

ABBOT'S LEA SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mrs Ania Hildrey, M.Ed, B.Ed(Hons), NPQH

4 March 2021



Dear Families

Ref: Full re-opening of Abbot's Lea School

I hope that this letter finds you and your families well. We are very much looking forward to welcoming all students back to school on Monday, 8 March 2021 and thank you for all your support during the past months of the blended learning operation.

Upon all students' return, we will continue to follow all governmental guidance, in line with Liverpool City Council as our maintaining local authority and Public Health England.

In doing so, we remain fully committed to ensuring the wellbeing and safety of our students, staff and the whole school community, whilst resuming as normal teaching and learning routines as possible and helping the students adjust to the full time school attendance.

Space, hands, face

We will continue to promote the basic infection control measures, including social distancing, exemplary hand hygiene and face coverings when outside of one's bubble.

We accept that most students at Abbot's Lea School might struggle with the social distancing and the wearing of face masks and so, we will continue to apply additional control measures which are environmental.

Ventilation

All rooms will be well-ventilated and, with the warmer weather ahead, this should not cause any concerns or discomfort to the students.

School will be divided into 6 Zones and, within those, bubbles:

- Zone 1 – The House (each office/room/area is a self-contained bubble);
- Zone 2 – Christmas Island and Malawi (2 bubbles);
- Zone 3 – Spain, Italy, Wales, Ireland, Portugal, France (6 bubbles);
- Zone 4 – Canada, USA, Brazil, Peru (4 bubbles);
- Zone 5 – Mozambique, Botswana, Madagascar, Kenya, Seychelles, Cape Verde (6 bubbles);
- Zone 6 – Tasmania, Samoa, Papua New Guinea, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji (6 bubbles).

Transport

With all 272 students and nearly 150 staff onsite from next week, we will work hard to manage students' arrival and departure in a way that is safe and in line with the Covid-19 guidelines.

As such, all students will arrive at 8:30am and will be collected by the staff from their transport, with the end of the school day collection staggered to provide safe and calm departure:

	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6
Day starts	8.30	8.30	8.30	8.30	8.30
Transport pick up	2.30	2.15	2.25	2.25	2.15

We ask that families who transport their children in their vehicles do not park in the staff car park but instead join the transport queue so that we can ensure safe and steady flow of the disembarking.

Visitors

We will continue to restrict visitors, including families, to the school site and we will conduct all meetings, where possible, remotely via Zoom (or other preferred platforms).

Lunches and snacks

We will provide all snacks and lunches to the students opting for the school-based provision, whilst respecting students who wish to bring their own packed lunch to do so. During snack and lunch times students will stay in their bubbles. Weather permitting, some picnics during snack time may take place, too.

Please can we ask for your assistance with the promotion of healthy foods and drinks and of our nut-free operation (due to many students suffering with nut allergies).

Uniform

Students are expected to wear their full school uniform (winter or summer options are permitted). Please note previous communication regarding uniform flexibility in case your child has outgrown their only uniform set - donations to the school of such outgrown items are welcome and our nearly-new second-hand uniform shop is available to all families, where you can purchase any item for just £1. All items will have been washed (unless donated new with tags) and we will only sell items which we believe to be in very good condition. Please contact our Family Adviser, Lisa Sharpe on lisa.sharpe@abbotsleaschool.co.uk

On the days when the students have PE lessons, they must attend in their PE kits (suitable for the weather, which remains changeable at present). Please note: strictly no sports club/football/rugby/other sport kits are permitted.

Please find updated timetable of PE days for each Bubble (class):

	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6
Days the students will need PE Kits	Friday Malawi Christmas Island	Monday France Portugal Tuesday Spain Italy Thursday Ireland Wales	Tuesday Canada USA Thursday Peru Brazil	Monday Seychelles Mozambique Wednesday Botswana Cape Verde Friday Kenya Madagascar	Wednesday PNG Australia Samoa New Zealand Fiji Tasmania

Please note that for the week commencing 8 March and 15 March 2021 most of the PE activities might be outdoors due to the school hall being used as a Covid-19 testing centre for the secondary aged students and staff. Therefore, all students must wear suitable footwear and outerwear on their PE days.

Covid-19 testing – students, staff, families and support bubble members

All staff are offered regular Covid-19 testing and from next week, this will include home-based testing kits which we are currently rolling out.

Secondary aged students will be offered on-site tests provided by the clinical team who will be based on site (in our main school hall) offering lateral flow testing to any student age 16+ who consents to it and any student under the age of 16 whose parents have consented to the test.

After 3 negative on-site tests (over the period of two weeks, beginning 8 March 2021), we will be rolling out home-based testing kits for those students. Information and consent forms have been sent to all secondary-aged students' families via Parentmail and the information can also be found on our website:

<http://www.abbotsleaschool.co.uk/families/parent-information/>

Please note that, in my professional capacity as the specialist school's Headteacher, I am acutely aware of the fact that some students will only engage with home-based testing. If, therefore, you do not consent to their testing on site but do consent to their testing at home, please make this explicit on the consent form, and email kim.adair@abbotsleaschool.co.uk to register this selective consent. We will respect it and send home-testing kits as soon as we can.

Any student in this position is still expected to arrive at school on Monday, 8 March 2021 and will not, at any point, be disadvantaged by their personal needs.

Hot off the press is the letter I attach to this one, from Director of Children's Services and Director of Public Health Liverpool, advising families of home-based testing kits for families

and any members of the support bubble of a school-aged child. I strongly encourage you to please engage with this home-based testing opportunity. I add that this is not coordinated by our school in any way and so, you should follow the guidance within the letter to collect or order for delivery, the relevant kits. Please do share the information with your families and support bubbles, as you see fit.

Covid-19 vaccinations for staff

Over the past few months, we have been working closely with the Liverpool Public Health team and were delighted when, earlier this year, the frontline staff working in Liverpool special schools were selected for the Covid-19 vaccinations.

I am pleased to reassure you that a majority of staff have engaged in the vaccination programme and through that, we hope to be able to better cope with any possible side effects of infection but also to reduce the risk of its transmission, thereby protecting our school community further.

Infection response

Despite all of the joy of returning and all of the positive control measures which put us in a strong position to provide as safe and as reliable service as possible, we must also stay realistic: we are still in the middle of the pandemic and so, we do anticipate positive Covid-19 tests to affect our school community in the coming weeks.

If a student shows symptoms of Covid-19 whilst at school or tests positive using the on-site testing (for secondary students taking part in the onsite testing only), they will be isolated from their group and we will be contacting you to arrange a swift collection from school as soon as possible.

If the test proves positive, we will conduct Track and Trace process and send those affected to self-isolate for 10 days from the day after the last contact.

Relevant guidance can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

Reporting of Covid-19 absence

You are asked to report any suspected cases, positive cases of self-isolation by association with a close contact to: covid@abbotsleaschool.co.uk

End of Term 4 arrangements

Please note that this will prove to be a very short period of on-site attendance for those returning next week.

Our Term 4 ends on Friday, 26 March 2021. Please note that that day, the school will close at 1pm, with the following collection times:

	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6
Day starts	8.30	8.30	8.30	8.30	8.30
Transport pick up	1pm	12:45pm	12:55pm	12:55pm	12:45pm

Term 5 starts on Monday, 12 April 2021 at 8:30am and I will write to you again in the last week of Term 4 to advise of any changes to the school's operation, if needed.

My team and I are really looking forward to welcoming you all back next week – there is nothing better than a return to the full school life!

If you need any clarification of any of the above information, please feel free to email me directly and I will either answer your question or direct it to the relevant team: headteacher@abbotsleaschool.co.uk

I personally wish to pay the tribute to all of the families who have supported their children with the home-based learning – it is a very difficult task and you are all truly amazing! Thank you!

Yours sincerely



Mrs A Hildrey
Headteacher