we use to chew and the roll of our tongue while we eat. Did you know the average human tongue is 8.5cm long!

We have spoken about our feelings and our own islands of imagination; it was lovely to hear how different everyone is.

We are looking forward to exploring the topic of Halloween next week!

Key Stage News and Updates

Key Stage 4

Key Stage Leader: Mr Lyons

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Australia and Samoa

Class Australia and Samoa began their week continuing to work hard on their at home learning tasks. They enjoyed working on various tasks such as watching a webinar from International Light and Magic the creative organization, responsible for the special effects in blockbuster films such as Star Wars and Jurassic Park. Solving Maths Word Problems and looking at the life of Anne Frank in a comprehension activity. Both the staff and students were delighted to get back into school on Thursday and Friday. We enjoyed settling in, catching up, seeing one another and spent time completing a variety of assessments to help the needs of the students be met more effectively.

Papua New Guinea

A mixed week of Zoom lessons and face to face lessons in school this week for PNG, but it has been great all the same and so nice to be back in school. This week we have learnt and discussed lots of different interesting topics once again including; The Tell-Tale Heart by Edgar Allen Poe in English, the moon landing conspiracy theory in science and forgotten black historical figures in history. Once again, PNG students have been fantastic with their discussions and dedication to the tasks; you have all worked really hard. Well done!

New Zealand

It is great to be back to school after our self-isolation and catch up with everyone (in a safe socially distanced way!).

Well done to everyone as it has been very challenging in lots of ways but you have all done so well; from being patient when the technology went wrong to tackling home learning in such a positive way. It has been great to see you take on independent work, tasks, and building up your resilience to challenges that are out of our control. We have certainly all developed new skills including me!

Have a great weekend Class New Zealand, you deserve it 🍷

Tasmania

This week in Tasmania class, we have continued our home learning tasks and enjoyed our zoom lessons. We have learnt about Tsunamis in Geography and talked about the impact on our planet. We have also enjoyed more life skills and food technology activities. On the menu, this week was potato wedges, salsa, and our own delicious sandwiches. Well done Tasmania class, we look forward to seeing you back in school!

Key Stage News and Updates

Key Stage 5

Key Stage Leader: Mr Ryan Mason

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This week in KS5, our students have continued to focus on their independent travel training with many applying for their own travel passes, that allow them to access free travel on the bus, train and ferry!

They spent time on public transport this week as well, travelling to the City Centre on the bus, putting into practice skills that they learnt and did really well! They have also spent time learning how to plan travel routes and keep safe when travelling within the community.

All students have had an excellent week and they are looking forward to next week when they will continue to improve their independent travel skills and decide on their travel preferences.

Christmas Island

This week, Christmas Island have started their travel-training module. They have been learning how to give and follow directions ready for when they start going out into the community and practice using public transport. They have also been focusing on their opinions on social media whether they believe it is good or bad for our health. Some of the students have even written speeches about their thoughts on how social media can affect us.

Malawi

This week in Malawi class, our students have enjoyed a variety of activities. We have continued with travel training, looking at different forms of transport. On Thursday, a group of students used public transport, independently buying a bus ticket and getting on and off the bus. The students also started planning routes for future trips; they used directive language and read their plans out to the class. We will continue with travel training throughout the year. In ICT, we discussed cyber safety; the students researched the pros and cons of the internet and looked at different forms of hardware and software. All Malawi class students have had a fantastic week working super hard in all of their lessons! Well done!

Have a lovely weekend
Malawi class team

Happy Birthday!



TO

Alfie for 17 October
Imam for 20 October
Jack for 21 October

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



Students of the Week

Early Years and Key Stage One		
Ireland	Jan	for being a great friend in class
Wales	Alfie	for telling staff when there is a problem
Nurture		
Spain	Josh	for helping others and being kind
Cape Verde	Shasiah	for being a lovely friend
Tasmania	Joshua	for his excellent home learning tasks
Key Stage Two		
Italy	Scarlett	for always completing her work to the best of her ability and for always contributing to our online classes. Well done Scarlett, you have been amazing this week!
Portugal	Archie	for always trying his best!
France	Tyler	for always being a kind and helpful friend in class
Canada	Alfie	for always being enthusiastic on zoom sessions
USA	Joshua	for working so hard in his maths
Key Stage Three		
Brazil	Jayden	for completing all his challenges during the Zoom sessions this week and having such a positive and enthusiastic attitude towards them
Peru	Jamie	for working hard and trying his best
Mozambique	David	for being kind and caring towards his friends
Botswana	Nathaniel	for being very sensible in class
Madagascar	Ashley	for great writing in English this week
Kenya	Patrice	for working so hard doing extra English work at home
Seychelles	Arshia	for good communication and being able to tell his news from the weekend independently! Well done Arshia!
Fiji	Liam	for being a total superstar on zoom this week and for participating in all learning tasks. Liam is an exemplary student and is always polite and well behaved
Key Stage Four		
Australia	Liam	for working hard throughout the zone 6 lockdown and submitting some great work
Papua New Guines	Rhys	for always making us laugh and smile
New Zealand	Kai	for always contributing to online lessons in a positive way
Samoa	Francis	excellent effort in the zoom sessions and support on our return to school
Key Stage Five		
Malawi	Patrick	for being kind, generous and charitable
Christmas Island	Joslin	for working really well with her peers and completing some great group work.

Week 7 Photos







