



Head's Weekly Newsletter Week 33



Message from the Headteacher

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

Dear Students, Families, Colleagues and Friends,

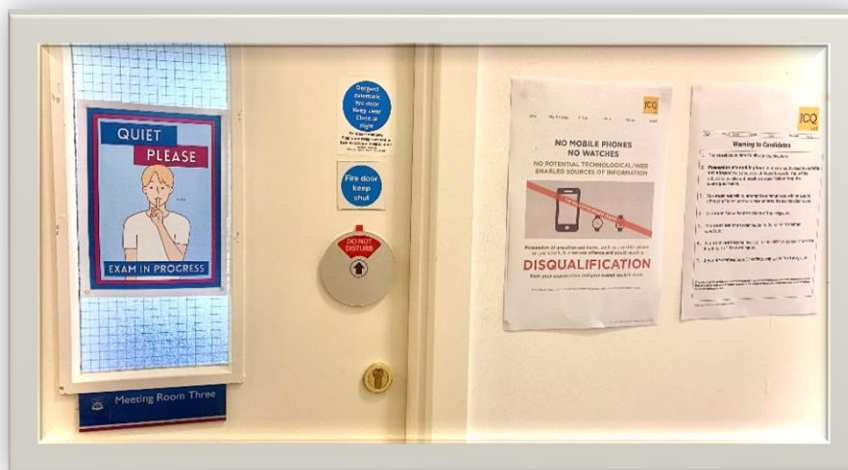
Welcome to today's issue of the Head's Weekly Newsletter.

What an amazing week we have had! Our Outdoor Learning Week has been a blast and I am sure you will love seeing all of the photos in our "Week in Pictures" section. We had den building, fire-starting, hide'n'seek, wild flower planting, grounds spring clean and much more! The students were exceptional and, as we were lucky with the weather, we really enjoyed the great outdoors.

For some students, this made a much-needed break from the exam preparation and sitting the exams. The House was hosting a number of exams this week and I want to thank all students for their efforts, but also their outstanding conduct whilst under highly regulated and controlled environment. I am certain you will do very well in all of the exams and thrive at your next phase of learning and personal development!

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With just one more week of Term 5 remaining, I wish you all a good weekend and I look forward to seeing you next Monday, with Friday, 26 May 2023 3pm finish.

Kind regards,

Mrs A Hildrey
Headteacher

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 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
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) https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82306096671 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
Friday 26 May	School closes at 3pm	

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

Next Week's Menu



Primary Lunch Menu



Week Commencing 22/05/23

Week 6	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Main Meal We provide a variety of seasonal hot and cold dishes for children to freely choose from	Vegan Ravioli in Homemade Tomato Sauce served with Crusty Bread	Slow Cooked Chicken Tagine served with Cous Cous and Greek Yoghurt Dip	Homemade Chicken Tikka Curry served with Basmati Rice, Green Beans and Mango Chutney	Homemade Cottage Pie served with Peas and Carrots	Fish Fingers served with Chips and Garden Peas
Alternative Jacket potatoes with tuna and other fillings available daily	Spanish Omelette	Roasted Red Pepper Quiche	Vegetable Stir Fry	Vegetable Quesadillas	Veggie Sausage Roll
Homemade Soup	Chef Choice	Tomato and Basil	Broccoli and Cheddar	Chef Choice	Chinese Sweetcorn
Starchy Food Various bread choices available	Ravioli Pasta	Cous Cous	Basmati Rice	Mash Potato	Chips
Vegetables Salad Bar with Hummus	Tomatoes	Cauliflower	Green Beans	Carrots and Peas	Garden Peas
Dessert Fresh fruit, selection low-fat yoghurts and homemade puddings available every lunch	Fresh Fruit Salad Fresh Fruit	Shortbread Biscuits Fresh Fruit	Sponge Cake topped with Jam and Whipped Cream Yoghurts	Apple Flapjacks 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 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



Have a lovely weekend
Ireland Class!





Wales 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





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](#)).



Spain class





Canada class





USA class



We made tasty chips!



France class





Brazil class



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Peru class





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](#)).



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](#)).



Cape Verde class



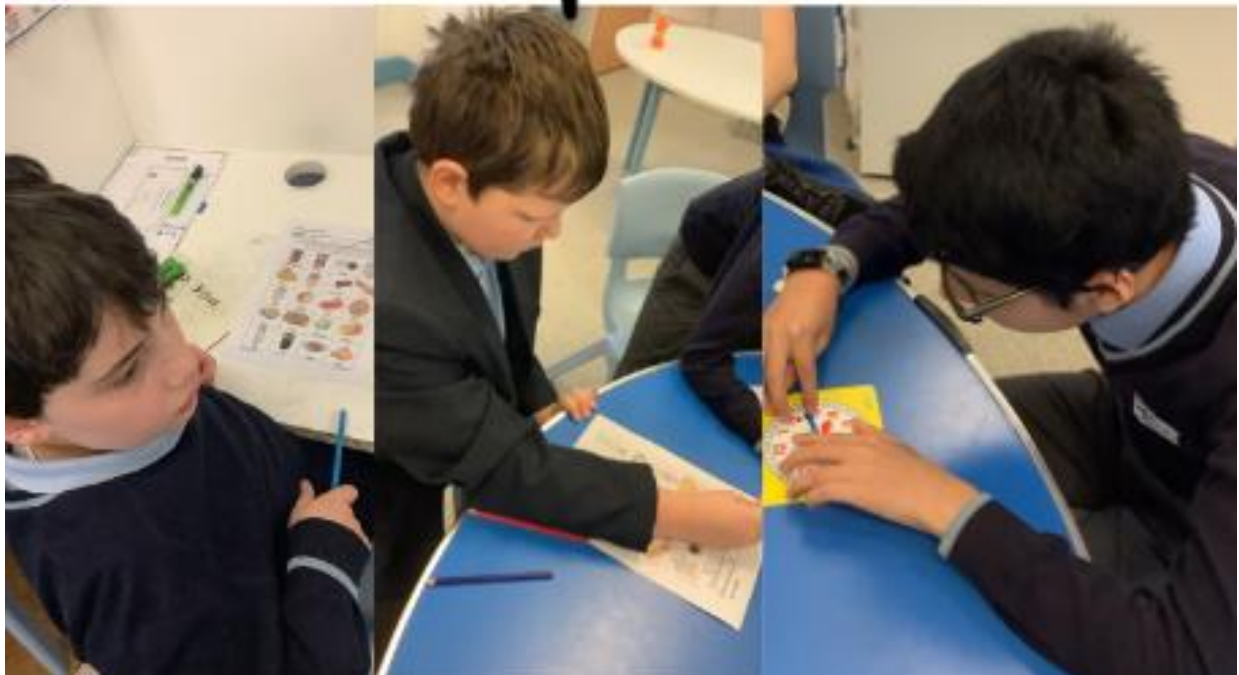
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Madagascar class



Super!



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](#)).



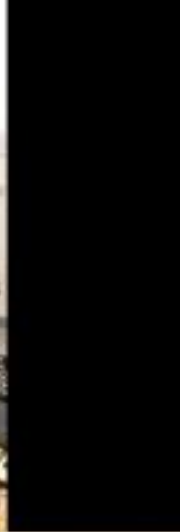
Australia class



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



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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





Christmas Island class





Papua New Guinea class





Fiji 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](#)).

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



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

Yours faithfully

Head Boy



Head Girl



Our practice has been featured in Education for Everybody!

SPECIAL SCHOOLS, COLLEGES & FURTHER OPPORTUNITIES

Abbot's Lea School launches an innovative Positive Behaviour Support service and support hub

One of the largest specialist schools in Liverpool has launched a brand new service delivered by its multidisciplinary team of Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) experts.

Abbot's Lea School, Woolton, which delivers a high-quality holistic education for students aged 3-19 living with Autism and other complex needs, has recruited a dedicated team of experts to run the bespoke provision.

The hub is designed to offer additional help to students who have become disengaged from education or require extra support with complex needs, including most challenging behaviours. In short, the innovative analytical and therapeutic team works alongside school staff to improve attendance, behaviour and through both, success of the young people with autism and complex learning and social, emotional and mental health needs.

The school proudly adopts a positive behaviour support philosophy, stating that:

- All behaviours happen for a reason
- There are four basic functions of behaviour
- Appropriate behaviour requires skills; we teach these skills
- We never give up on

our students

As a result, rather than rewarding or punishing specific behaviours, the school seeks to understand the function of the behaviour and, by assessing the social and physical environment in which the behaviour happens, it uses this understanding to develop support that improves the quality of life for the person and those around them. In doing so, the school always keeps the student at the centre of its work, with their views and those involved in their education and care (including family) central to the programme of support.

The PBS service and the support hub is headed up by the school's positive behaviour support leader, Claire Welch. Claire is a Board Certified Behaviour Analyst (BCBA), who has worked with children and adults with complex needs and challenging behaviour for the past 18 years, across a range of settings in the North West and North Wales.

Claire's vision for the hub is to ensure that every child leaves school with the skills to lead a full and

meaningful life reducing the risk of crisis behaviours and possible intrusive support or incriminating social sanction.

Six positive behaviour support assistants have also joined the team and provide support to assess students' needs and support class teams in creating positive risk-taking, skills' development and relationship-building, as identified in the function-based analysis.

The hub is located on site of Abbot's Lea School and is split into two main functions: the first space supports students to reengage with education where they struggle to attend school, and the second space supports students with highly challenging behaviours when these lead to dysregulation and disengagement from their class-based programme of study.

Claire Welch said: "I was attracted to the role initially due to Abbot's Lea School's ambition to be the best school specialist school in the world. Alongside this, having met the headteacher and the senior leadership team, I was excited at the prospect of being able to create a resource that provides bespoke support for the students with most complex needs who don't always get the help and understanding they deserve."

Headteacher of Abbot's Lea School, Mrs Ania Hildrey, said: "Our school

never gives up on students. We aim to operate a non-exclusion policy and yet, over time, like many other schools, we have found ourselves in a place where "nothing worked" for some of the most complex of our youngsters.

"Rather than give up, we have worked hard to come up with an innovative solution. Having piloted, over the past two years, a nurture provision approach, we learnt a lot. Some of the strategies used worked well and many did not add value at all. This led to a refined project: a truly multi-disciplinary approach that blends various schools of thought and methods of working to best support the ever-growing complexity of our population.

"The creation of our PBS service and the support hub has already transformed lives of some of our students and we have only just begun. Furthermore, the insertion of new expertise into the staff team has reinvigorated us all – after all, if teachers stop learning, the learning stalls, too!

"We understand that all behaviours happen for a reason, and we have taken it upon ourselves to delve deeper into what the most challenging behaviours might mean, so that we can find the right solution for each individual young person in our care, and ensure they have access to the best education and, more importantly, life's opportunities, possible."



Student of the Week

Student of the Week

Class	Student	Reason why
Key Stage 1		
Ireland	Rio	For amazing art work this week!
Wales	Jacob	For being happy, confident and independent in the swimming pool.
Key Stage 2		
Canada	Tyler	For working hard to use his CHATTA board every day. Well done Tyler!
Italy	Charlie	For following instructions and improving transitions to class.
Portugal	Joel	For amazing engagement in our Gruffalo lessons.
France	Thor	For outstanding reading and working extremely hard with his phonics.
Spain	Ansel	For always being helpful in class.
USA	Jamie	For cheering his friends on during swimming even though he couldn't take part.
Key Stage 3		
Brazil	JayJay	For showing staff he can be independent and still make sensible choices and always working hard in every lesson!
Peru	Jac	For understanding boundaries and being a helpful member of the class.
Mozambique	Jacob	For having a great full week back.
Botswana	Anthony	For enthusiasm during outdoor learning and always trying his best.
Madagascar	Georgina	For coping with change.
Kenya	Ethan	For always being a very kind member of the class and showing a positive attitude to all activities. Well done Ethan!
Seychelles	Finley	For completing all activities with a positive attitude and showing amazing skills in swimming.
Cape Verde	David	For supporting a younger student during our outdoor learning and being a fantastic role model.

Student of the Week

Key Stage 4		
Australia	Sam	For being consistent all year so far and working to the best of your ability in all subjects.
Tasmania	Leighton	For being extremely positive, seeking support and working on developing his interpersonal skills.
Samoa	Mohamed	For following all golden rules all week.
New Zealand	Tunji	For always smiling and giving 100% and delivering Victoria Sponge Cake to Miss Gibney and Mr O'Brien.
Key Stage 5		
Malawi	Thomas	For following all golden rules and working hard at his work experience at Speke hall.
Christmas Island	Kieran	For working really hard on GCSE exams.
Fiji	Spencer	For excellent exam preparation.
PNG	Joshua	For incredible improvement and dedication in his writing and excellent effort for getting into school on time this week.

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.

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 23 rd May	USA
Wednesday 24 th May	Wales
Thursday 25 th May	Seychelles
Friday 26 th May	Botswana

Useful Information

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

BoA80 weekend of fun and military village at the Pier Head

Battle of the Atlantic 80th Commemorations

Saturday 27th May 2023 10:00 – 18:00

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.



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 07888306152 or Sue on 07930180858, or email 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

Spaceworld Prescott – mixer session

Spaceworld Play Centre, in Prescott are hosting a play evening especially for children who are starting Abbot's Lea School this September and other local SEN schools.

We think this is a fantastic opportunity for new parents and children to meet, and to help ease into the new routine of attending school and meeting new friends, as we know it can be quite scary.

Please feel free to share this to anyone you feel would benefit.

Spaceworld Play Centre

2-3 Ropers Court

Prescot

L34 1QN

24th August 5:30-6:30



2023

Starting School!

All 530 – 630pm

Whiston Willis 14th August
St Joseph's Huyton 15th August
St Gabriel's Huyton 16th August
Oakdene Primary 17th August
Halsnead 21st August
Evelyn Primary 22nd August
Knowsley Village 23rd August
SEN school mixer 24th August
Abbots Lea
Blue Bell
Lakeside
Knowsley Central

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