



Head's Weekly Newsletter

Issue 14, 11 December 2020



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

Dear Students, Families, Colleagues and Friends,

Welcome to the penultimate issue of this term's Head's Weekly Newsletter. It has been a good week indeed and we have so many amazing announcements – I can hardly contain my excitement!!! Please read on to find out more...

As we approach next week, it is critical that I reiterate the practical arrangements for next Friday (the last day of Term 2) and for Term 3 starting in January 2021.

Last day of Term 2 is Friday, 18 December 2020 and the school closes at 1pm. End of day transport support will start at 12:45pm and the last bus will aim to leave the site soon after 1pm. Families collecting their children should collect them at 1pm please. Please note that parking on site is for staff only and so, any families collecting their children must join the transport queue and await direction from the site staff – thank you very much for your cooperation.

Term 3 starts for students on Tuesday, 5 January 2021 at 8:30am and students are expected to arrive on time and in full school uniform, ready for indoor and outdoor learning. We will continue with PE kit being worn on the days when PE is taught.

Between 18 December 2020 and 5 January 2021, all staff will be actively encouraged to turn off their work laptops and work phones, focusing entirely on themselves and their family life. I hope that all families will support me in this important caring endeavour and therefore refrain from sending emails to the school staff during the holiday season.

Exceptions to the above rule include only:

1. Positive Covid diagnosis notifications which must continue to be sent to covid@abbotsleaschool.co.uk – those will be actioned within 24 hours of receipt
2. Safeguarding concerns in a crisis situation should be sent to safeguarding@abbotsleaschool.co.uk – please note that this email will only be monitored occasionally and so there is likely to be a delay in response
3. Careline or Police – these agencies provide 24/7 support and should be used if you have a concern about a welfare of a child (Careline) or think that a child is at imminent risk of harm (Police). The contact numbers are as follows: Careline: 01512333700 or Police: 999.

Whilst I share those details with you in advance for clarity, I sincerely hope that none of them will be needed.

With kindest regards and best wishes,

Mrs A Hildrey
Headteacher

National Autistic Society: Advanced Autism Accredited Status



I am absolutely thrilled to announce that, just today, I have received an official notification from National Autistic Society that, following an accreditation visit in January 2020, and the more recent survey of Key Stage 5 students and all students' families, the Panel chaired by the NAS Head of Accreditation unanimously concluded that we are exceptional in our practice.

As a result, we have been granted an **NAS Advanced Accredited School Status!!!**

I am so very proud of our team's effort and want to extend my sincere thanks to all those who continue to support us – through encouragement and constructive challenge – to continually improve and develop our practice.

Thank you!!!

The assessors particularly praised:

"The leadership team are highly aspirational about the school, students and staff. The team work closely to strategically plan the school development around the needs of the students."

"The school are actively involved in the development of Supported Internships across Liverpool and nationwide. The internship programme has led to students finding employment, including directly from the school."

"The school has an overwhelmingly positive, calm and supportive atmosphere. Relationships between staff and students are very positive, respectful and trusting."

"The layout and structure of the classrooms facilitates the development of independence."

"Social media posts and the Head's Weekly Newsletter are used effectively by the school to celebrate success and progress and share key information with parents regarding ongoing school development and research updates."

"Throughout observations, staff demonstrated a good understanding of Positive Behaviour Support, which was reinforced by person-centred planning and the new positive behaviour support system."

“Staff are encouraged and supported to take positive risks when planning activities with the aim of providing positive life experiences for the students.”

“The Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) work collaboratively with staff to develop their knowledge and understanding of the students’ needs.”

“A number of students have been actively involved in the delivery of training, alongside the Head of Autism Research and Development, at various events across Liverpool. Students and parents have also been invited to be guest speakers at regional ‘Girls and Autism’ training events, and workshops at school including ‘Understanding ADHD’ and Autism and Eating Challenges’.”

“Enterprise activities enable students to develop a range of life skills with a specific focus.”

“Families recognised the “supportive staff” who “aim to develop trusting and positive relationships” with the students.”

“Students are exposed to an Employability Curriculum and encouraged to consider their career aspirations right from Early Years. Abbot’s Lea School were the 2018 winner in the Educate Awards for Outstanding Teaching and Life Skills and again, in 2019 for the Career Aspirations Award. Educate Awards is an annual event celebrating excellence of schools in the North West.”

“The school has delivered training to a range of employers across Liverpool and at national level with the aim of increasing their understanding of Autism and reasonable adjustments in the workplace, including policies and procedures.”

Additionally, families’ views are overwhelmingly positive:

- We are new to the school (as of September) but so far we are absolutely thrilled with the support, knowledge, expertise and communication from all at Abbots Lea.. My child has gone from not attending school for over a year to attending full time and loving it within two months. Utterly fantastic!*
- Abbott's lea is brilliant at supporting my son. Since his transfer from mainstream school, he is alot happier and enjoys school now.*
- School always keeps me up to date on everything communicate is excellent in every way*
- Abbots Lea is an amazing school my son is thriving thanks to the fantastic staff at his school, he absolutely loves it there.*
- I can see the progress of my son every day from being in abbots lea school. The staff are always lovely and very approachable. They keep in constant contact and are always including me in my son’s education*

- *The staff are all dedicated to my son always have been communicating well with us my sons life has been changed for the good he does things I never thought he would achieve*
- *This school excels in its aim to give our children the support physically and emotionally to succeed in their goals for education, and be as independent as possible in their adult years.*
- *Abbots Lea is an amazing school my son is thriving thanks to the fantastic staff at his school, he absolutely loves it there.*
- *Amazingly knowledgeable staff and are always a phone call/email away when advice is needed on how to deal with unpredictable situations.*
- *At my sons previous school they were only ever concerned about his behaviour. At Abbot's Lea they are concerned about the cause of his behaviour and what can be done to help him. Its the difference between negative and positive.*
- *Could not ask for a more knowledgeable and committed team supporting my child. He has progressed beyond our wildest dreams whilst attending Abbot's Lea.*
- *Abbots lea is an amazing school that provide both my son and myself with support. My son loves coming to school and has a fabulous teacher who shows so much understanding and interest in my son. He tailors the learning to my sons interests and with the support of the teaching assistants also my son has improved so much this year.*
- *I am thankful so often that my son is finally in a school that understands his needs; that I no longer worry he will be expelled (when in mainstream school his teacher told us it was 'when not if' he gets excluded) and more importantly that he is now happy and goes to school with no problems.*
- *When my son first joined the school, there were serious concerns about whether this school should be classed as a specialist school or not and my son was very unhappy. However in the past couple of years, they vastly improved their policies & became much more holistically client-focused! My son loves going to school now. He'd go 7 days a week if he could!*
- *My son was diagnosed aged 7 and in mainstream school, and was being bullied for being different and mixed race so he suffered racial abuse too, I fought for a place in Abbott's Lea for him and although it took months due to the education we have never looked back, my boy moved from mainstream into specialist at year 6 and we have NEVER looked back. They are amazing at what they do and how they treat our children. The school is outstanding the staff are just as outstanding as the school I really could not fault anything. The opportunities they offer the children is amazing and I just think it's the best school ever!! Thank u Abbott's lea for making my son feel safe secure and happy!!*
- *In the 18 months my son had been at Abbots Lea, he has absolutely thrived. He always feel safe and happy in school. His needs are met and surpassed. The staff are all*

completely dedicated and knowledgeable and act in the children's best interests at all times. I could not rate them highly enough

- *Abbots lea goes above and beyond for my son.*
- *The school is amazing along with the outstanding headmistress and all staff my little boy age 6 is coming on leaps and bounds not enough words and this accreditation is well deserved thank you*
- *Abbots lea, gives my son all the help and support he needs, would be lost without them*
- *Fantastic school*
- *The school has excellent standards and vision for its pupils. The communication is excellent and my son is very happy there.*
- *Abbots Lea provides our son with maximum care and attention for his learning needs. We are always well informed of his progress. We are confident in all aspects in this safe learning environment. Keep up the outstanding work.*
- *Abbott's Lea staff are the best trained in the universe when it comes to knowledge of autism an if they don't know it they go an find out. The staff go above an beyond to make sure each individual has there needs met. I cannot praise this school enough . My own child had made giant strides in becoming independent an his social anxiety has improved greatly. I must mention as a parent it's the only school were I feel confident enough to ask questions an feel fully supported by staff.*
- *Excellent service*
- *The school and headteacher have a great understanding of the unique and specific requirements of my child.*
- *I have never had a problem with the school, I have always found them to be helpful, caring. etc*
- *Honestly couldn't ask for better communication and support for my child cannot find a single fault staff are fantastic*

Lastly, but – arguably – most importantly, our students summed up their experience of learning here as follows:

- *They listen to me telling my news and other things.*
- *The staff in this school are really passionate about my needs and will do anything to help me grow up in the future*
- *Staff are friendly and helpful and Abbots Lea School is the best school in the world.*
- *I love my abbots lea school*

Recommendations given by NAS for the next phase of our development are:

1. The school should **continue to embed the Zones of Regulation** into practice. Staff should aim to reference the Zones of Regulation during planned and unplanned opportunities so that the Zones become a purposeful reflective resource.
2. The school should further **support parents in understanding the philosophy and vision** behind some of the recently introduced evidence-based approaches. A particular focus should be around Restorative Practice and how this is incorporated into the wider range of tools within the positive behaviour support system.
3. Continue to **develop and refurbish the sensory spaces** so that each room has a key sensory focus. This will empower the students to take control of their own sensory needs and enable them to access specific regulation activities.
4. The school should reflect on how the staff gather the information for the My Plan document within KS3, KS4 and KS5. The documents should support staff to have an understanding of the students and enable them to provide consistent support. Staff should consider how the information is gathered and how they could assume the role of advocate for some students.
5. **Positive Behaviour Support should remain a high priority for the school development** for the next academic year to ensure that this important practice is embedded and consistent.

We thank all those who have taken the time to respond to the surveys and, whilst we have no way of knowing who you are, we are really grateful, touched and motivated by your appreciation of our efforts.

We recognise, of course, that we do, and always will, have some work to do, to make our vision clear and compelling to all, to make our communication reach all in the way that is helpful and to work in a way that is always transparent, collaborative and evidence-based, to always find support our students in reaching their dream potential.

The journey is exciting and difficult in equal measures and as we know, nothing truly worth doing comes easy, so – we pledge to live by our **Golden Rules** © and:

- **Work hard and be nice**
 - **Be here. Every day!**
- **Never give up on ourselves or others**
 - **Stay positive and be happy!**

Margaret Bryce Smith Scholarship Winners 2020

Abbot's Lea School was very fortunate to be awarded a £500 scholarship by Margaret Bryce Smith charity for secondary aged students.

On 11 November 2020, we launched a Competition with some amazing prizes!

The competition was not mandatory and the topic of it was:

“Falling out and making up! – a young person’s guide.”

We had a number of entries and all had something very special to offer.

The Panel was faced with a very difficult task of selecting one overall winner (£300 scholarship) and two equal runner up positions (£100 each).

The final winners were announced today and were:

Winner:

Charlie Ann

Runner up:

Lexie
Leon

HUGE CONGRATULATIONS TO THE STUDENTS!!!

During Term 3, the three winners will jointly work on producing an actual final Abbot's Lea Guide to “Falling out and making up! – a young person’s guide” which will be published for all to benefit from!

Key Diary Dates – Term 2

Monday, 14 December 2020	Christmas jumper or accessory day (donation optional) Each Zone's nativity production will be previewed in all classrooms. (They will then be made available on social media and on our school website)
Tuesday 15 December 2020	The kitchen will be preparing a Christmas tasting platter for our students' snacks
Wednesday 16 December 2020	The kitchen will be preparing a Christmas lunch for our students
Thursday 17 December 2020	Christmas film and treats afternoon
Friday 18 December 2020	Pre-ordered gifts made by our students will be sent home for our families (we will ensure that they have been quarantined first)

**Please note that the school closes early
on Friday, 18 December 2020 at 1pm**

Deputy Headteacher

Mrs Emily Tobin, Deputy Headteacher

E: deputy@abbotsleaschool.co.uk



Dear Families

This week I have really enjoyed engaging in high quality Speech and Language Training, with our Speech and Language Therapist, Chris. It is funny – whenever I engage in training about child development, whilst my main focus is on the quality of Teaching and Learning in school, I cannot help but also think about my own children and what I could be doing with them at home. One thing that Chris feels passionately about is how barrier games can promote a child's ability to communicate verbally and to listen and understand verbal communication. If you celebrate Christmas by sending gifts, this could provide a perfect opportunity to choose a fun game, which also has an educational value.

What are barrier games?

Basically, they are games that involve putting some kind of physical barrier between you and another player. You then try to replicate each other's images, or find out about the other person's images just by listening to instructions or asking questions.

Here are some great barrier games that you might consider playing at home:



If you don't want to spend money on a game, a really good activity might also include

- Each having a pencil and some colours
- Not being able to see each other's work
- One person drawing and colouring a picture and describing what they are doing
- The others trying to copy
- Then at the end, compare to see how similar your creations were!

With warmest wishes for the week ahead

Mrs Tobin

Deputy Headteacher

Head of Autism Research & Development

Miss Sara Muršić, Head of Autism Research & Development
E: sara.mursic@abbotsleaschool.co.uk



Dear Families, Partners and Friends of Abbot's Lea School

As we are approaching our last week of the term, holiday mood is all around. While for most it includes happiness and excitement, some are surely in anticipation of stressful, crowded events. This week, to continue my autism-friendly holiday season advice, I will focus on visitors and crowds.

Autism-Friendly Holiday Season (Part 2 – Visitors and Crowds)

Unlike any other year, 2020 has brought more structure and control in terms of crowdedness, which will suit most autistic people.

Whichever restriction tier your community is under, use this opportunity to create a plan of events and visitors together with your child. Talk about the plan often or keep it visible to create a sense of structure and order. Consider breaking up longer periods of holiday-special activities with something more familiar or with comfortable routines.

Decide on roles and tasks. Giving your child something to do reduces their stress about having lots' of people in the house. Tasks can include taking visitors' coats, offering snacks or other age-appropriate jobs that could be their focus during the day.

Prepare your visitors too. Use this opportunity and talk to the extended family and friends ahead of time. Remind them of your child's likes and dislikes, common reactions and types of support they can offer. Instead of just hoping for the best, make an action plan. Holiday season can be stressful and triggering for all children, so make sure they are surrounded, with calmness and support.

Where possible, try to organise a calm room or a space where a child (or an adult) can go when it all gets too much. Having an opportunity for some time alone, or with a supporting friend, can minimise stress and encourage self-regulation.

Last but not least, autism-friendly events. This year, all events are organised virtually, but participating from home means, you are always in the front row, with your favourite snacks at hand. Parents can visit the link below and read more about planned performances:

<https://www.autismtogether.co.uk/christmas2020/>

Enjoy the holiday season!

Ms Sara Muršić
Head of Autism Research and Development

Care and Safeguarding

Ms Alison Twomey, Head of Care and Safeguarding

E: Alison.twomey@abbotsleaschool.co.uk



I have spent a lot of time this week writing, checking and approving risk assessments. Risk assessments are central to the management of health and safety within a school and it is essential that school staff are skilled in creating these documents, particularly if students are undertaking an activity offsite.

It is important to understand that the purpose of a risk assessment is to reduce the level of risk to an acceptable level. It is not possible to fully remove all risks but the hazards that remain must be manageable.

Risk assessments should be approached in a series of steps. These are as follows:

- Identify the hazards
- Identify who might be harmed
- Identify how they might be harmed
- Identify the existing precautions – are they enough to control the hazard
- Identify further actions to further reduce the hazard
-

Activities in the community are an integral part of our students' curriculum and development of their life skills. Whilst Covid-19 has reduced the number of trips that we have been able to offer since September, we remain committed to offering all students opportunities to participate in activities outside of the classroom. Families have my guarantee that all such trips will have been thoroughly risk assessed and are safe to go ahead. Please feel free to contact me if you require any further information on this matter.

School Business Support

Mrs Michelle Griffiths, Head of HR

E: michelle.griffiths@abbotsleaschool.co.uk



Due to current restrictions many of us will have to adjust our Christmas plans to adhere to lockdown restrictions put in place to combat the Covid-19 pandemic. Many may be worried about a high-risk relative living on their own and others may not be able to travel to see their family. With some thought and planning, we can make this difficult period easier.

Plan ahead: For many of us, the peace of mind, which comes with pre-planning, is a reliable way to reduce stress. To avoid added pressure over the festive season during lockdown, take time now to write lists, plan timings and make sure everything is organised. Consider the added pressure that the postal service will be under and plan all your gifts and cards early.

Take time out: Do not burn out by Christmas morning. Make sure you take time to rest, recover and enjoy the festive atmosphere in a safe manner. Whether that is having a lie-in, spending a night watching your favourite Christmas film or going for a socially distanced walk outside. Time spent clearing your mind will mean you are better able to enjoy the big day!

Focus on you: We spend so much time thinking of others at this time of year, we often forget to look after ourselves. Set aside some time to treat yourself! This could be something as simple as reading a good book, having a hot bath or just some quiet time alone. It is also a good idea to get outside when you can, as daylight hours are so short.

Just a reminder that the closing date for our Teaching Assistant vacancies is Monday 14 December 2020. Further information is available from our website - <http://www.abbotsleaschool.co.uk/teaching-assistant/>

Key Stage News and Updates

Early Years and Key Stage 1 Miss O'Neill



Maria.O'Neill@abbotsleaschool.co.uk

Ireland

Well done to Ireland class, for working extra hard this week in creating magnificent Christmas crafts. We had lots of fun decorating and creating these crafts, our class tree and dressing up in our festive costumes. We have been listening to the story of "the snowman" and learning new Christmas songs. During circle time, we read and learnt about "the nativity" and enjoyed playing with ours in our discovery area. Outside we have been building houses with our plastic and wooden bricks, enjoying races on the treks and messy play with the animals and soil. To spread our Christmas cheer we made a beautiful wreath for a local care home using our hand-prints and paint. In Music, we enjoyed our favourite songs jolly phonics, freeze, the shape song and the colour song. In Maths, we have been enjoying our balancing number game and Christmas symmetry matching.

Have a lovely weekend

Wales

Wales Class has had a very festive week! We have read the First Christmas Story and retold it using Chatta. We also looked at Christmas around the world and how others celebrate the day. We have been very busy in Santa's workshop creating some lovely creative surprises for our lovely families, which will be sent home next week just in time for Christmas! Wales Class have been working really hard practicing their lines for the nativity and our Christmas song. We recorded our performance this week and it was amazing! Well done to all of the children, you were all superstars! We have also been busy creating some lovely salt dough Christmas decorations and we have also created a wreath to send to the Woolton Care Home residents to wish them a Merry Christmas. We also read the story stick man and created our own edible stick men!

As you can see, Wales Class has had an exciting week full of activities and we are looking forward to next week, which will be the last school week of this year!

Have a lovely weekend,

Wales Class Team.

Key Stage News and Updates

Key Stage 2

Key Stage Leader: Miss Sell

Lorna.sell@abbotsleaschool.co.uk



Italy

This week in Italy class, we have really enjoyed getting into the festive spirit. We had a very busy Christmas craft day on Tuesday making lots of lovely things. We have also been singing our favourite Christmas songs and discussing what instruments we can hear being played. We finished off the week with some relaxing yoga. Well done Italy class for working so hard this week!

Portugal

Portugal class had a great time this week! In English, we have been looking at the story of the Grinch and the pupils had to think of some adjectives to describe the Grinch. After this, we learnt how to use wrapping paper by wrapping some presents to put underneath our Christmas tree. In Music, we used different instruments to play along some songs. Portugal class have done really well this week and we are looking forward to another week filled with interesting and fun activities. Have a lovely weekend and remember to stay safe!

France

We have had a very festive week in France class with the run up to Christmas. For Christmas craft day, the pupils enjoyed making their own gingerbread Rudolf's and Christmas trees. We created a class Chatta board with each step, which the pupils then used to create a list of instructions in English. For Art we have created our own Christmas tree decorations- the pupils are very excited to take them home to put on their trees! To complete our Ancient Egyptian work, we learned all about hieroglyphics and wrote our names using them. Keep up the good work class France!

Canada

This week in Canada class, we have enjoyed lots of different festive activities.

On Monday, we practiced our nativity and our Christmas song. On Tuesday, we had a fantastic Christmas craft day! We made Christmas cookies, wreaths, stained glass lights for our windows at home, Christmas cards and even made some Reindeer food to put out on Christmas Eve.

On Wednesday, we had our life skills lesson and we looked at Reproduction and the human body, we also recorded our class Christmas song for the Nativity. On Thursday, we carried on making our Egyptian Coffin masks and completed more Christmas activities.

Friday we had are Christmas jumper day!

Have a fantastic weekend 😊

USA

USA have continued looking at Ancient Egypt this week. We have been continuing to put layers of papier-mache on our Pharaoh masks and we have started to paint them. We cannot wait to show you pictures of them when they are finished. We have also finished our Egyptian necklaces and we have put lots of beautiful jewels on them, we also put some on ourselves. We have also been doing some lovely Christmas crafts making gifts to take home. We are very proud of our creations and cannot wait to take them home. We have also been doing

rehearsals and recording for our Nativity. USA have been amazing and have not been afraid to show their performance talents. Well done USA, you have been amazing!

Spain

Spain Class has had another busy week along with Maths work and dance, Spain Class have completed fun Christmas activities and work around Christmas Stories, making Christmas decorations, and cards as well as making and decorating gingerbread in class and cutting out Christmas shapes including stars, trees, bells and candy canes as well as gingerbread people and individual designs! We also made our own snow and talked about the weather in winter.

Key Stage News and Updates

Key Stage 3

Key Stage Leader: Mr Richard Hodgson

Richard.Hodgson@abbotsleaschool.co.uk



Brazil

This week in Brazil class, we have finished reading The No.1 Car Spotter in English, the students then wrote a book review to explain what they liked and disliked about the book. On Tuesday, we had a Christmas crafts day, we created Christmas cards, decorated Christmas biscuits and made a Christingle, Brazil class are certainly getting in the Christmas spirit! In Maths, we have completed a Maths quiz,, all students tried really well with this and should be proud of their efforts. We hope you have a restful weekend and look forward to a fun and creative last week of term."

Peru

This week Peru have been concluding our Africa topic by finishing our class reading book. We have been creating our own book covers and discussing our ideas of what might happen next. We have also been doing lots of Christmas crafts and activities, working together to create our Christmas banner, hot chocolate stirrers and Christmas wreaths. We have been exploring Christingles, discussing why they are used at this time of year and even had a go at making our own. We are all very excited for Christmas!

Mozambique

This week in Mozambique, we have used the new John Lewis Christmas advert to discuss different ways we can show love and kindness to other people. For our Christmas crafts, we created calendars for our families with photos of us throughout the current school year. For D.T. we finished painting our African masks, which are on proud display on our 'Our World' display board. During social time, we all worked together to create paper chains, one of them was so long it reached the length of Zone 5 hallway.

Botswana

This week in Botswana Class, we have made lots of Christmas Crafts - making Christmas decorations. We have also been on a magical minibus journey around our wonderful city, where we saw lots of building and landmarks such as the cathedrals, Speke hall, liver building, strawberry fields and much more. We also saw lots of beautiful Christmas trees and lights. We hope you have a lovely restful weekend. From Botswana Class.

Madagascar

This week pupils in Madagascar have been working hard. All students have taken assessments in Maths and everyone tried their best, as a result, students achieved some wonderful scores. In English, students have looked at both adjectives and nouns and everyone has produced some interesting sentences. Madagascar students also added the final touches to their Christmas rap producing some amazing lyrics and a class video.

Great week everyone.

Kenya

We have had a busy week this week in Kenya. In English, we have been continuing with The Butterfly Lion. As the story unfolds, it is getting more and more interesting. We are all wondering if Bertie and the white lion will eventually reunite. In maths, we have been starting to learn to add and subtract with negative numbers. We used a number line to help us to visualise what happens when we are adding and subtracting numbers. We all understood it really well. We have also been doing some Christmas related activities such as making a Christmas tree and a Christmas Yule log for our food technology lesson.

Seychelles

This week in Seychelles we have worked extremely hard in our food tech lesson and made our own bacon, lettuce and tomato sandwiches or you could have cheese salad sandwiches. We practised our chopping skills with the lettuce and tomatoes, slicing them to how we like them. We then toasted our bread and buttered them. We then took it in turns to cook our bacon if we were having it on our sandwich, using the hob following all the safety precautions that we had talked about. Once we had finished, we were able to eat our sandwiches which tasted really nice.

During PE, we continued with our Yoga poses, we have improved so much that we can hold some poses for 30 seconds. Our Yoga instructor is really impressed with how well we are doing and for how long we can hold out Yoga poses for.

On Friday, we had a fantastic day and was able to wear our own clothes and Christmas jumper. It really got us all in the spirit for Christmas.

Have a fantastic weekend everyone!

Fiji

Fiji class have been very busy in the countdown to Christmas. We have spent the week finishing off our English, Maths and Science topics. We have enjoyed a class Christmas Creativity on Thursday (I hope you all enjoyed our biscuits). We made Christmas treats and Christmas crafts. As we head into our final week, we will focus on completing all outstanding work and enjoying the school festivities. Have a wonderful weekend Fiji class

Cape Verde

This week has seen the arrival of Christmas in full force in Cape Verde. We have enjoyed designing Christmas cards to be sent to nursing homes to help cheer up residents who may not be able to have visits from family over the festive period. We have learnt about origami and made some fantastic paper Christmas trees. They were quite tricky but we persevered and the results were worth it. We also made our own tie-dye t-shirts in design technology as well and discovered we can use freezer bags to make our own piping bags when we decorate cakes. Have a great weekend Cape Verde

Key Stage News and Updates

Key Stage 4

Key Stage Leader: Mr Lyons

matthew.lyons@abbotsleaschool.co.uk



Australia

It has been a really enjoyable week in school for Class Australia. On Tuesday, we completed a creative Christmas craft day. Students enjoyed making reindeer print Christmas cards, hand shaped holly wreaths and Santa's from plastic cups. As a class this week, we have also completed reading the book Alice in Wonderland, which has been challenging and reflective read. To develop our thinking following on from this we watched the live action film then compared and contrasted the features of the two. We are very excited about the upcoming Christmas jumper day on Friday!

Samoa

We started the week off going for a walk to Woolton Woods looking for pinecones. We did not find any, but it was still a fun walk and good to get out of the class. The pupils were so well behaved and absolutely loved getting out. It was a pleasure to represent Abbot's Lea while out in public.

We also looked at renewable and non-renewable energy and stated advantages and disadvantages of the resources that produce energy.

We had a super fun crafts day on Tuesday. We made mosaic bubbles, red Santa cup decorations, wreaths made out of hand prints and wooden tree decorations. The pupils in Samoa loved this day and we are feeling super excited for Christmas!

On Wednesday we filled out our own CV's, each student clearly understood why and how we complete CV's. During P.E, students had the choice to take part in Football on the field, Dance in the hall or go on a walk. Every student really enjoyed P.E.

We also made Christmas cookies, we put white icing on a biscuit, a marshmallow and had smarties as buttons and made a melting snowman. The students loved completing this and it helped them work on their fine motor skills and spreading.

The students completed their Christmas life skills stories with Mr Murphy. It is great to see their imagination come out in a story.

It was so lovely to see everyone Christmas jumpers! They looked FAB!

Hope everyone has a lovely weekend..1 MORE WEEK TO GO!

Samoa Class Team ❤️🎄

Papua New Guinea

This week in PNG, we have carried on with Christmas festivities. For example, the class have created gingerbread houses and snow globes for their families to enjoy! As well as this, we have finished 'The boy in the striped pyjamas' book and compared it to the film adaptation. The class were able to identify similarities and differences. Most importantly, as a class we reflected on the impact of Auschwitz and the Holocaust. Finally, we have also completed another unit for our Science qualification, which focused on the topic of space. For this, the class designed and produced a model of the solar system. Well done PNG class for all your hard work this week!

New Zealand

New Zealand have been reading "Lord of The Flies" together and this week we worked on our Character Studies. In science, we have been looking at force and the effects of gravity. Christmas crafts have been fun and the students have enjoyed decorating their wooden tree decorations. Still lots of Christmas fun planned for next week!

Tasmania

This week in Tasmania class, we have continued to enjoy our Christmas curriculum. The students helped to decorate the Christmas tree with tinsel and baubles. We finished making our school "Dear Friend" Christmas cards for the local care homes. Tasmania class also enjoyed making Christmas biscuits, Santa face paper plates and Christmas banners for our Christmas craft day on Tuesday. At the end of the week, Tasmania class worked really hard in the kitchen to prepare and cook a full Christmas dinner!

Key Stage News and Updates

Key Stage 5

Key Stage Leader: Mr Ryan Mason

Ryan.Mason@abbotsleaschool.co.uk



Christmas Island

This week in Christmas Island, we recorded our class nativity; everybody did a great job and we're looking forward to seeing all the other nativities from around the school. We also participated in the crafty Christmas day, making lots of different Christmas decorations and ornaments.

This week the boxers have been learning about safeguarding and data protection as well as designing their own training sessions to deliver to clients.

We have also been learning about personal hygiene as part of our employability curriculum."

Malawi

This week in Malawi class our students enjoyed the Christmas creativity day making pinecone elves, reindeers and lollypop stick elves! They all did so well following the instructions and created some beautiful crafts! The class continued with academic lessons, in Maths looking at roman numerals and in English focusing on paragraphs and sentence structure. Finally, finishing off the week, we all really enjoyed Miss Loughran's KS4 & 5 Christmas quiz on Friday,, thank you so much for organising this for us, it was fantastic!

Have a lovely weekend,
Malawi class team

Data Protection Lead

Mrs Kim Adair

E: kim.adair@abbotsleaschool.co.uk



TIPS FOR A DATA SECURE FESTIVE SEASON

Make sure you leave a clean desk behind before leaving for the holidays, ensuring any confidential information is safely secured, or destroyed to stop it falling into the wrong hands.

Store away electronic devices such as laptops and mobile phones. Leaving these devices exposed on desks can lead to a potentially damaging data breach.

If you are working from home over the festive period, password protect laptops and tablets to safeguard any information stored on them.

Start thinking about those New Year's Resolutions. Keep your paperwork under control, secure and reduce the risk of an information security breach.

Happy Birthday!



Primary Department:

Aiden 14 December 2009
Imogen 14 December 2010
Charlie 18 December 2014
Bobby 19 December 2012
Andrew 20 December 2009
Michael 26 December 2011
Archie 04 January 2011
Alice 04 January 2013
Olivia 05 January 2010
Jamal 05 January 2012
Ansel06 January 2013

Secondary Department:

Levi 15 December 2006
Mason 20 December 2008
Dylan 27 December 2006
Kyle 04 January 2007

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



Students of the Week

Early Years and Key Stage One		
Ireland	Troy	for creating fantastic Christmas crafts
Wales	Joel	for listening to staff instructions
Key Stage Two		
Spain	Jacob	for working hard all week and being in the classroom
Cape Verde	Shasiah	for his efforts in lessons
Tasmania	Francis	for doing amazing Christmas crafts this week!
Key Stage Three		
Brazil	Jack	for completing activities with a positive attitude
Peru	Joseph	for his enthusiasm and hard work with our Christmas crafts and activities this week
Mozambique	Sean	for always being super helpful to everyone in his class
Botswana	Mason	for making beautiful Christmas decorations and being excellent on our minibus journey
Madagascar	Harry	for always making positive choices
Kenya	Scott	for showing positive behaviours and making lots of good choices this week
Seychelles	Rhys	for communicating where he wants to go
Fiji	Dylan	for working really hard this week to complete tasks he finds difficult. Following staff instructions consistently and been a kind friend to other students in Fiji class. Well done Dylan, we are really proud of you
Key Stage Four		
Australia	Thomas	for being a fantastic member of class Australia
Papua New Guinea	Tyler	for staying awake in all lessons and engaging in all work set!
New Zealand	Kazie	for making a great effort this week to get involved in our Christmas Activities and complete work set.
Samoa	Francis	for good independent learning this week
Key Stage Five		
Malawi	Megan	for being really kind and making all of her fellow students and staff Christmas cards during creativity day!
Christmas Island	Louis - M	for stepping in last minute in the class nativity

Week 14 Photos











