



Head's Weekly Newsletter

Week 16



Message from the Headteacher

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

Dear Students, Families, Colleagues and Friends

Week 16 – the last week of term – was always going to be brief, but it was cut short on Monday afternoon due to the water supply emergency. Whilst some students told me they were delighted with my decision to close the school (!), others were genuinely sad that some of the planned festive celebrations has been lost. I am very sorry about that. I also recognise that any emergency closure of the school puts pressure on families and I apologise for any inconvenience caused. Whilst the mains water has been re-connected today, we now have a burst hot water system and so, it appears that the decision to close today was, indeed, the right one to take. Thank you for your patience, understanding and support.

We, as the staff team have continued to work this week, albeit with some flexi time and remote working and I guess in such situations any professional “admin” time is the cloud’s silver lining – we have managed to use the time very effectively and got lots done, with the team feeling better able to switch off, knowing that they have managed to clear the backlog of all of the jobs put on hold during the very busy end of term. Thank you for your hard work and flexibility.

As the term comes to an end, so does the calendar year. The year 2022 has certainly provided us all with a lot of reflections. Global landscape has changed and so did the national policy surrounding schools and other sectors. Our school, too, has undergone transformations in many of its working practices – some as part of the previously planned developments and others as a result of last year’s inspection recommendations. All in all, as is always the case – the key to success, and our only moral compass here at Abbot’s Lea School, is to **always do the best for our students and never give up!**

I thank you all for this total commitment, fierce resolve and optimism - education truly is the key to unlocking all of our potential!

I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year 2023!

Mrs A Hildrey
Headteacher

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I have always practised an ‘open door’ policy and so I really encourage you to take advantage of this – please contact me whenever issues arise – and whilst I have had to put a temporary stop to my open invitation for you to just come in to say ‘hello’, I continue to welcome direct communication via my personal email address: headteacher@abbotsleaschool.co.uk

Key Diary Dates

School Year Calendar

Term Dates for next academic year:

<http://www.abbotsleaschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Term-dates-2023-24.pdf>



Students' school day
9:00am - 3:00pm

Term 1

1 – 2 September – INSET

5 September – students return

Ends: 21 October 2022 at 3pm

Half term: Monday 24 to Friday 28 October

Term 2

31 October – students return

Ends: 21 December 2022 at 1pm

Christmas break: Thursday 22 December to Tuesday 3 January 2023

Term 3

4 January – students return

Ends: 10 February 2023 at 3pm

Half term: Monday 13 to Friday 17 February 2023

Term 4

20 February – students start

Ends: Friday 31 March 2023 at 1pm

Easter break: Monday 3 to Friday 14 April 2023

Term 5

17 April – students return

May day: Monday 1 May

Ends: Friday, 26 May 2023 at 3pm

Half term: Monday 29 May to Friday 2 June 2023

Term 6

5 June – students return

30 June – School Leavers' Date

7 July – Transition INSET

10-14 Transition Week

Ends: 14 July 2023 at 1pm

17-18 July – INSET (worked in lieu as twilights throughout the year)

Key Diary Dates

Key Diary Dates for Term 3 (4.1.2023-10.2.2023)

Date	Activity	Notes
Wednesday 4 January	School reopens for students	
Wednesday 4 January	Margaret Bryce Scholarship Awards launch	This is a competition for all of our secondary students. The details will be shared with all students on that day.
Thursday 5 January	Healthy Child Programme	The Health Team will show a short video to Year 11 and 13 students about the school health offer and website
Friday 6 January	Weekly open assemblies led by Mrs Tobin (Deputy Headteacher) and coffee morning Assembly times: 9.30 - 10 KS4 and 5 10.05 – 10.35 – Primary 10.40 – 11.10 – KS3 Coffee morning: 9.30 – 11am	We encourage families to attend where they are able. If there is any topic you would like to hear about or contribute to during the coffee mornings, please advise Dr Sara Mursic at Sara.Mursic@abbotsleaschool.co.uk
Monday 9 January – Friday 13 January	Family survey	We welcome you sharing your thoughts, views and suggestions with us. A survey link will be sent to you via Parentmail
Friday 13 January	Schools 5 A-side Boys' Football Tournament	Any secondary students who would like to take part should share their interest with Mr Hodgson or Mr Lyons. Class teams will ask students to share their interest when we return in January The tournament is at Greenbank Sports Academy - 10.30am to 2.30pm.
Friday 13 January	World Religion Day	Class teams will be learning about different religions and practices from around the world
Friday 13 January	Weekly open assemblies led by Mrs Tobin (Deputy Headteacher) and coffee morning Assembly times: 9.30 - 10 KS4 and 5 10.05 – 10.35 – Primary 10.40 – 11.10 – KS3 Coffee morning: 9.30 – 11am	We encourage families to attend where they are able. If there is any topic you would like to hear about or contribute to during the coffee mornings, please advise Dr Sara Mursic at Sara.Mursic@abbotsleaschool.co.uk

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Key Diary Dates

Tuesday 17 January	Family training session	<p>Puberty, Relationships and Sexuality Puberty can be daunting for any teen. Physical changes, rapidly changing hormones, new routines for hygiene, and mood swings place added stress on our teens with autism. It is important to start preparing yourself and your child for these changes prior to the onset of puberty. This training aims to offer you and your teen some suggestions for dealing with puberty, hygiene, mood swings, relationships and sexuality.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12:00PM – registration: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85858732235 06:00PM – registration: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85858732235
Friday 20 January	Chinese New Year Celebration	Class teams will be celebrating Chinese New Year will a variety of activities
Friday 20 January	Weekly open assemblies led by Mrs Tobin (Deputy Headteacher) and coffee morning Assembly times: 9.30 - 10 KS4 and 5 10.05 – 10.35 – Primary 10.40 – 11.10 – KS3 Coffee morning: 9.30 – 11am	We encourage families to attend where they are able. If there is any topic you would like to hear about or contribute to during the coffee mornings, please advise Dr Sara Mursic at Sara.Mursic@abbotsleaschool.co.uk
Monday 23 January – Friday 3 February	KS4 swimming	Key Stage 4 students will have swimming lessons during this fortnight. The class team will advise you as to your child's day for swimming and what they need
Friday 27 January	Girls' Football Tournament	Any secondary students who would like to take part should share their interest with Mr Hodgson or Mr Lyons. Class teams will ask students to share their interest when we return in January The tournament is at Greenbank Sports Academy - 10.30am to 2.30pm.
Friday 27 January	Weekly open assemblies led by Mrs Tobin (Deputy Headteacher) and coffee morning	We encourage families to attend where they are able. If there is any topic you would like to hear about or contribute to during the coffee mornings, please advise Dr Sara Mursic at Sara.Mursic@abbotsleaschool.co.uk

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Key Diary Dates

	<p>Assembly times: 9.30 - 10 KS4 and 5 10.05 – 10.35 – Primary 10.40 – 11.10 – KS3</p> <p>Coffee morning: 9.30 – 11am</p>	
Monday 30 January	Healthy Child Programme	The students in Year 9 will complete a health questionnaire with the school Health Team
Friday 3 February	<p>Weekly open assemblies led by Mrs Tobin (Deputy Headteacher) and coffee morning</p> <p>Assembly times: 9.30 - 10 KS4 and 5 10.05 – 10.35 – Primary 10.40 – 11.10 – KS3</p> <p>Coffee morning: 9.30 – 11am</p>	We encourage families to attend where they are able. If there is any topic you would like to hear about or contribute to during the coffee mornings, please advise Dr Sara Mursic at Sara.Mursic@abbotsleaschool.co.uk
Monday 6 February – Friday 10 February	Children's Mental Health Awareness Week (Class Choice)	Class teams will be running suitably pitched activities in classes which will enhance our constant commitment to supporting children's mental health
Monday 6 February – Friday 10 February	National Apprenticeship Week	The students will be learning about apprenticeships and will have chance to talk to employees who followed this route
Wednesday 8 February	Research Cafe	<p>Voices of Inclusion – Dr Clare Woolhouse Join us in a discussion about children and young people and the ways we are exploring their experiences of inclusive education.</p> <p>02:00 PM – registration: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMvcu-gqz8sEtHn22wyz3g_3dO7_QdtR1A8</p>
Thursday 9 February	Merseyside Schools Ten Pin Bowling Event	Any secondary students who would like to take part should share their interest with Mr Hodgson or Mr Lyons. Class teams will ask students to share their interest when we return in January. The event will take place 10.30am to 1pm Hollywood Bowl, Edge Lane
Thursday 9 February	History Theatre Workshop KS3	Key Stage 3 will be treated to a dramatic workshop to enhance their history learning

Key Diary Dates

Friday 10 February	Valentine's Day - Bring A Loved One To Lunch	There will be no assembly this week as we prepare to welcome you for lunch. Details will be shared when we return in January
Friday 10 February	Last day of school for students	School closes at 3pm for the February half term break and opens again on Monday 20 February

Assemblies

Assemblies are facilitated by Mrs Tobin (Deputy Headteacher.) However, each week a different person or class will lead the assembly. When your child's class leads the assembly, their teacher will contact you in advance to let you know.

Weekly Attendance Reports

There is clear evidence that strong attendance at school links to strong educational outcomes for students. Mrs Hildrey set out in her letter last week the processes regarding student attendance. Each Friday you will be sent your child's attendance data so that you can support the school in ensuring it remains as close to 100% as possible.

Student Progress Reports

You will receive a mid-term progress report (21 February 2023) and an end of year report (5 July 2023) for you child. This report will summarise progress in all areas of the curriculum as well as providing a summary of the qualities your child displays at school.

Next Week's Menu

Next Week's Men



Primary Lunch Menu



Week Commencing 02/01/23

Week 1	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Main Meal We provide a variety of seasonal hot and cold dishes for children to freely choose from			Homemade Vegetable Lasagne served with Fresh Salad and Crusty Bread	Homemade Cumberland Sausage Slice served with Wedges and Beans	Fish Fingers or Fish Pie Served with Chips and Garden Peas
Alternative Jacket potatoes with tuna and other fillings available daily			Asian Noodles	Cheese and Tomato Panini	Veggie Sausage Roll
Homemade Soup			Chef Choice	Chef Choice	Chef Choice
Starchy Food Various bread choices available			Pasta sheet	Wedges	Chips
Vegetables Salad Bar with Hummus			Fresh salads	Beans	Garden Peas
Dessert Fresh fruit, selection of low-fat yoghurts and homemade puddings available every lunch time			Fresh Fruit Salad Yoghurts	Marble Cake Fresh Fruit	Cheese and Crackers Mixed Flavour Yoghurts

Ask for daily chef specials

All our meat is sourced from local suppliers, we use free range eggs and organic flour where possible. All our fruit and vegetables are locally sourced where possible. Halal options available.

Food For Thought is a not-for-profit school meals company owned by it's partner schools. Any surplus is reinvested in the company or returned to its member schools.

GOOD FOOD CULTURE

Please, inform the school about any known allergies or dietary requirements for your child. You can do that by sharing information with the class team or by calling the school office. Thank you

Useful Information and Resources

Dear all,

In the New Year, we will follow the same structure for publically available events as before – each term there is one family training topic covered and one live discussion with a researcher to bring forward innovative ideas.

These events are free to attend and available for everyone, so feel free to share and/or register.

I am aware that many of our staff will be working, so all recordings will be made available shortly after on our website.

In term 3, the events are as follows:

Family training (online)

Puberty, Relationships and Sexuality

Puberty can be daunting for any teen. Physical changes, rapidly changing hormones, new routines for hygiene, and mood swings place added stress on our teens with autism. It is important to start preparing yourself and your child for these changes prior to the onset of puberty. This training aims to offer you and your teen some suggestions for dealing with puberty, hygiene, mood swings, relationships and sexuality.

Jan 17, 2023 12:00 PM – registration:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMtfuGppjoiGNDPQxcHu5mF5BbyrBIJZo-E>

• 06:00 PM – registration:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcuceyvqDsoGNJr7DAuKh58BqMn2dqi_g0N



The poster is split into two vertical panels. The left panel has a dark blue background with white and yellow text. The right panel has a yellow background with a dark blue border and features the school crest at the top, followed by two circular portraits of speakers with their names and titles below them.

Family Training
PUBERTY, RELATIONSHIPS AND SEXUALITY

Adolescence can be a very difficult time for everyone. In this session, we discuss the main aspects of puberty, relationships and sexuality that young people find difficult to cope with, along with support strategies that families can use to help their teens through this transition.

🕒 EARLY SESSION AT 12 PM
🕒 LATE SESSION AT 6 PM
📅 17 JANUARY 2023

FREE REGISTRATION
ONLINE VIA ZOOM

ABBOTS LEA SCHOOL
EST. 1912

OLIVIA IZZO
Child Psychotherapist

SARA MURŠIĆ
Head of Autism Research and Development

Useful Information and Resources

Research café (online)

Voices of Inclusion – Dr Clare Woolhouse

Join us in a discussion about children and young people and the ways we are exploring their experiences of inclusive education.

Feb 8, 2023

2:00 PM – registration: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMvCu-gqz8sEtHn22wyz3g_3dO7_QdtR1A8

The poster is for a research café event. At the top left, it says 'Research café' and 'VOICES OF INCLUSION' in large, bold letters. To the right is the Abbots Lea School crest, which includes the text 'ABBOTS LEA SCHOOL' and 'EST. 1952'. Below the title, there is a short description: 'Join us in a discussion about children and young people and the ways we are exploring their experiences of inclusive education.' The event details are listed with icons: a calendar icon for '8 FEBRUARY 2023', a clock icon for 'FROM 3 PM TO 4 PM (BST)', and a location pin icon for 'ONLINE VIA ZOOM'. The host information is presented with circular portraits: 'Your host: DR CLARE WOOLHOUSE' (with a note that she is a Reader in Education at Edge Hill University) and 'DR SARA MURŠIĆ' (Head of Autism Research and Development). A yellow button at the bottom right says 'FREE REGISTRATION'.

You can watch recordings of our previous events on our website: <http://www.abbotsleaschool.co.uk/research/als-research-events/>

Dr Sara Muršić

Head of Autism Research and Development