



# Head's Weekly Newsletter

Issue 9, 6 November 2020



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

Dear Students, Families, Colleagues and Friends

Welcome to today's issue of the Head's Weekly Newsletter – and welcome to Term 2!

I want to open up this newsletter by reiterating that I am immensely proud of the fact that we aim high in what we aspire to achieve here at Abbot's Lea School. In fact, we don't just aim high; we always aim higher!

This is the time of a school year when we hold formal annual performance management meetings with every member of the school team. This moment in the school year marks an important point of evaluating the impact each of us has had on the school's development over the past year, as well as appraising of individual's efforts, conduct and effectiveness (no matter what job role one fulfils). It is also the time for setting of personalised targets and self-improvement priorities for the year ahead.

I am delighted to report that we have such a wealth of strengths and successes in the team of professionals working here that it is very heart-warming indeed for me as the Headteacher to know that, no matter what "life" throws at us, we will always have the capacity to find the right solution to the problems in front of us.

I am particularly pleased to see that a number of colleagues are keen on progressing their career and developing their technical skills in all expertise domains of school life (in teaching, specialist support, business administration or any other area of our work). Additionally, we have many aspiring leaders amongst the team, with expressions of interest in leadership courses and leading projects to gain more experience and confidence. Brilliant!

What is key, however, is to foster the passion for improvement, but not get over-excited and lose focus on the careful balance between supporting individuals and keeping our collective vision and aims at the forefront of all of our activities.

This brings me to the matter of School Development Plan. Our current plan for years 2018-21 is in its final year, and we have been working over the past few weeks on evaluating our progress and strengths, as well as admitting where we have not succeeded as much as planned (yet!) and why. We are beginning to draft our next phase of school development which will be captured in School Development Plan 2021-24 and your views are warmly welcome. Please email me directly with the areas you believe the school must develop, improve, or even invent – no idea is too big or too small and your voice matters! My email is: [headteacher@abbotsleaschool.co.uk](mailto:headteacher@abbotsleaschool.co.uk) – please do join me and the team in shaping our school's future!

With kindest regards and best wishes,

Mrs A Hildrey  
Headteacher

## Noticeboard



### PRE-LOVED SCHOOL UNIFORM SHOP



Pre-loved, excellent condition all laundered school uniform items will be available to purchase from School ..... very soon!

WATCH THIS SPACE!



Students who have missed their flu jab or any other vaccination, **PLEASE NOTE** you can call the number below to make the necessary arrangements:

Vaccination and Immunisation Team: T: (0151) 295 3833



# World Science Day

## We will be celebrating World Science Day on 10 November 2020

World Science Day seeks to

- Raise awareness of how science can contribute to a more peaceful and sustainable global community
- Advocate for a trans-national scientific community
- Renew interest in science and technology, particularly as a way to benefit societies
- Draw attention to the challenges faced by the scientific community, in all parts of the world

Each class across the school will take part in exciting experiments that promote 'Wonder and Awe'

Students will learn about the men and women who have had scientific breakthroughs throughout history, the importance of scientific work and emerging scientific issues like artificial intelligence or renewable energy.

**It is sure to be a fun filled and busy learning day. We cannot wait!**

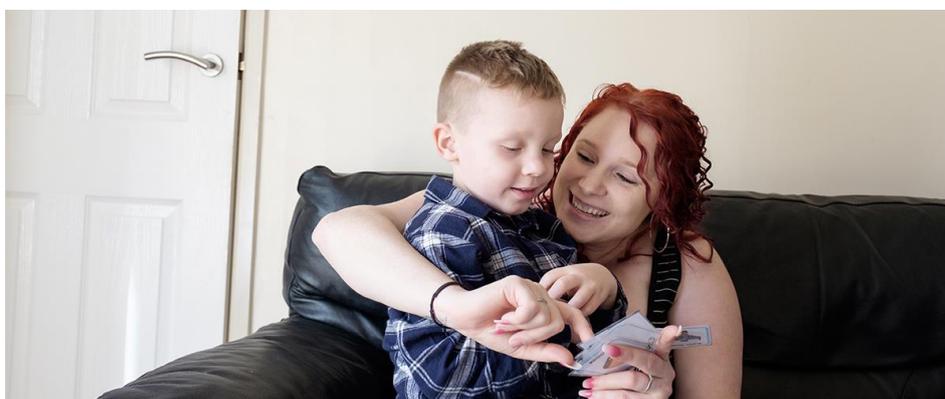


# Noticeboard



## Family Fund Sector Update

We're continuing to provide grants and all families can now apply online



Since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic, we have **continued to provide vital support to families**, and during this time, we have seen a significant increase in applications.

In May, the Department of Education provided a further **£10 million in additional funding** to the £27.3 million it had already committed to Family Fund, which has allowed us to support thousands more families.

This funding is still available, and all families, from those who are applying to us for the first time, or are applying again, can apply by:

- [Registering to apply online](#)
- [Downloading an application pack](#)
- [Ordering an application pack](#)

Please use the link below for further information:

<https://mailchi.mp/familyfund/familyfundsectorupdateoctober?e=e119c2292c>

## Deputy Headteacher

**Mrs Emily Tobin, Deputy Headteacher**

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



Dear Families

I hope that this Newsletter finds you well and that you managed to find some sort of rest and quality time over the October holidays, despite it being in the context of our “new normal.”

Now, we have only just crept into November, but I’m going to say it.... “CHRISTMAS!”

I wanted to let you know in this article that although things will need to change, we will not let COVID-19 stop our celebration of Christmas at Abbot’s Lea School. Whilst not everyone celebrates Christmas as a religious festival, it is a time, which we all use to mark moments of togetherness, reflection and celebration of life. This week we are finalising all the ideas we have which meet three main objectives:

- 1) Learn about Christmas as one of the major religious festivals
- 2) Have fun and revel in the joy that the season offers to children
- 3) Think about the key messages behind Christmas – giving, sharing, and caring - which are pertinent to anybody regardless of their religion.

I know that you will be keen to have dates and details and so I will communicate this via the newsletter, social media and our school website next week.

Mrs Tobin

Deputy Headteacher

## Care and Safeguarding

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

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



Over the course of the last 3 years, I have written several articles relating to online safety. The purpose of these articles is always to reflect on how students can keep themselves safe when they are using devices to access online content. The message we give is there may be a risk of coming into contact with people who may be harmful and seek to exploit or abuse them. This message cannot be repeated enough and the risk will unfortunately always remain no matter what education schools can provide.

It saddens me that today I need to reflect on the harm that young people may present to each other. I am referring to our students' use of social media platforms and the abusive and hurtful communication that is sometimes exchanged. I am aware, of course, that most of our students do not engage in this type of behaviour and gain many positive experiences from their use of social media. However, it has been brought to my attention that there are repeated instances where some students exchange threatening and abusive messages. The impact of such behaviour on the mental health of our students and their families is terrible. Everyone should feel completely safe when they are in their own home but some students have been exposed to abuse and hateful comments. This must stop.

I implore all families to have an oversight of their child's use of social media to check that they are not engaging in this type of behaviour. We will do everything we can as a school to educate and support appropriate use of technology but almost all of these issues take place when the students are at home; evenings and weekends. The school cannot be responsible for the monitoring of online content at these times. Mobile phones are banned in school for this very reason – the safeguarding of our students is fundamentally undermined when students have access to unmonitored technology.

I provide below internet links to some really useful websites that can support families to promote the positive and safe use of technology with their child.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety>

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers/parents-guide-technology>

<https://www.internetmatters.org>

<https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers>

<https://educateagainsthate.com/parents>

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents>

## School Business Support

**Mrs Michelle Griffiths, Head of HR**

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



This week is our first full week back for Miss Maguire who has returned from maternity leave and is supporting in France class.

This week we held some twilight training for staff. Depending on job role, the training was on our new software which collates student progress or a refresher on Team Teach positive behaviour support. It is really valuable to be able to get staff together for uninterrupted learning in order to improve the education of our students.

I would like to end on a reminder to everyone to access the coronavirus testing for those who are not symptomatic. I have been tested myself today at a drive through centre and whilst it was not very pleasant only took a few minutes. This initiative is vital to detect and preventing the spread of the virus and will allow us to return to normality more quickly.

Information on where to be tested is available on this link - <https://liverpool.gov.uk/communities-and-safety/emergency-planning/coronavirus/how-to-get-tested/>

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

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



Next week I will be commencing my Mental Health First Aider Trainer training, which will allow me, once qualified to help train staff at both Abbot's Lea and across Liverpool schools to become Mental Health First Aiders.

I am truly appreciative of Abbot's Lea supporting me through this, as I believe that it will have such a positive impact on us as a school. Our mental health is so important, and the more staff that we have trained and confident to help listen to and signpost colleagues accordingly, when necessary, I believe this will strengthen our whole staff team and allow us to give even more to all students within our school. Talking and sharing about our worries and concerns is so important, and understanding that it is ok to do so is vital. The more we can help each other through difficult times, the more unified we become, so I cannot wait to get started on this.

## 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

In Ireland class this week, we welcomed everyone back to term 2.

Our theme is 'Where we live' and we began by looking at different types of houses and who might live in them.

We enjoyed celebrating Bonfire night with fine motor activities, arts and crafts. We made some delicious 'colourful cakes' and used sprinkles to represent the colours of fireworks in the sky  
Have a lovely weekend

#### Wales

This week in Wales Class, we have had an exciting week. We explored clues to help us decide which story we were reading in English this week. Wales Class guessed right- it was the Jolly Postman! We matched the characters to the envelopes, read the story and discussed different types of letters and what they are used for. In Maths, we represented numbers by using numacon to find number bonds and we created represented number posters. We also explored Day of the Dead and created our own candy skulls, which was fun! In Geography, we looked at different type of houses that we live in. In PSHE, we discussed firework safety. We also created our own firework display in our city's skyline. This week Wales Class have started our Phonics and reading lessons! We are really enjoying the fun phonics activities and are excited to read some amazing books! We have had a brilliant week and are looking forward to the next.

Have a lovely weekend,

Wales Class

# 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

We have had a fantastic week settling back into Italy Class after our break. We enjoyed learning all about the Egyptian pyramids as part of our new Ancient Egypt topic. We also loved our first yoga session in P.E, it helped us all feel very relaxed.

### Portugal

This week in Class Portugal, we have started learning all about Ancient Egypt! We looked at some pictures and discussed what we could see and how it was different to our lives in 2020. We have also taken part in Yoga on Thursday, which we really enjoyed!

In Maths,, we have been learning about numbers in the environment and took part in a number hunt and making number collages! It was great!

Have a lovely weekend 😊

### France

We have had a great first week back for this term. The students have learnt all about the story behind Bonfire Night and have worked hard sequencing and recalling facts from the story of the Gunpowder plot. As part of our Bonfire Night, the students created excellent Bonfire Night safety with rules on how to keep safe. In History, we have started our Ancient Egypt topic by looking at different Ancient Egyptian artefacts, and discussing what they may have been used for. The students also created some beautiful firework pictures in Art using a range of textures and colours. Keep up the hard work France class!

### Canada

What a great first week back in Canada Class! We have had so much fun and learnt a lot! At the start of the week, we took a delivery of a special suitcase, which had many different things in. Using the items, we had in the suitcase; we had to guess what our new topic would be about. We eventually figured out that we would be learning all about Ancient Egypt. We had to decode a letter from the suitcase that was written in hieroglyphics (which we found out was the Ancient Egypt alphabet). In English, we have been looking at our key words for this term and looking at the meanings of the different words, please ask us next time you see us to test our knowledge as we even know what the word mummification means! In science this week, we have been looking at how we can keep our teeth healthy and the correct way to brush our teeth.

What a fun first week back! We are looking forward to seeing you all next week! Have a lovely weekend Canada 😊

### USA

USA started the week with a Judo lesson. The class were fantastic at listening to the instructor and learned some holds and how to get out of them. It was a lot of fun. We have started a new topic, which is Ancient Egypt. We sat in groups and shared facts that we already knew. It was amazing to see how much USA knew. We have used our knowledge of Ancient Egypt to develop our computer skills. We typed up some facts on a laptop and learnt how to change the

style and size of the font. During Science, we have been looking at the digestive system. We were able to label the different parts of the digestive system and watched an amazing video of how are food travels through the body. This week USA have discovered that there are different types of books - fiction and non-fiction. We learnt that there are different features of a text and chose our favourite fiction and non-fiction book from the library. We have also looked at different types of musical instruments and tried to see if our classmates could guess what one we were playing. Well done USA, you have had a brilliant first week back.

### **Spain**

Welcome back to school after half term!

This week we started doing lessons and everybody has engaged, well-done Spain Class! The English work was around the story The Jolly Postman and looking at what a Postman and post office do. On Friday, we took a bus trip to count post boxes and find a post office. In Maths, we have been working on numbers up to 20 recognising them and identifying the number and the written word. In Science, we looked at identifying others and ourselves in our class and in History, we looked at celebrations around Bonfire night and how they started with Guy Fawkes. In Lifeskills, we looked at Firework safety, as many people will be having Fireworks at home this year.

Enjoy the fireworks,

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 in Brazil class, students have been introduced to our theme, which is Our World. Students have begun to read "The No.1 Car Spotter" in English, which is about a boy in an African village, the students have written their own description of their home. In Food Technology, the students have been focussing on healthy eating and used a variety of fruits to make a fruit salad. In History, the students were introduced, to the Benin Empire and completed a timeline activity to recall the events of the Benin Empire. The students have settled well into class this week and it has been great to see all 12 students in class, we look forward to another positive week next week.

### Peru

Peru class this week have enjoyed their final dance class. We started looking at our new topic 'Our World and in English a new story 'The number 1 car spotter' written by African author Atinuke. In Maths, we have been looking at place value, and adding and subtracting. Life skills we looked at bonfire night safety, and how to stay safe on bonfire night and who should light fireworks. We also started our sports link with Liverpool football club teaching us new skills and techniques. History we looked at the Benin kingdom and ordered the time line of when it started to when it ended. Have a lovely restful weekend.

### Mozambique

Despite being in self-isolation, Mozambique have worked super hard during their remote learning sessions. They have created their own matching games using PurpleMash, written a newspaper report about what they got up to during half term and have changed verbs in a story to make it more dramatic. We are all extremely proud of how well Mozambique have adapted this week to the changes and have all worked their hardest.

### Botswana

This week in Botswana, we have been learning all about Africa. We have done some fantastic research skills and have started a great project in which for the next few weeks we are researching African animals, gathering the facts and creating an African Animal Encyclopedia. On Thursday, we also created some fantastic pieces of 'firework' art work. We also made edible sparklers and enjoyed eating them whilst listening to a firework story. We hope you all have a lovely and restful weekend. Botswana Team 😊

### Madagascar

It has been a busy week in Madagascar! This week have been learning about the continent of Africa. We have been looking at the countries of Africa in Geography and listening to African Stories in English.

### Kenya

This week in Kenya, we have been looking at the African Continent. We have learned a lot about its landscape, food and other fun facts. We made a Moroccan Couscous salad, listened to different African music from different African regions and explored an Ancient African civilisation; The Benin Kingdom.

In Maths, we have been learning about place value. We were all able to translate numbers up to the millions into words! Well done to the Kenya Class.

We have nominated Lucas as our pupil of the week. He has come into school with a much more positive attitude this week and has engaged really well with all of his lessons, especially Food Tech when he tried all of the ingredients and made a lovely salad!

### **Seychelles**

Seychelles have been busy in Maths looking at place value with some pupils working with millions and some investigating the hundred square. Good work. PE has seen the class begin strengthening; stretching and relaxing through the medium of Yoga. In English the class viewed an animation of the story of a Kenyan girl who had to come to Britain for her own safety. It was quite a moving story and gave scope for discussion on how we would like to be treated arriving somewhere strange and new. In Science, we discussed the impact and importance in our lives and began investigating the wonders of static electricity.

### **Fiji**

Fiji class have welcomed a full class of students back this week. We have begun our new topic 'Our World' focussing on Africa. The students have begun to read texts linking to different African countries and compare their features. In Maths, we have focused on Place Value with some students beginning Functional Skills work in order to sit the exams at the end of term 4. In Art, we have looked at patterns in Africa and how African art is inspired. The children have enjoyed designing African wallpaper using a variety of textures and paints. In Food Technology, we have discussed healthy eating and began creating a healthy menu. For week one we have made overnight oats using healthy ingredients. The class thoroughly enjoyed layering the oats, fruit and yogurt. Finally, in RE we have looked at the different creation stories from around the world. We have had a wonderful week back in Fiji class and look forward to the remainder of term 2. Have a wonderful weekend class Fiji.

### **Cape Verde**

Welcome back to all the pupils in Cape Verde! This has been a great first week back in school. We started the week celebrating a half term birthday with a party in class. We have looked at place value in maths and started to look at electricity in science. In English, we have been working on creating reports using non-fiction texts. Our topic this term is Africa and we learnt about animals that live in Africa and made a sunset silhouette picture in art. Well done to everyone for a fantastic week.

# 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

It has been a really good week for Class Australia settling back in after the half-term. It has been great to start our new Project 35 work, where we have been looking at the skills requiring in buying a car. As part of this, we have worked hard looking at the calculating of percentages and the skill of persuasive writing. We also had the experience of attending a virtual career fair where we were able to look at various organizations and companies such as the Army, Royal Navy and various pathways, which could be studied at University.

### Samoa

In Samoa Class, we have been learning about fractions and how to apply the fractions to money. The pupils have been amazing at doing this and all the staff members are very impressed. We also have been learning about personal hygiene and were able to identify when and why everyone should have a good personal hygiene routine.

Samoa Class looked at what good customer service is and were able to identify what is good and bad customer service through role-plays.

During P.E, the pupils in Samoa class were able to get into groups, and perform stretches and warm up routines for particular sports. They learnt why and how we do warm up and stretches and applied this in their groups.

In the life skills lesson we talked about our communities and the different job roles within our communities and all the jobs that keeps the communities going such as emergency services, bin men/women, shop keepers.

Samoa has had a fantastic week. Well done!

### Papua New Guinea

It has been lovely to catch up with the students in PNG this week after a week off over half-term. Everyone has settled back in, despite lots of questions about the ever-changing government advice, we even had a debate in class about our thoughts on the new national lockdown. As always, students approached this with a mature and respectful attitude when discussing opinions that did not match their own.

In maths, we have begun to practice our skills with percentages and build our confidence with using them. As well as this, as part of our new curriculum (project 35) we have also looked at a more life skills approach to maths by looking at finance options and loans with regards to buying a car.

Finally, in English, we have started to read; 'The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas'. Students are already enjoying this book despite its sombre content. It has been quite thought provoking and reflective in discussion and we will continue with this next week, especially in relation to Remembrance Day. Well done class!

### **New Zealand**

This week in New Zealand class, we have been working really hard. In Maths we have been learning about percentages

In English we have been reading and discussing "The Merchant of Venice"

As it is bonfire night, we have been researching who Guy Fawkes was and how his gunpowder plot unravelled. We also looked at how he planned to blow up the Houses of Parliament.

Life skills has been interesting for the pupils. We learned about budgeting for the future and how to open a bank account. This got our class thinking about ways they can save money.

### **Tasmania**

This week in Tasmania class, we started our new term and welcomed students back to class after a nice week off. We have enjoyed time outside exercising and getting ready to learn. We started our new project in Tasmania class around buying food. We used our computing and Maths skills to search for food items to make a cake and a sandwich on two supermarket websites and compared the prices to see which was cheaper. We then used our food technology skills to make the items and enjoyed them in class. It was great to see you back in class this week Tasmania and we look forward to the term ahead.

## 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)



#### **Christmas Island**

We have had a great week starting the preparation for KS5 Team Project. We worked on understanding what an event is, researching lots' of different events and who the target audience would be. We have some great ideas and a small group began to work on an outdoor project in the school grounds. Great teamwork skills!

We took part in a virtual career fair too and found out a lot about different career options. We wrote questions for some of the presenters and we are looking forward to getting responses. Have a great weekend everyone, you deserve it. Stay safe!

#### **Malawi**

We have had a great first week back!

On Monday, we went to Strawberry Fields to complete our academic lessons, and have started working on a new topic of multiplying by 10, 100 and 1000. Everyone worked really well, and we will continue with this topic!

A group went to the gym to carry on with their Fitness Instructor qualification, which is progressing so well.

Thursday we started our project of revamping the School Sensory Garden; everyone worked really hard enjoying taking part in all gardening activities.

In respect of Remembrance Sunday, we have created poems to mark the end of World War One which ended at 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month, in 1918.

Have a great weekend 😊  
Malawi Class Team

# Happy Birthday!



This week we do not have any Birthdays to celebrate, so would like to wish **you all** a **Wonderful Weekend!**



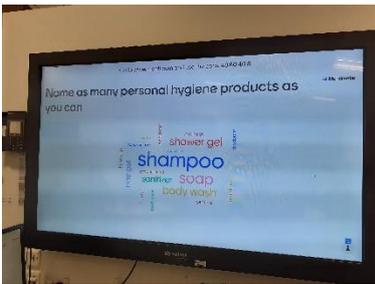
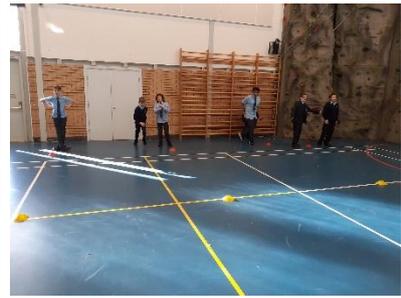
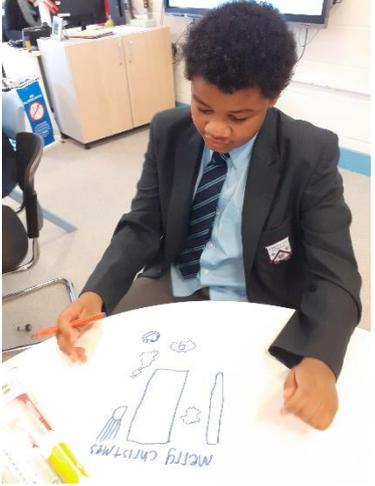
We wish you all a **Wonderful Birthday** and have fun!



## Students of the Week

Early Years and Key Stage One		
Ireland	Theo	for being a good helper in class
Wales	Ethan	for amazing effort in PE
Nurture		
Spain	Jack	for a great positive attitude to work and class
Cape Verde	Ruben	for being a really helpful member of class
Tasmania	Francis	for his hard work in English, Maths and Food Technology
Key Stage Two		
Italy	Georgina	for trying really hard to make good choices
Portugal	Alice	for trying her best to be here every day
France	Maxi	for always following the Golden Rules and working hard in class
Canada	Faye	for taking part in all lessons
USA	Olivia	for always trying her best, especially in Maths and being determined with challenging lessons
Key Stage Three		
Brazil	Charlie	for participating well in his activities and providing brilliant answers to questions around the interactive board
Peru	Achille	for never giving up on himself or others
Mozambique	Abbie	for making great contributions to our lessons all week! Well done Abbie
Botswana	Bupe	for always getting on his work and following instructions
Madagascar	Harley	for excellent work in English
Kenya	Lucas	for a positive attitude and engaging well with lessons
Seychelles	Justin	for concentrating well and completing work with independence
Fiji	Troy	Troy has worked incredibly hard this week and supported other students during group sessions. He has excelled in both Maths and English and has shown excellent progress. Well Done Troy!
Key Stage Four		
Australia	Dominic	for being a great member of our class
Papua New Guinea	Tyler	for working really hard this week
New Zealand	Nick P	for working hard this week
Samoa	AJ	for amazing work in maths, could quickly work out fractions
Malawi	Aiden	for starting his Internship in school and doing very well
Christmas Island	Arrienne	for great vocabulary in English work

# Week 9 Photos



# FIREWORK POEM by Mozambique Class

## A Firework Poem

Whizz zoom bang  
the fireworks sounds in the sky.  
Orange red green  
colours flashing by.

Pop, cackle  
so loud and bright  
They light up the sky  
on bonfire night.

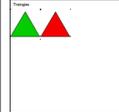


**Question 1**  
Sort these shapes by their colour.

Green

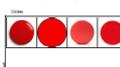


Orange



**Question 2**  
Sort the shapes by their shape.

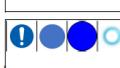
Circle



Triangle



! Circle



Triangle



### Half-term News

On Sunday I went to the shopping with my mum, sister and brother and I bought a cake and chocolate spread.



At halloween I was playing roblox.



### Planet Profile

Earth is a planet that we live on. 5B years ago each debris crashed into each other to cause planets





**[Moon]** The moon Full of rock. Back in 1969 First astronauts Neil and buzz Went to the moon and back. **[Earth]** The earth is the meaning of Entry 1 of two With Heaven and Hell that we live on Life started 3.5 Billion Years ago and Started Monkeys started before the MYA Era And Then became half monkey half human in the BCA Before common era. **[Earth's Colour]** its colour is Blue mixed with green green is land and Blue is ocean. **[Other Facts]** Moon is drifting away from the earth every year by 1% **[Sun]** Earth is the Third Planet from the sun and they keep us warm Everyday



