



# Head's Weekly Newsletter

## Week 32



### Message from the Headteacher

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

Dear Students, Families, Colleagues and Friends

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

I am so delighted to be writing to you today – this week was so wonderful here at Abbot's Lea School. Even though it was a short week, a lot has happened across the five key stages and the learning opportunities created by the staff were simply marvellous!

Today's assemblies culminated the week's experiences in reflections on the important current affairs and matters close to our hearts: from the celebration of individual successes (now a permanent feature of every week's assemblies), through the focus on mental health and wellbeing, all the way to the Eurovision taking place in our very own city at present.

Our students are amazing, insightful, kind, thoughtful, considerate and highly reflective. I could not be prouder of them – on the good days and the bad – and they inspire me and all of the staff at our school to live by our Golden Rules of:

1. Be here. Every day.
2. Work hard and be nice
3. Never give up on yourself and others
4. Stay positive and be happy!

Equally, the team of ALS are just "something else".... In a good way, of course. In the best way, in fact! They are completely child-centred, value-led, highly skilled and utterly devoted to helping transform our young people's lives.

Having hosted a visit from our School Improvement Partner (SIP) today, it was very heart-warming and positively affirming to hear feedback from his own professional quality assurance of our work matched my own. Based on the observations and meetings held with staff, students as well as chats with families joining us for the weekly open assemblies, he concluded that the school is a brilliant place for the students, whose behaviour in school is impressive, the education and care provided by the staff exemplary and the school's leadership strong.

I thank you all for making it so and let's continue developing our school to be the best place to be!

Wishing you a very happy and health weekend,

Mrs A Hildrey  
Headteacher

### Contents

Head's foreword  
Key Diary Dates  
Next week's menu  
News  
Students of the week  
Exams 2023  
Local offer

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](mailto: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 5

**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 5

Date	Activity	Notes
Tuesday 16 May	EYFS/KS1 swimming window opens	At some point between 2 May and 12 May, your EYFS/KS1 child will have a 4-day block of swimming lessons.
Thursday 18 May	Outdoor Learning Day	Our outdoor learning team will be creating some exciting activities for all classes to enjoy in our school grounds
Friday 19 May	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 <a href="mailto:Sara.Mursic@abbotsleaschool.co.uk">Sara.Mursic@abbotsleaschool.co.uk</a>
Monday 22 May	Great British Sandwich Week	Students will be learning about the history of the sandwich, as well as making their own yummy creations!
Tuesday 23 May	Autism Research Cafe	3-4pm (online via Zoom) <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82306096671">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82306096671</a>  In this session, we will discuss benefits of visual literacy, comic books and graphic novels for autistic minds. Join us to learn more about the natural connection of visual learners and comics.
Wednesday 24 May	Diversity in: History  Canada and Peru visit Central Library and have lunch and McDonalds	Students will learn about aspects of history and which amazing figures were behind some of our well-known historical events.
Friday 26 May	No assembly	No assembly or coffee morning
Friday 26 May	Own Clothes Day	Students may wear their own clothes should they wish. We ask in return for a donation of chocolate for our Summer Fair on 1 July 2023

# Key Diary Dates

## 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 have received a mid-term progress report and you will receive an end of year report (5 July 2023) for your child.

The reports summarise progress in all areas of the curriculum as well as providing a summary of the qualities your child displays at school.

If you have any questions on comments related to your child's progress at school, please contact Mrs Tobin on [deputy@abbotsleaschool.co.uk](mailto:deputy@abbotsleaschool.co.uk)

# Next Week's Menu

FOOD  
FOR  
THOUGHT

## Primary Lunch Menu



Week Commencing 15/05/23

Week 5 (National Vegetarian Week)	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Main Meal</b> We provide a variety of seasonal hot and cold dishes for children to freely choose from	Veggie Stir Fry served with Noodles and Spring Rolls	Veggie Burger in a Bun Served with Wedges and Beans	Veggie Sausage and Homemade Mashed Potato with Gravy and Peas	Quorn Mince Cottage Pie, served with Peas and Onion Gravy	Homemade Battered Fish with Chips and Minted Mushy Peas
<b>Alternative</b> Jacket potatoes with tuna and other fillings available daily	Tomato and Basil Pasta	Vegetable Biryani	Cheese and Tomato Panini	Homemade Cheese and Onion Quiche	Homemade Chip shop Curry Sauce with Basmati Rice
<b>Homemade Soup</b>	Chef Choice	Chinese Sweetcorn	Chef Choice	Chef Choice	Chef Choice
<b>Starchy Food</b> Various bread choices available	Noodles	Wedges	Mashed Potato	Mashed Potato	Chips
<b>Vegetables</b> Salad Bar with Hummus	Peppers	Beans	Peas	Onions	Mushy Peas
<b>Dessert</b> Fresh fruit, selection of low-fat yoghurts and homemade puddings available every lunch time	Apple and Oat Crumble with Pouring Cream  Fresh Fruit	Homemade Rice Pudding served with Strawberry Jam  Fresh Fruit	Iced Sponge Cake with Custard  Fresh Fruit	Fresh Fruit Salad  Yoghurts	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 its 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



## Ireland class



For more information on your child's progress, contact the class team directly. Our Key Stage Leaders and Mrs Tobin can tell you more about our curriculum, with all subject maps available on our website ([access here](#)).



## Wales class





## Italy class



For more information on your child's progress, contact the class team directly. Our Key Stage Leaders and Mrs Tobin can tell you more about our curriculum, with all subject maps available on our website ([access here](#)).





## Portugal class





## Spain class





## Canada class



# We made chicken burgers!

For more information on your child's progress, contact the class team directly. Our Key Stage Leaders and Mrs Tobin can tell you more about our curriculum, with all subject maps available on our website ([access here](#)).



## USA class





## Brazil class



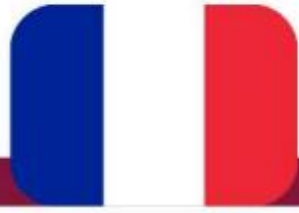
For more information on your child's progress, contact the class team directly. Our Key Stage Leaders and Mrs Tobin can tell you more about our curriculum, with all subject maps available on our website ([access here](#)).



## Peru class



For more information on your child's progress, contact the class team directly. Our Key Stage Leaders and Mrs Tobin can tell you more about our curriculum, with all subject maps available on our website ([access here](#)).



## France class



For more information on your child's progress, contact the class team directly. Our Key Stage Leaders and Mrs Tobin can tell you more about our curriculum, with all subject maps available on our website ([access here](#)).



## Mozambique class



For more information on your child's progress, contact the class team directly. Our Key Stage Leaders and Mrs Tobin can tell you more about our curriculum, with all subject maps available on our website ([access here](#)).





## Botswana class



For more information on your child's progress, contact the class team directly. Our Key Stage Leaders and Mrs Tobin can tell you more about our curriculum, with all subject maps available on our website ([access here](#)).



## Cape Verde class



For more information on your child's progress, contact the class team directly. Our Key Stage Leaders and Mrs Tobin can tell you more about our curriculum, with all subject maps available on our website ([access here](#)).



## Seychelles class



For more information on your child's progress, contact the class team directly. Our Key Stage Leaders and Mrs Tobin can tell you more about our curriculum, with all subject maps available on our website ([access here](#)).

# News

For more information on your child's progress, contact the class team directly. Our Key Stage Leaders and Mrs Tobin can tell you more about our curriculum, with all subject maps available on our website ([access here](#)).



## Madagascar class



For more information on your child's progress, contact the class team directly. Our Key Stage Leaders and Mrs Tobin can tell you more about our curriculum, with all subject maps available on our website ([access here](#)).



## Kenya class



For more information on your child's progress, contact the class team directly. Our Key Stage Leaders and Mrs Tobin can tell you more about our curriculum, with all subject maps available on our website ([access here](#)).



## Australia class



For more information on your child's progress, contact the class team directly. Our Key Stage Leaders and Mrs Tobin can tell you more about our curriculum, with all subject maps available on our website ([access here](#)).



## New Zealand class



For more information on your child's progress, contact the class team directly. Our Key Stage Leaders and Mrs Tobin can tell you more about our curriculum, with all subject maps available on our website ([access here](#)).





## Samoa class



For more information on your child's progress, contact the class team directly. Our Key Stage Leaders and Mrs Tobin can tell you more about our curriculum, with all subject maps available on our website ([access here](#)).



## Tasmania class



For more information on your child's progress, contact the class team directly. Our Key Stage Leaders and Mrs Tobin can tell you more about our curriculum, with all subject maps available on our website ([access here](#)).



## Malawi class



*you are*  
**AMAZING**





## Christmas Island class





## Papua New Guinea class



For more information on your child's progress, contact the class team directly. Our Key Stage Leaders and Mrs Tobin can tell you more about our curriculum, with all subject maps available on our website ([access here](#)).



## Fiji class



## Mrs Keri Myers School Business Manager



I am delighted to write to you to introduce myself as the school's newly promoted School Business Manager.

I am very much looking forward to being part of the Strategic Leadership Team (SLT).

I have loved every minute of my twelve years at our school and I have worked in various roles, starting as an Administrator in ALMA, then an HR, Finance and Payroll Officer and most recently as the school's Office Manager. In the latter post, I was a member of Operational Leadership Team (OLT) and so, I have worked closely with fellow leaders.

I am extremely proud of what we have achieved as a team at Abbot's Lea, and I remain determined to ensure that our school goes from strength to strength. I am keen on developing a whole school community which thrives on a shared vision of excellence, promotes mutual respect and values positive relationships.

With this in mind, I would like to invite any of our students' families who wish to be more involved in the life of the school to join our Parent-Teacher Association (PTA), which we call FAB (Friends of Abbot's Lea). I would also like to draw your attention to the Parent Governor vacancy which is subject to election.

We are about to commence fundraising for next year's residential trips for our students, and we would love our families to help plan the Summer Fair which will take place on Saturday, 1 July 2023 here on the school grounds.

If you have some time to spare and would like to get involved, please contact me on or pop along to the weekly Coffee Morning each Friday, 9:30-11am.

I look forward to meeting you, getting to know you and supporting you, as well as welcoming your support.

Kind regards

Mrs Keri Myers  
School Business Manager  
E: [keri.myers@abbotsleaschool.co.uk](mailto:keri.myers@abbotsleaschool.co.uk)



## ABBOT'S LEA SCHOOL

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



Summer 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

We are the Head Boy and the Head Girl of Abbot's Lea School – a truly amazing school for students aged 3-19 with Autism.

Our job as Head Students is to work with our Headteacher, Mrs Hildrey, to make Abbot's Lea the best specialist school in the world!

As you may be aware, schools funding is a problem and so, even though Mrs Hildrey and the Governing Body manage our school budget really well, there is hardly any "spare" cash for things that we would love to experience before we leave school.

One of such opportunities is travel. Not many of us have ever had a chance to travel away from home and so, as Head Students this year, we are determined to leave our own legacy by creating a chance for all students (who wish to) to go on at least one residential trip in their school lifetime.

To achieve this mission, we need all the help we can get. We have organised a Summer Fair for Saturday, 1 July 2023 (12:00-15:00) here at our school grounds. This will be day of fun for all of the students, staff, families and the local community. It will also be a day of raising funds for the first-ever residential trips for every student who wishes to attend it!

We are hoping you can help by:

1. Making a money donation – anything you can spare will help!
2. Making an item donation – for the tombola or auction – anything from chocolate, cosmetics sets, new toys, bottles of alcohol, tickets to a concert, game or event, signed football shirts, any other valuables, etc
3. Making a donation of a voucher for a service or experience – a hairdressers/barbers, nail artists, beauticians, restaurant or café meals, car service, hotel stay, spa break, etc
4. Volunteering to help run the Summer Fair
5. Attend with your family and friends to spend money on the day!

Every penny will go towards this fundraising effort and we want you to know that, by getting involved, you would directly transform the lives of your people with complex needs.

We would love to have you onboard – if you can help, please contact:

[reception@abbotsleaschool.co.uk](mailto:reception@abbotsleaschool.co.uk)

Yours faithfully

Head Boy



Head Girl





# Student of the Week

## Student of the Week

Class	Student	Reason why
<b>Key Stage 1</b>		
Ireland	<b>Mason</b>	For fantastic swimming this week!
Wales	<b>Samuel</b>	For following instructions and engaging well in activities.
<b>Key Stage 2</b>		
Canada	<b>Louise</b>	For an excellent week of swimming. Well done Louise!
Italy	<b>Alice</b>	For asking others how they are feeling and promoting prioritising mental health in the classroom!
Portugal	<b>Sonny</b>	For wonderful engagement in lessons.
France	<b>Logan</b>	For engaging in all activities and writing a fantastic acrostic poem!
Spain	<b>Troy</b>	For engaging in activities.
USA	<b>Charlotte</b>	For making great choices this week.
<b>Key Stage 3</b>		
Brazil	<b>Adam</b>	For using the zones of regulation to talk about his feelings and for following all of the golden rules!
Peru	<b>Aiden</b>	For being a really pleasant member of class and making staff smile.
Mozambique	<b>Martin</b>	For being a kind friend and working hard in food technology.
Botswana	<b>John</b>	For a huge improvement in his maths work and working incredibly hard in his new maths set. Well done John!
Madagascar	<b>Conor</b>	Following instructions and trying his best at swimming.
Kenya	<b>Issy</b>	For managing some difficult situations very well and for engaging in group games and discussions.
Seychelles	<b>Daniel</b>	For being a great help in Seychelles and volunteering to complete jobs for other classes in school.
Cape Verde	<b>Alex</b>	For being able to self-regulate and reengage in learning.

# Student of the Week

Key Stage 4		
Australia	<b>Mason</b>	For dedication to your studies and perseverance during lessons.
Tasmania	<b>Marcus</b>	For taking responsibility of his own actions and showing maturity.
Samoa	<b>Kassia</b>	For engaging well in lessons, having a positive attitude and being a pleasure to be around.
New Zealand	<b>Isobella</b>	For working hard in improving her English work and always being positive.
Key Stage 5		
Malawi	<b>Nicholas</b>	For completing his speaking and listening GCSE amazingly with great effort and confidence. Well done Nicholas!!
Christmas Island	<b>Alfie</b>	For being positive in every activity he completes, working to the best of his ability and having a mature attitude.
Fiji	<b>Bobby</b>	For always being caring towards his peers.
PNG	<b>Alex</b>	For great self-reflection and opening up about his feelings.

# Exams 2023

June 2023 Exams													
Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
								1		2			3
								Half Term Break		Half Term Break			
	4		5		6		7		8		9		10
		GCSE English Language paper 1 (AM)				GCSE Maths paper 2 (AM)		Level 2 Certificate Further Maths paper 1 (AM)		GCSE Biology paper 2 (PM)			
	11		12		13		14		15		16		17
		GCSE English Language paper 2 (AM)		GCSE Chemistry paper 2 (AM)		GCSE Maths paper 3 (AM) GCSE English as a Second Language (PM)				GCSE Physics paper 2 (AM)			
	18		19		20		21		22		23		24
						Level 2 Certificate Further Maths paper 2 (AM)							
	25		26		27		28		29		30		

# Useful Information

## School Swimming 2023 (EYFS/KS1 - KS4)



EYFS/KS1 - KS4 Students will be having swimming lessons as a part of the Physical Educational Curriculum this academic year. Swimming sessions will take place between January and June 2023, with all classes assigned specific weeks.

A school minibus will take the children to Halewood Leisure centre during the morning sessions of their assigned weeks. The sessions are led by trained swimming instructors and are supported by the class team.

All EYFS/KS1 - KS4 Students will be included in these lessons; they will need to bring a small plastic bag or backpack containing: -

- Swimming kit (one-piece swimming costume for girls please)
- Towel
- Hairbrush
- Bathing caps (All children with long hair must have their hair tied back)

If you require any further information or support, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher or Key Stage Leader.

# Useful Information

## Swimming Dates

We are sorry that some of our swimming sessions have been affected by the closure of the school and the staffing shortages, making our risk assessments dictate cancellation. Safety must come first.

Date	Class
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> May	USA
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> May	Wales
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> May	Seychelles
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	Botswana
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	USA
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Wales
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> May	Seychelles
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> May	Botswana

## Young Person's Advisory Service Liverpool

**CRISIS DROP-IN'S**  
Across 3 Community Hubs

**YPAS North Hub**  
Croxdale Road West,  
L14 8YA

**YPAS Central Hub**  
36 Bolton Street,  
L3 5LX

**YPAS South Hub**  
Lyndene Road,  
L25 1NG

*We can support you through times of crisis*

- STRUGGLING WITH YOUR MENTAL HEALTH?
- YOU OR YOUR CHILD ARE IN A CRISIS?
- FEELING LONELY & ISOLATED?
- NEED A LISTENING EAR?
- NEED A SAFE SPACE?

**YPAS**  
Young Person's Advisory Service

**CRISIS DROP-IN'S**  
Across 3 Community Hubs

**YPAS North Hub**  
Croxdale Road West  
L14 8YA

Monday: 9am - 8pm  
Tuesday: 9am - 8pm  
Wednesday: 9am - 8pm  
Thursday: 9am - 8pm

**YPAS Central Hub**  
36 Bolton Street  
L3 5LX

Monday: 9am - 8pm  
Tuesday: 9am - 8pm  
Wednesday: 9am - 8pm  
Thursday: 9am - 8pm  
Friday: 9am - 8pm  
Saturday: 1pm - 6pm

**YPAS South Hub**  
Lyndene Road  
L25 1NG

Monday: 9am - 8pm  
Tuesday: 9am - 8pm  
Wednesday: 9am - 8pm  
Thursday: 9am - 8pm

**YPAS**  
Young Person's Advisory Service

# Useful Information

## BoA80 weekend of fun and military village at the Pier Head – Saturday

Battle of the Atlantic 80th Commemorations

On the Mersey Waterfront at Pier Head

Saturday 27th

Commemorating the 80th anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic. The BoA80 village includes a riverside 1940s-themed military village, ships open to visitors, flypasts over the Mersey by historic aircraft including Navy Wings Swordfish, Poseidon, and the Battle of

Britain Memorial flight, loads of FREE family activities with kit from the Royal Navy, Army, and RAF, charity stalls, food, cadet bands, 1940s music, dance, and other pop-up performances.

On Saturday. our BoA80 village will be open from 10:00 – 18:00



# Useful Information



 The Brain Charity

## Caring for carers: free cream tea and holistic therapies

THURSDAY | 8 | JUNE

9.30am until 2pm

THE BRAIN CHARITY, NORTON STREET, LIVERPOOL, L3 8LR

RSVP USING THE QR CODE BELOW!  
Alternatively, call Maria on 07588306152 or Sue on 07930180850, or email [womens@thebraincharity.org.uk](mailto:womens@thebraincharity.org.uk)



# Useful Information



**Join us to celebrate National Carers Week!**

This event is for parent-carers of children and young people up to the age of 25.

Receive information and support on your caring role and a range of informative talks.

## **SCHEDULE:**

9:30am: Arrival and registration

10:00am: Robyn Smith, Trainee Psychologist:  
Mindfulness and how to manage stress

10.30am: Find out about women's health with WHISC

11:00am: Gail Dixon: singing for wellbeing session

11:30am: Christina Beaumont: becoming a parent carer

11:50am: Amy Yule, Beauty and Aesthetics Lecturer:  
Overview of holistic therapies

12:10pm: Enjoy a free afternoon cream tea and free holistic therapies from Liverpool City College and WHISC.

2:00pm: Event ends



# Useful Information



## Local Offer LIVE 2023

Wednesday 5th July

Are you a parent/carer of a child/young person with SEND (Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities)?  
Are you a Professional working with families with SEND?

Come along and visit the Local Offer LIVE and see many services from Health, Local Authority, support groups, activity groups and 3rd Sector Organisations in one marketplace



**Time: 12pm - 7pm**



### LOCATION:

Liverpool Guild of Students  
The University of Liverpool  
160 Mount Pleasant  
Liverpool L3 5TR

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
EMAIL [INFO@LIVPAC.ORG.UK](mailto:INFO@LIVPAC.ORG.UK)