



Head's Weekly Newsletter

Issue 19, 29 January 2021



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

Dear Students, Families, Colleagues and Friends,

Welcome to today's issue of the Head's Weekly Newsletter.

The full moon (and other troubles, none of which I need to bore you with!) have kept me awake last night... It has been a difficult week in many ways, as we grapple with the horrifying statistics related to the tragic loss of life of over 100,000 people since the start of the pandemic in the UK... My thoughts have continued to be with you all, as we remember those we have lost and continue to battle with the virus, seemingly with no end of the troubles in sight...

It is critical, however, to keep going, to keep hoping and to keep planning – for the here and now and for the future, which – despite the above – I have no doubt will, one day, be bright again!

You will have heard the PM refer to the potential re-opening of schools to more students in March 2021. We all hope for that, of course and we will always do all that we can to resume our full onsite provision offer as soon as it is safe to do so. Concurrently, however, we will also review our prioritisation of groups to be taught onsite should the restrictions continue and the prevalence of the infections continue to reduce our staffing levels (as it sadly still continues to do each week this term). Steve Reddy, Director of Children's Services (Liverpool) and Matt Ashton, Director of Public Health (Liverpool), wrote to all families today sharing our local authority's strategy for the coming weeks – I know I can count on you all to support us in our efforts to get back to normality as soon as possible – see the letter on the next page.

I want you to know that, at these times of deep and profound existential reflections, my dedication to our school and my devotion to our vision and mission statement has never been stronger. In fact, it just keeps growing and I am determined to ensure that no student of ours thinks of themselves as a lost generation.

With that fierce resolve to guide me, I want to share with you, in this newsletter, some successes of this week. I also invite you to join me, and many schools in the region, at tonight's Educate Awards 2020 Ceremony, during which we will celebrate all the wonderful things about education, schools and our work with the children and young people. Abbot's Lea School has been shortlisted in the Communication Award category and who knows, we might just be mentioned tonight!

The event is live on Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uf9vZcGVO44> – see you there, I hope!!!

Stay safe, keep well, enjoy the weekend and I look forward to seeing you all next week!

Kind regards,

Mrs A Hildrey
Headteacher

Communication from Liverpool City Council

29 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Last Wednesday, the Prime Minister announced his hope for schools to begin to reopen for all pupils from 8 March. Liverpool City Council is committed to ensuring that schools are the 'first to open and last to close'; but there is a long road ahead of us and we must not drop our guard.

We fully appreciate the pressures and difficulties that a national lockdown places on you and on your children. We do not underestimate how hard it might be for you. However, it is our joint effort that will help save lives.

We want to remind you that all of us, including children and young people, should stay at home unless absolutely necessary. You should only send children into school or college if there is no way they can safely stay at home and learn remotely. If there is an adult working at home or able to take leave from their non-critical job, please think twice before sending your child to school.

It is important that we keep the numbers attending schools and colleges as low as possible. We must allow those who really need to be in school to have access to a place. At the moment, some schools are unable to support safely the number of children wanting to attend.

Please consider the needs of children who cannot safely stay at home. Many schools and colleges are able to offer part-time places, and this can mean that schools can offer more places to children who need them most.

Teachers are working incredibly hard to adapt to providing remote learning. Our teachers have adapted to this new way of learning remarkably quickly and effectively. They have been phenomenal, and deserve our full respect.

Schools are using a wide range of approaches to remote learning and are sharing good practice with each other. Remote learning does not need to be online or 'live' but if it is, it's important that you follow the school's protocols and expectations.

In the meantime, the plea to everyone is to continue following the rules – such as hands, face, space – to get virus levels as low as possible. Please get tested regularly if you have to leave the house for work or education, and accept the offer of the vaccine when your turn comes.

Please continue to work with us to keep our young people - and school environment - safe, and learning, during these challenging times.

Stay safe. Look after yourself and your loved ones and ask if you need help (<https://liverpool.gov.uk/communities-and-safety/emergency-planning/coronavirus/help-for-people-and-communities/>)

Steve Reddy	Matt Ashton
Director of Children and Young People's Services	Director of Public Health

2020-21 Term dates

Term 3:

Term ends: 12 February 2021

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

Term 4:

Students return: 22 February 2021

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

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

Term 5:

Students return: 12 April 2021

May Day: Monday 3 May 2021

Term ends - 28 May 2021

May break: Monday 31 May to Friday 4 June 2021

Term 6:

Starts: 7 June 2021 – students return

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

9 July 2021 – Transition INSET Day

12 – 16 July 2021 - Transition Week

Ends: 16 July 2021 at 1:00pm

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

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

2021-22 Term dates

STUDENTS' SCHOOL DAY: 8:30am – 2:30pm

Term 1

INSET – 1, 2, 3 September 2021

6 September 2021 – students return

Ends: 22 October 2021 at 2:30pm

Half term: 25-29 October 2021

Term 2

1 November 2021 – students return

Ends: 22 December 2021 at 1pm

Christmas break: 23 December 2021- 4 January 2022

Term 3

5 January 2022 – students return

Ends: 18 February 2022 at 2:30pm

Half term: 21 – 25 February 2022

Term 4

28 February 2022 – students return

Ends: 8 April 2022 at 1pm

Easter break: 11-22 April 2022

Term 5

25 April 2022 – students return

May day: Monday 2 May 2022

Ends: 27 May 2022 at 2:30pm

Half term: 30 May – 3 June 2022

Term 6

6 June 2022 – students return

24 June 2022 – Leavers' Day (for all students in Year 11 and above who leave ALS in 2022), including Leavers' Ceremony on Friday, 24 June 2022 at 1pm (open to families of leavers)

8 July 2022 – End of Year Awards Ceremony (open to families of all students staying at ALS)

11 – 15 July 2022 - Transition Week (students grouped in next year's classes)

Ends: 15 July 2022 at 1pm

Summer break: 15 July – 31 August 2022 *(see below for start of school year 2022-23)*

INSET – 18, 19 July 2022 (worked in lieu during the academic year)

Academic year 2022-23

Term 1

1 – 2 September 2022 – INSET

5 September 2022 – students return

Ends: 21 October 2022

Half term: Monday 24 to Friday 28 October 2022

Deputy Headteacher

Mrs Emily Tobin, Deputy Headteacher

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Dear Families

“Just ask”

Have you ever found yourself worrying about the amount of work your child is or is not doing whilst at home?

This could apply to all students, thinking about their evenings and weekends, and in particular to those children currently not attending onsite provision. If you have, then you fall into the same category as me. What I want to speak about this week is the concept of “fruitful questions.” As the Leader of Teaching and Learning, I have such fun learning about the latest learning tools and engaging resources. However, if someone forced me to choose one teaching tool for the rest of my career, I would choose the ability to ask our students questions. The right questions at the right time can be so powerful for teaching knowledge and skills.

I will give you an example. During the first lockdown, I could not settle my teething baby and so did not stand a chance of supporting my other child with his home learning. I put my little girl in her pram and walked to the park. I asked my son; “How many strides do you think it will take to reach the edge of the pavement?” He asked, “What’s a stride Mummy?” I showed him. We counted. I asked him whether the answer was higher or lower than he had estimated. “What’s estimating?” he asked. I replied, “It’s a really cool, grown up word for *guessing*.” We then counted the ducks on the pond. I asked him whether there were an even or odd number of ducks. We talked about whether there were more male or female ducks. We talked about how you know whether a duck is male or female based on the colours. I then asked him what the ratio of male to female ducks was and this was a step too far - he headed for the swings!

We did a lot of maths during that time when I was struggling to support him with his maths work.

Please do not worry if you cannot sit at a desk and work; ask the right questions when you are able. Think about whether you are asking easy or hard questions. I will pick this particular theme up in more detail next week.

Warmest wishes for the coming week

Mrs E Tobin
Deputy Headteacher

Head of Autism Research & Development

Miss Sara Muršić, Head of Autism Research & Development

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

Communication is powerful. Communication is a social process through which we send and receive messages, intentions and moods from one another. There are many forms of communication, but often there is an emphasis upon speech, which may not be possible, nor effective, for some autistic students. Using the Alternative and Augmented Communication (AAC) systems we are able to reach all students in the most appropriate way.

Symbol Systems:

There are a number of symbol systems in common use. They are typically designed to assist users who have difficulty understanding written language. Different symbols can be combined to suit different situations and can be designed to look like objects, images or even paragraphs when they are required. Symbols can be shown to a conversation partner in many different ways including on a computer screen, a paper chart, or in a communication book. These can be made by drawing the symbols, printing them out, or using some computer software to help produce them. An example of symbol systems of communication we use in school is the Widgit Literacy software.

Signing and Gesture Systems:

Manual signing systems of communication are most commonly used in the Deaf community. Signing systems have the benefit of not needing any additional resources or materials for communication, but they can take some time to learn. Apart from sign language, which is widely known and used, Makaton is an alternative designed for people with learning or communication difficulties.

Text-Based:

This is the method of using handwritten or computer-generated text to communicate with another person. The benefit of this system is that it can be used spontaneously and understood by most people. It can also be used by storing pre-written texts if that is easier or quicker for the user.

Eye-Tracking Software:

Eye-tracking software was previously inaccessible due to a cost point of view but is now readily available to most people through apps on iPads and Windows. They use cameras to track movement in the corneas to select symbols and words to communicate with others.

What does research say about alternative and augmentative communication for autistic population?

While there are numerous research studies evaluating the use of these communication systems ([see a literature review](#)), it is important to keep in mind that "one size fits one" and individualised approach is of crucial importance. For all questions, feel free to contact me.

Miss Sara Muršić
Head of Autism Research and Development

Care and Safeguarding

Ms Alison Twomey, Head of Care and Safeguarding

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We continue to have a high number of students learning from home and, as such, I'd like to remind families about the manner in which the school will continue to monitor the safety and welfare of our school community.

Class teams are in very regular contact with families and are keen to check that students are safe and well and accessing some form of home learning. There are occasions when class teams are not able to speak to a parent and at these times messages and emails will be left requesting contact is made with school. Class teams are then encouraged to phone other emergency contacts if efforts to speak with the family are unsuccessful.

If repeated attempts to check in with the family prove unsuccessful then a home visit will be made by myself. This is to check that everyone is ok and no support is needed. During my visit, I will ask to see the student as this is a vital expectation of our safeguarding duties. I will be available to answer any questions families may have and offer any support needed. Families can also continue to request support, including a home visit, by contacting the school.

I recognise how challenging this period is for families and do not wish to add any stress by contacting families more than is necessary. Please support the school by responding to the phone calls and emails made by class teams. If your child does not wish to participate in Zoom lessons, perhaps you could send a photograph in of them completing a learning activity at home. No images would be shared without permission and this would confirm to the school that the student remains safe and well at home and is continuing to access educational activities. At Abbot's Lea School, we take our safeguarding responsibilities seriously and this will continue to be the number one priority for all school staff.

Ms Alison Twomey
Head of Care and Safeguarding

School Business Support

Mrs Michelle Griffiths, Head of HR

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Next week, on 4 February 2021, we will acknowledge Time to Talk Day (TTTD), a campaign created by Time to Change, a leading mental health charity. The day supports conversations about mental health and aims to break down some of the barriers to talking about how we are feeling.

Time to Talk day, encourages us to open up regarding our emotional wellbeing and break mental health stigma, believing that there are always opportunities in our daily lives, whether at work, school, university or home, to check in with one another's wellbeing and mental health.

If you are concerned about someone's mental health, or something has happened, which may harm that person's wellbeing (like a bereavement or separation), it can be tempting to ignore some of the signs that this person is struggling, or you might find that you worry about worsening the situation. However, asking that person how they are or voicing your concerns can be the first step to showing that you care for them and acknowledge that right now things are difficult. If you are unsure on how to start that first conversation about mental health, here are a few tips:

1. Step away from the labels: it is best to leave the diagnosing of any conditions to the professionals. Even if you feel that the individual may fit a diagnosis, it is advisable to stay with the feelings and support of the person, rather than be tempted to provide a diagnosis of what you feel the 'problem' is and a plan to fix it.
2. Listen well: when we are actively listening, we do more than hear. Allow the person to lead the conversation. Try not to interrupt (even if you feel that it would be helpful information), and be encouraging when they are sharing their feelings. Lead the conversation and acknowledge what they are saying by nodding or repeating certain phrases to ensure you have understood it. This will encourage them to share and feel respected and cared for.
3. Communication is key: sadly, Time to Talk Day 2021 is subject to pandemic restrictions. It'll be different from most years, as social distancing and lockdowns mean being close to people isn't always possible. However, you can reach out to share feelings via Zoom, text, email, or social media as an alternative to face-to face-contact. Now more than ever, there are different ways to communicate and connect to get the conversations going.
4. Respect their readiness: speaking out about mental health is easier for some than others, and timing is everything. It can be difficult when you feel someone may be struggling and not talking about it, yet we need to respect that they may not want to talk. It could be the wrong time, or they do not feel comfortable and pushing a

conversation that someone does not want to have can have the opposite effect. If this happens, it is best to acknowledge that you respect they do not wish to talk and remind them that you are there for them, if they change their mind.

At school, we will be acknowledging TTTD next week via information sharing and making pledges.

Here is everything you need to know about the day:

- Time to Talk Day 2021 is on Thursday 4 February.
- 1 in 4 of us will experience a mental health problem in any given year, which is why talking about mental health is so important.
- It is a chance for all of us to open up to mental health – to talk, to listen, to change lives.
- A small conversation about mental health has the power to make a big difference.

Have a great weekend everyone.

Mr Andrew Cocklin, Head of Finance and Operations

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I am currently running a Mental Health First Aid programme for a small group of staff.

We meet each week, for an hour, and discuss a different area of mental health. The end goal,, is not to make people an expert in every aspect of Mental Health,,, but to give them the tools to spot the warning signs of someone who is struggling. Being confident enough to approach them to see if they need help and if they do, have the skills to listen non-judgementally, provide support and give them appropriate direction to get help, whether from professionals or friends and families.

The first step is always the hardest, opening up and admitting something is not quite right. However, it is not a sign of weakness, but huge strength, that you know something is not right and you are not going to let it control and dictate your life any longer.

The more we talk and share our problems, the lighter the weight on our shoulders becomes and the easier our life becomes. The longer you hold onto problems, the bigger they become, and they can have a debilitating effect on us.

I hope that if this course turns out to be a success, we will roll it out to all staff over the next few years and look to develop a training programme for students and families as well.

Have a great weekend

Key Stage News and Updates

Early Years and Key Stage 1 Miss O'Neill

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Ireland

We had a snowy start to the week this week!

In Ireland class, we have been learning all about teddy bears. We have been reading different bear stories and talking about what has happened and how they are feeling. We have been learning to identify the sounds in words and have continued our phonics with the sounds 'i' and 'n.' In maths we have been counting, ordering numbers and identifying shapes. We have used shapes to construct teddy pictures with, remembering their names and how many sides they have. We had a teddy bear's picnic this week and made sandwiches for the bears and colourful jelly. We enjoyed a picnic and showed our favourite teddies from home. Teddies and children had a lovely time.

Wales Learners on site

Wales Class have had a brilliant week in school! We have been exploring the non-fiction book Toys of the Past for English. We have created our own old toy fact file using the facts we have learnt from the book. In Maths, we explored 2D shapes and went on a shape hunt in class to identify the shapes. In Science, we took part in an experiment! We predicted what materials would be waterproof to keep our teddy bears dry in the rain. We also had a teddy bears picnic! We made our own sandwiches and then ate them with our teddies, we had a lovely afternoon! In RE we identified what is a mosque and who worships there. We then took part in the wudu ritual whereby we washed our feet ready to enter the mosque. In PSHE, we explored different calming techniques that may help us when we are feeling angry or upset. We also visited the Music room for the first time! We experimented the sounds of different instruments and chose our favourite instrument.

We hope you have a nice weekend

Wales Class Team

Wales Home Learners

Well done to all our home learners this week who have been working hard exploring non-fiction books in English this week. We have been looking at the key features and finding them inside our books. In maths, we have explored 2D shape and in Science, we sorted materials according to their properties. In History, we interviewed our parents about their favourite toys growing up and in art we created artwork in the style of Henri Matisse!

We hope you have a nice weekend

Wales Class Team

Key Stage News and Updates

Key Stage 2

Key Stage Leader: Miss Sell

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Italy

This week Italy class having been working really hard. We enjoyed playing in the snow at the start of the week. We have continued learning about Julia Donaldson, reading The Gruffalo's Child. We made puppets of the Gruffalo's Child, and used chatto to make instructions. In maths, we have been learning all about 3D shapes. Well done for the hard work Italy, keep it up!

Portugal Home Leaners

Pupils working remotely this week have done an amazing job! We have taken part in lots of fun and interesting activities. In English, we read Julia Donaldson's 'The Detective Dog' and we enjoyed it a lot. We, then, answered some questions to test our comprehension of the story. In Maths, we looked at different measurements, identifying which item is shorter and which one is longer, whereas in Geography, we explored South America's rainforests. Well done, you have been amazing! Have a lovely weekend!

France

Hello France class! We have had another fantastic week of learning in school and remote learning. For English we have continued our Julia Donaldson theme and have written some lovely postcards based on the adventures of the Snail and the Whale. In Maths, we have focused on measuring with a ruler with those at home measuring objects around the house. I am so impressed with how well they have learnt this essential skill with the support of their families at home. In school, the pupils have had another fun filled week with Miss McClintock. In Geography, they have been learning all about the United Kingdom. This week they have been recognising and matching the National flags to each country. In Food Tech, the pupils have been learning how to safely make their own delicious bacon sandwiches- yum! Keep up the hard work class France 😊

Canada

Canada class have created some fantastic pieces of work this week while learning remotely from home.

This week In English Canada class read Zog and the flying doctors by Julia Donaldson. We created a school report to help Zog learn how to land properly. In maths we looked at o'clock and half past and then made our own clocks using different colours for the hands to represent the minutes and the hour. In Life skills we looked at what it means to be under pressure and how important it is to ask for help when we need it, we created a leaflet with different ways we can ask for help and we looked at Henry Matisse the famous artist.

USA remote Leaners

We have learnt lots during our Zoom sessions this week. In English, we have started to look at the story of Matilda. We focused on the villainous character of Miss Trunchbull and created a character profile, which we then used to help us create a wanted poster. We hope Miss Trunchbull is caught for her crimes soon! In Maths, we moved on to time. We started by recapping what we knew about how to tell the time to the hour and then moved on to how we know when it is half past.

In Life Skills, we concentrated on practical skills that we can use every day, such as how to make our own beds and choosing our outfits for the next day. We looked at the weather to help us choose what type of clothing we would need and thought about how our activities for the day will affect what we wear. In Geography, we looked at the famous Carnival in Brazil and created our own colourful carnival masks. We also looked at different cities in Brazil and imagined we were on holiday in one of the cities (we wish!). We wrote a postcard talking about which places we visited and whether we would recommend them to our family and friends. USA did fantastically, engaging so well with each of our Zoom sessions, and they have all made us very proud!

Spain Home Learners

Congratulations to Spain Class Home Learners another great week of Home Learning, you are doing great completing the daily Life skills challenge and doing the daily work tasks. Each morning we have a zoom picture quiz at 11am and a catch up in the afternoon.

This week we completed activities relating to Smeds and the Smoos by Julia Donaldson, including finding out about the Planets as part of our science this week, making star biscuits as part of our Maths and learning about weight. We continued with our Topic South America looking at the food grown in the Rainforest and the animals who live in the Rainforest. As part of our Life skills lesson, we have looked at ways to feel calm and made jars of happiness. Keep sending in your photos.

Stay Safe! Spain Class Team

Spain and Portugal Learners on site

Spain and Portugal class have had a very productive week onsite and all worked incredibly hard.

In English, we have been reading a new book called 'the Smeds and the Smoos' which holds a very important moral.

The topic for Maths is still measurements, this week we have learned specifically about measuring weight. We have enjoyed weighing different classroom objects to find out which are the heaviest and lightest.

We started learning about friction in our Science lessons about forces. We enjoyed testing how fast the toy cars can roll down different surfaces, which cause more and less friction.

In Geography, we are still learning about South America. This week we have explored different famous South American artists and then made our very own dream catches.

Key Stage News and Updates

Key Stage 3

Key Stage Leader: Mr Richard Hodgson

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Brazil

This week has been a great week of remote learning in Brazil class, with the majority of the class attending most of our Zoom sessions. We have continued reading George's Marvellous Medicine and have played a Kahoot to test our memory of what happened in the chapter. In Maths, we have looked at the 10 times table and completed activities on Seesaw to see if we can apply this knowledge to calculations. In Life Skills, we discussed dangers around the home and were able to identify dangers on different photographs. The staff in Brazil class are extremely proud of all the students for their resilience and hard work this week, well done!

Peru

This week Peru Class have been looking at maintaining our personal hygiene and keeping ourselves clean and safe in regards to Covid-19. We have found out a lot of new facts that have even surprised our staff members and researched lots of different brands that we can use to keep clean. The students used this research to review products and decide on their favourites, which lead to discussions on what they are used for and why they have chosen them out of all the products we have to choose from. We all now know how important it is for us to stay clean and have followed the NHS guide on the best way we can wash our hands throughout the day!

Mozambique

This week the students who are remote learning have studied Robert Burns and how his birthday is celebrated every year. This led to us reading Hamish the Hairy Haggis, where we looked at the alliteration it uses and created our own acrostic poem using alliteration and our names. We continued celebrating famous Scottish icons by studying Andy Scott and his sculptures and had ago at creating our own Kelpies using objects we found around the house. Well done everyone for working so hard this week! In school this week, students have continued to work hard, and we created our own tartan patterns by learning how to weave which followed on from our learning about Robert Burns. In maths, we have continued to develop our knowledge of our times tables and have enjoyed the challenges set. On Wednesday, we learnt all about the holocaust as it was Holocaust Memorial Day. We had time to reflect and pay our respects to all of those that lost their lives. On Thursday we got moving and had a fantastic P.E lesson; playing a very competitive game of dodgeball

Botswana

This week we had a 'bring your pet to zoom day'. We had our pets on camera and talked a bit about them to our peers - it was great. We also continued to learn about famous authors and wrote fact files about our favourite ones. This week, we learnt about time and how money matters. We played some games and created some great posters about keeping our money safe. We did more PE this week - which was great fun, and we created our own 20-minute exercise plan. We learnt about healthy eating and designed our own healthy eating menus. We have had a great week and the students have all worked so hard. Have a lovely and well-deserved restful weekend.

From Botswana Team 😊

Madagascar

This week Madagascar students have worked really well both remotely at home and in school. Madagascar class have explored the life and work of William Shakespeare as well as several multiplication games online and practiced tying their shoelaces. Staff have seen some amazing results with pupils trying very hard to practice and capture this skill.

In school, students have learnt about the Chinese New Year, looked at stain glass windows and the importance of being healthy. Whereas those students learning remotely engaged with the help and support of their families in a food technology lesson, which students labelled the Madagascar Bake Off! Competition was tough and staff saw some very tasty looking cakes.

Kenya

This week in Kenya class, we have been continuing with working on our times tables. We have been practising on our 3x, 4x and 6x table both on TTRockstar and through online games during our zoom sessions. We have had some more practices on writing out our number sentences in different ways using both multiplications and divisions. In English, we have looked at the eight basic spelling rules for plural nouns and examples of exception words of these rules. We are continuing with Holes in our reading sessions. We have now completed the first part of the book. We have found out lots of links between the past, the present and how the stories are parallel in many ways. We have been practising on our writing skills by writing an entry from Kate Barlow's diary, using what we know about Kate's experiences. During our after sessions, we enjoyed playing Kahoot quizzes on the topics we have been doing. This helps us to consolidate our learning and it is really fun and interactive. We also did other fun quizzes such as general knowledge quizzes and quizzes about our interests.

Seychelles

It seems to have been a busy week. In English, the class carried on with the next instalment of the excellent 'The Iron Man' by Ted Hughes. We shared the reading. It was an absolute pleasure to hear so many of the students read, to see them happy to give it a go even if some of the words seemed tricky. We used the book as basis for looking at verbs and adverbs and coming up with some phrases of our own. In Science, we continued thinking about life and using our reasoning skills to explain why we thought something was alive, has been alive or never alive. In Lifeskills, some of were

left scratching our heads thinking about where we lived and knowing our own address with the students asked to practice and remember this vital bit of information. This led into looking at the role of various Emergency Services and what to do in different scenarios. The students went on to research and feedback about an emergency service.

Thursday, we talked about art and how at times when people have time on their hands they have gone on to produce fantastic creative work. We asked the pupils to do something creative - make, paint, build, draw, sculpt whatever. We will see what they come with....

Fiji

Fiji class have had an excellent week of learning. Unfortunately, our zone closed this week and so all students in Fiji class have moved to remote learning. We have used this week to all catch up and have some social time on our zooms. We celebrated Alex's birthday, which was lovely. We have then continued with Multiplication and division in Maths. Students have used remainders this week and practiced how to convert a remainder to a fraction and a decimal depending on what the most appropriate answer is. In English, we have continued to read Georges Marvellous Medicine. Students have been super shocked to find out what has happened the Grandma. In Geography, we have looked at our local area and different transport routes to and from school. We all agreed this is useful in case of an emergency. We finished our week off with our weekly roundup Kahoot. Fiji class are so competitive and it is usually an eventful end to the week! We are really looking forward to our TTRockstars battle next week with Fiji class!

Have a wonderful weekend everyone!

Cape Verde

English Zoom on Monday involved us looking at Robert Burns & his poems, we created our own acrostic poem at home based on our weekend news, we had a lovely social zoom in the afternoon it was lovely to see all the children so happy. We really enjoyed what was left of the snow in the outdoors too! On Tuesday, we focused on wellbeing and shared things that were important to us. The children were able to create an infographic on their computers/tablets and sent it to Mrs Leyland. On Wednesday we created a poster to show the younger years how to stay safe online ahead of internet safety day on the 9th of Feb. Thursday had a focus on recycling utilising Jam board we were so impressed with all of the environmentally friendly houses! Friday, we enjoyed a fun general knowledge Kahoot!

Key Stage News and Updates

Key Stage 4

Key Stage Leader: Mr Lyons

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TRANSITION:

For information: Links to open sessions at Hugh Baird College and Myerscough college for September.

<https://www.hughbaird.ac.uk/events>

<https://www.myerscough.ac.uk/whats-on/online-course-advice-morning-february/>

Australia

It has been a good challenging week of learning for Class Australia as we have continued our remote learning. In English, we have been working on our SPAG (spelling, punctuation and grammar). We did this by writing an email about environmental issues in our local area and by writing a letter of complaint about a faulty television that we bought. In Maths, we have been stretching our learning by exploring how to calculate the perimeter and area of increasingly complex shapes. We are really proud of how so many of our Class Australia students have been taking part in online learning, making good contributions to the sessions and working well at home. Well done Class Australia.

Samoa

We have been learning about how to find the perimeter of shapes in Maths. The pupils are now experts at finding the perimeter of a square. In ICT, the pupils were tasked with being creative and making their own Italian restaurant Menu or creating a poster for a Romeo and Juliet play. The menus and posters looked great guys!

In life skills, we have previously looked at keeping the classroom tidy and cleaning, this week we looked at keeping their house tidy and clean. They were able to identify what needs cleaning regularly in different rooms and what supplies they may need.

In English we have been looking at adverbs, the pupils were tasked with identifying the adverbs in a range of sentences, and then to create their own sentences with adverbs in. In Citizenship, we talked about our own role models and what qualities a good role model have. The pupils then had to design their own hero, identifying the characteristics they have. We used the great Christopher Reeve as an example for this.

We have looked at Judaism and learnt about Abraham and Moses. The pupils then came up with a list of their own 10 commandments. The pupils also have filled out a Career and Aspiration plan to help with their future prospects after KS4.

We have had another amazing week working from home. Keep up the good work Samoa!

Samoa Class Team 😊

Papua New Guinea

This week on remote learning, PNG have looked at and completed many tasks. Firstly, the class have continued to look at shapes in Maths by looking at the properties of shapes. Next, PNG have carried on working through ICT tasks that link to their functional skills qualification. For English, the students have delved more deeply into the main characters of 'Blood Brothers' and have created character descriptions for the likes of 'Mickey' and 'Edward'. As well as this, in Life Skills, the students planned how they would get to a specific destination using public transport, recognized potential situations or scenarios that they made need to adapt to when travelling and identified who would their In Case of Emergency Contact be. Finally, as Holocaust Memorial Day took place this week it was important as a class to remember those who had witnessed and experienced the atrocities that took place during WWII. To do this, we listened to real life experiences of Jewish people who had suffered under Nazi rule and watched an adaptation of the life of Anne Frank.

New Zealand

New Zealand have come together on Zoom this week and looked at Functional Skills English, particularly their letter writing skills. Students have been working on the structure of a "letter of complaint" about a faulty television set, a skill that is sure to come in handy in the future! Wednesday was Holocaust Memorial Day, and we developed our understanding of why 27th January was picked to remember this tragic period in world history. We also spent time looking at the short life of Anne Frank and the huge impact she had on the world with her writing. Students have also looked at the skills they are developing for the world of work and researched, different colleges offering courses of interest to them. Well done everyone, a really productive and interesting week for us all.

Tasmania

This week in Tasmania class, we have been doing both in school and at home learning. We continued to work on our birdhouses and bug hotels by making prototypes out of cardboard so we could measure out and decide on what our final designs will look like. We also started to plan out our participation in the Big Bird Watch of 2021. At the end of the month we will be taking to the school grounds to gather information about the birds that we spot. We have some bird experts in Tasmania class so are very excited to send off our results to the RSPB. We also had some fun out in the snow. Students enjoyed making snowballs to throw at our Teaching Assistants!

Key Stage News and Updates

Key Stage 5

Key Stage Leader: Mr Ryan Mason

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TRANSITION:

For information – Links to open sessions at Hugh Baird College and Myerscough college for September.

<https://www.hughbaird.ac.uk/events>

<https://www.myerscough.ac.uk/whats-on/online-course-advice-morning-february/>

Christmas Island and Malawi

This week in KS5, we have been working on our English skills. Our students have been learning how to form and use compound sentences as well as using them in context. Our students have also been building their employability skills, learning how to self-evaluate our personal skills and qualities. We have also been identifying our weaknesses and working out how we can develop our weak spots.

Supported Interns

Over the last few weeks, we have welcomed our three supported interns into the workplace. It has been a pleasure to support them and observe how they are fitting into their new roles.

Liam is working with the facilities team and has, so far, impressed his line manager, Darren, with how keen he is to learn and his determination to keep the garage tidy!! Liam has also been very flexible in this thinking by stepping into the role(s) of staff who have unfortunately had to isolate and has embraced this as an opportunity to develop new skills.

Aiden has taken the seat alongside our very own Jennie Shipley in the IT department. Jennie has tasked Aiden with the unenviable task of updating every laptop/pc and tablet in the school. Aiden has shown resilience and patience with task and is diligently working his way through a very long list!

Our third intern, Adam, is working alongside the catering team which can be a busy and stressful environment. Adam has proven that he can remain calm under pressure and heat! Adam has also been working remotely and has completed an on line Food Hygiene course, which could enable him to work towards helping prepare the lunches. Well done to all three.

Data Protection Lead

Mrs Kim Adair

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January is a good time to review your practice and to ensure that you are up to date with relevant data protection legislation.

- Do make sure that you are clear about why you are holding personal data and how much you are holding.
- All records should be accurate, relevant and still required for the purpose for which they were obtained. Keep this under regular review!
- Do Spring clean, practice data minimisation and dispose securely of any data that you no longer need. This will help you to comply with all aspects of the Data Protection Act (DPA)
- Ensure your devices are all password protected.

When you are finished using your computer or laptop, power it off. Leaving computing devices on, and most often, connected to the Internet, opens the door for rogue attacks. "Leaving your computer connected to the Internet when it's not in use gives scammers 24/7 access to install malware and commit cybercrimes. To be safe, turn off your computer when it is not in use.

Happy Birthday!



Patrice for the 31 January

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



Students of the Week 19

Early Years and KS1		
Ireland	Rhys	for being brave at the hospital
Wales	Layal	for taking part in Zoom sessions
Nurture Provision		
Spain	Jack	for always showing up for Zoom and sending us great photos of all his activities!
Cape Verde	Ruben	for OUTSTANDING home learning
Tasmania	Jessica	for her creative home learning
Key Stage 2		
Italy	Jack	for having a positive attitude in Class
Portugal	Riley	for taking part in the zoom sessions every day
France	Maxi	for being kind and helpful
Canada	Faye	for completing lots of work at home
USA	Alfie	for attending every single Zoom session, contributing to our discussions so enthusiastically and working so hard to complete each task that we set. Alfie has worked so brilliantly, and definitely deserves recognition - well done!
Key Stage 3		
Brazil	Charlie	for having an excellent attitude towards remote learning and completing all of his activities
Peru	Sonny	We have chosen Sonny as he hasn't liked attending the zoom sessions as they can be a little overwhelming. However, Sonny has shown a lot of enthusiasm, resilience and determination this week and has tried joining and taking part in some of our sessions. Well done and keep up the good work!
Mozambique	Abbie	For working really hard in class on her times tables and for being really brave getting her immunisation!
Botswana	Ciaran	for his engagement in the zoom sessions and being very knowledgeable and sharing great ideas
Madagascar	Royle	for his continued hard work, especially in Maths
Kenya	Mason	for excellent effort and 100% engagement on remote learning
Seychelles	Lewis	for being very helpful at home when he was really needed
Fiji	Jacob	for being a superstar this week. Even though he is under the weather he has logged on every single zoom and completed all of the tasks set. Well done Jacob
Key Stage 4		
Australia	Liam	for working well, sending in work and making good contributions on zoom
Papua New Guinea	Paul	for always engaging on zoom and working hard
New Zealand	Nathan	Nathan has made a supreme effort to engage fully with our online Zoom learning and has 100% attendance. He has successfully completed the tasks set every day. Huge congratulations Nathan!
Samoa	Lily	for being so proactive with her home learning
Key Stage 5		
Malawi	Sean	for engaging in ZOOM lessons
Christmas Island	Joe	for his dedication and engagement in the remote learning sessions. He has worked very hard this week and all of his class staff are very proud of him

Week 19 Photos









