



# Head's Weekly Newsletter

## Week 34



### 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 – the last issue of Term 5.

As we finish this week, and prepare for the half term break, I wish to thank all students and staff for their hard work over the past few weeks.

I want to particularly congratulate students taking exams this term for their efforts and exemplary conduct. You should all be very proud of yourselves. I know we all are proud of you!

As we take a break, we also focus on a very busy Term 6 ahead.

I include this newsletter Key Diary Dates for that last term and hope that you will all embrace the many opportunities ahead, including many fun and celebration events. Please see pages 3-7 for detail and do join us for any events open to families, including:

- Open Assemblies and Coffee Mornings next term will be on 9 June, 16 June only
- Sports Days – see Plan A and Plan B (in case of bad weather) dates for Primary and Secondary Departments
- 22 June Annual Awards Ceremony – see newsletter below for specific times for each key stage
- 27 June, 3:30pm – Zoom meetings with Class Team representative for next year
- 29 June – 6-9pm – Leavers' Prom (KS4 and KS5 students only) – formal evening wear required
- 30 June – Leavers' Assembly and Lunch – times tbc (this is the last day of attendance for students leaving us this year)
- Saturday, 1 July – 12-3pm – Summer Fair – we need volunteers please!
- 6 July – times specified in the newsletter – Musical Showcase Day
- 7 July- INSET day (school closed to all students)
- 10-14 July – Transition Week
- 14 July at 1pm – end of term for all students and staff.

I wish you all a very restful break and I look forward to seeing you back at school on Monday, 5 June 2023 for the last "leg" of this academic year.

Happy holidays!

Mrs A Hildrey  
Headteacher

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# 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>



### 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 5 June	First day of term 6	School re-opens for students
Wed-Fri, 7 June – 9 June	International School Visit (professional planning visit)	Our German partners will be visiting us for the professional visit (students will be involved in welcoming our visitors and then, in the Autumn, we will welcome German students to ALS)
Friday 9 June	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 <a href="mailto:Sara.Mursic@abbotsleaschool.co.uk">Sara.Mursic@abbotsleaschool.co.uk</a>  <u>All volunteers and supporters of the Summer Fair are invited to attend the Coffee morning (9:30-11am) and we will use this time to plan this event.</u>
Friday 9 June	Launch of Diversity Buddy applications for secondary students	This application process will be launched during assembly. Class teams will support any students wishing to apply. The deadline will be Friday 16 June
Monday 12 June	Launch of Student Leaders 2023-34 elections	The process for applying to be Head Student will be shared with KS5 students
Tuesday 13 June	Morning only – Primary Sports Day <b>Plan A</b>  (Please note if the weather is bad on this day, we will make a decision to cancel early that morning and post it on social media. <b>If this happens we would move to “plan b day” – see below)</b>	Families are welcome to come and watch their child complete on Sports Day.  Specific times will be issued via class teams nearer to the time  Please be advised that there will be no parking on school site and so, if travelling by car, please park in neighbouring streets (free of charge) and allow time for walking onto site and signing in  <b>SPECIFIC TIMES TO BE CONFIRMED</b>

# Key Diary Dates

Wednesday 14 June	“Diversity in arts” day	Today all classes will be learning about how the world of art has been influenced by artists from a range of backgrounds
Thursday 15 June	Morning only – Primary Sports Day <b>PLAN B</b>	<p>Families are welcome to come and watch their child complete on Sports Day. Specific times will be issued via class teams nearer to the time</p> <p>Please be advised that there will be no parking on school site and so, if travelling by car, please park in neighbouring streets (free of charge) and allow time for walking onto site and signing in</p> <p><b>SPECIFIC TIMES TO BE CONFIRMED</b></p>
Friday 16 June	<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>	<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 <a href="mailto:Sara.Mursic@abbotsleaschool.co.uk">Sara.Mursic@abbotsleaschool.co.uk</a></p>
Tuesday 20 June	Morning only – Secondary Department Sports Day <b>Plan A</b> (please note if the weather is bad on this day we will make a decision to cancel early that morning and post it on social media. <b>If this happens we would move to “plan b day” – see below</b> )	<p>Families are welcome to come and watch their child complete on Sports Day. Specific times will be issued via class teams nearer to the time</p> <p>Please be advised that there will be no parking on school site and so, if travelling by car, please park in neighbouring streets (free of charge) and allow time for walking onto site and signing in</p> <p><b>SPECIFIC TIMES TO BE CONFIRMED</b></p>

# Key Diary Dates

Wednesday 21 June	If Sports Day on Monday, 19 June is cancelled, this will be the alternative <b>PLAN B</b> Secondary Sports Day (morning only)	Families are welcome to come and watch their child complete on Sports Day. Specific times will be issued via class teams nearer to the time  Please be advised that there will be no parking on school site and so, if travelling by car, please park in neighbouring streets (free of charge) and allow time for walking onto site and signing in  <b>SPECIFIC TIMES TO BE CONFIRMED</b>
Wednesday 21 June	World Music Day	Students will be celebrating by listening to music from around the world and planning for our Musical Showcase Day on 6 July
Thursday 22 June	Annual Award Ceremony  9.30 – 10:20 KS3  10:30 – 12:20 – KS4 and 5  1:30-2:30 – Primary Department	All families are invited to join us on this special day  Please note specific times for Primary Department, KS3 and KS4/5  Please be advised that there will be no parking on school site and so, if travelling by car, please park in neighbouring streets (free of charge) and allow time for walking onto site and signing in  Families of Primary Department children (only) are welcome to collect their children from school at the end of the Ceremony at 2:30pm – please inform Class Team and transport in advance
Friday 23 June	<b>NO ASSEMBLIES OR COFFEE MORNING</b>	

# Key Diary Dates

Tuesday 27 June	Meet the Team Zoom meetings 3.30pm	Your child's Class Team member for September 2023 will be leading a Zoom so that you can see their face, get to know them and ask any questions you may have. They will also share the plans for Transition Week with you.
Wednesday 28 June	Conclusion of Student Leader elections	KS5 students will be made aware of the outcome
Thursday 29 June	Leavers' Prom 6-9pm	A warm welcome will be extended to all Key Stage 4 and 5 students who wish to celebrate with any school leavers. We welcome you to enjoy some great food and dance the night away! Further details will be shared nearer the time
Friday 30 June	Leavers' Assembly and Celebration Lunch	More details will follow nearer the time
Saturday 1 July 12pm – 3pm	Summer Fair	Please come and join us for three hours of fun-filled activities. There will be games to be played and prizes to be won! Please warmly invite you friends and family too. Any volunteers able to help organise the Summer Fair are welcome and should contact Mrs Keri Myers, our School Business Manager (SBM) via <a href="mailto:sbm@abbotsleaschool.co.uk">sbm@abbotsleaschool.co.uk</a>
Tuesday 4 July	End of Year Fun Day	The students will enjoy a carousel of fun activities, including an giant inflatable obstacle course to celebrate all of their hard work over the past year

# Key Diary Dates

Thursday 6 July	Musical Showcase Day	<p>The Primary Department showcase will take place in the morning.</p> <p>Secondary Department showcase will take place in the afternoon.</p> <p>Individual students and some groups, including our school band will perform to the rest of school as we celebrate students' successes in music.</p> <p>We warmly welcome the families of the students who are performing to attend:</p> <p>9:30am-11am (max) – Primary 1pm – 2:30pm (max) - Secondary</p> <p>Parents of Secondary students are able to take their child home after their performance on that day (please inform Class Team and transport ahead of the day)</p>
Friday 7 July	School closed – staff INSET day	
Monday 10 – Friday 14 July	Transition Week	<p>All students will be in their new (next year's) classes and our new starters will join our school</p> <p>During this week there will be a timetable of planned activities, including a Wellbeing Day and Diversity Day.</p> <p>In order to be able to support your child with this change of routine, classes will share with you a full timetable during the "Meet the Team Zooms"</p>
Friday 14 July 1pm	Last day of term 6	School closes for the summer at 1pm

# 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.

Please note changes to assembly days/times in Term 6!

## Weekly Attendance Reports

There is clear evidence that strong attendance at school links to strong educational outcomes for students. 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

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



## Primary Lunch Menu



Week Commencing 05/06/2023

Week 1	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	Homemade Vegetable Lasagne served with Fresh Salad and Crusty Bread	Homemade Cumberland Sausage Slice served with Wedges and Beans	Homemade Chicken Curry served with Basmati Rice and Naan Bread	Spaghetti Bolognese served with Crusty Bread and Green Beans	Fish Fingers or Fish Pie Served with Chips and Garden Peas
<b>Alternative</b> Jacket potatoes with tuna and other fillings available daily	Asian Noodles	Cheesy Bean Pasta Bake	Quorn Mince Cottage Pie	Cheese and Tomato Panini	Veggie Sausage Roll
<b>Homemade Soup</b>	Chef Choice	Tomato and Basil	Chef Choice	Carrot and Coriander	Chef Choice
<b>Starchy Food</b> Various bread choices available	Pasta Sheet	Wedges	Rice	Spaghetti	Chips
<b>Vegetables</b> Salad Bar with Hummus	Fresh salads	Beans	Tomatoes	Green Beans	Garden Peas
<b>Dessert</b> Fresh fruit, selection of low-fat yoghurts and homemade puddings available every lunch time	Fresh Fruit Salad  Yoghurts	Oat Cookies  Fresh Fruit	Fresh Fruit Jelly  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 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

Ireland class have had the best term 5 full of fun and lots of learning.

Our theme this term was 'Animal Safari' where the students learnt to identify 'safari animals' and animals we might find in the zoo. They learnt how it was important to look after living things and take care of our animals and environment. Ireland class engaged with a range of activities inspired by our stories. This term we read Dear Zoo, Look after us, Elmer, Animal ABC.

Our learning areas were enhanced with animals, patterns, globes, maps and equipment such as torches, a compass and binoculars. The students enjoyed exploring this theme in a play-based manner, through different sensory experiences. They used animal print stampers to roll into paint and on to play doh, describing the patterns left behind. They developing fine motor skills but ripping, cutting, sticking and manipulating patterned paper and card to make collages, cards and pictures.

Our maths area had our stories inspired by the maths focus of 'growing 6, 7, 8' We read 'one to 10 and back again,' '20 trucks on the street,' 'odd one out.' We added shapes and numbers to our play and used our shape awareness to build tall towers, roads and even zoos!

This term we celebrated the Eurovision and were very excited by all of the activities happening in Liverpool. We had our very own Eurovision parade outside in the sun with our friends from primary. This was a great opportunity for us to use our skills we have been learning each week through our rhyme time and movement time. We used streamers and a variety of instruments to play and dance along to the music. It was a great celebration.

Our students have been developing their turn taking skills through a range of opportunities including our much loved 'Bucket time.' We have joined in with watering the flowers, animals' slides, animals' baths, bubble elephants and much more. The students love this session and it has been amazing to see everyone grow in confidence and also patience as they eagerly watch and wait for their turn.

We can't believe we are coming into our last term of the year! It will be another fun one though as we will be exploring 'marvellous machines. The students will learn about the technology that is part of their daily lives and how machines help us. The project will give us the opportunity to build and create our own marvellous machines-we can't wait!

Have a great break!

From Mrs Hattersley, Miss Powell, Mr Pendleton, Miss Wilson, Miss Fluchter and Mrs Grant



## Wales class

This term Wales Class have thoroughly enjoyed their long-awaited swimming lessons. Every pupil has engaged in these sessions, even those who at first were really unsure. During their time in the water the students have developed not only their physical skills but enjoyed interacting with their class team having great fun moving through the water, splashing, jumping and exploring the water-play resources. As each swimming day has passed the pupils have developed their understanding of their swimming routine and their confidence in the water and has truly impressed us and we could not be prouder of them all!

The lovely weather this term has resulted in Wales Class being eager to get outside. During 'Planting Week' they enjoyed taking walks through the school grounds looking out for signs of the changing seasons, explored the lifecycle of a tulip by observing, touching and smelling flowers that had been grown from bulbs and creating their own mixed leaf scent as part of a fine-motor sensory focused activity. In addition, the pupils followed visual instructions to plant their own seeds and we are waiting in anticipation for them to grow! The rising temperatures has meant we can finally add our solar water fountain to our water tray and this has proved to be a great addition to our resources with the class enjoying washing trucks and bathing safari animals in this. For 'Outdoor Learning Day' the pupils threaded Cheerio's on to a pipe cleaner and turned it into a bird feeder to encourage local wildlife into our garden area.

'Animal Safari' has been the theme for the term with the class learning about animals from around the world today, the pupils have demonstrated their knowledge in this regard with many recognising lots of safari animals and naming them. 'Dear Zoo' was a favourite text and following sharing this we explored mark-making, including letters from our names, on envelopes which we later added stamps too. As part of their Mathematical development linked to the topic the children have been noticing, identifying and creating their own 'Safari' themed patterns in our arts and crafts sessions. Through their Mathematical learning the class have been exploring numbers beyond 10.

This term we have introduced 'Food Technology' sessions into our weekly activities with a focus on developing independent cutting skills when using cutlery. The children have been supported to slice bananas and strawberries and developed their pouring and spreading skills to. To celebrate King Charles' coronation, they enjoyed preparing a lovely cream tea treat albeit not everyone was too keen on trying the scone. A recent weekly focus has been to explore our emotions and emotions and talk about how we feel. The class have been learning more about the meaning behind the different colours on the 'Zones of Regulation', pulling faces to showcase different feelings in mirrors and exploring our sensory emotion stones. We are going to continue with this work as we move into the next term.

The Wales Class Team hope that all the students and their families have a wonderful, restful half-term break and we look forward to seeing the pupils back in school again on Monday 5th June 2023 for a final fun-filled term. Thank you!



## Portugal Class

Portugal class have had a wonderful term! We have had lots of wow moments that we would like to share in our end of term newsletter!

We started two new units of work in English, one of them being the story of The Gruffalo and the students engaged brilliantly with different activities. We looked at re-telling the story through acting, looked at rhyme, speech marks and how to use them, the characters, their environments and made brand new characters with their own scenes to give the story an alternative ending, it was amazing! We have also started 'Well-being Wednesdays' where we follow new superheroes each week to help develop mental health and well-being skills! We have so far explored: Agent Pinwheel who gave us tips on breathing exercises, Agent Grateful where we discussed people and things we are grateful for and Captain Calm who showed us ways to remain calm and discovered ways of keeping each other calm. Portugal Class have really bonded, expanded their knowledge and enjoyed this unit!

In Maths, we have been focused on counting in 2s, 5s and 10s as well as how to partition numbers up to 100. We have had lots of resources, games and play to help us within this unit. We are so proud and it's been great to watch the student's confidence flourish with numbers.

In History, we have explored the events of The Great Fire of London. This involved lots of sensory activities and the students became firemen to put out the fire in the tuff tray by using water play! The students have re-called a lot of the events and facts and even acted out the story of The Great Fire of London, and were able to sequence the events in order.

We have also loved Food Tech and RE this term where we learned about different burgers, their nutritional information, different types and ways of making them and enjoyed making our own chicken burgers, they were delicious! In RE we focused on 3 religions and their special celebrations; The students loved learning about Diwali and making their own rangoli patterns using salt and crushing chalk, there were some beautiful designs!

In Science this term we have been learning all about fossils and how they are made, at the end of this term we made our own and the results were incredible! Each student was able to follow instructions to make them and discuss what it looked like and what imprint had been left once they were finished!



Finally, we have celebrated lots of events and awareness days such as: The King's Coronation where we made crowns and had a tea party, Outdoor Learning Day / week where we had lots of lovely activities including observing the weather, The Gruffalo story where we read it in the forest and we made bird feeders and hung them around the school forest, we were blessed to have such wonderful weather to celebrate this! We also celebrated World Bee Day and World Turtle Day with lots of sensory activities and learned all about their environments.

Overall, it has been a fantastic term and we are so proud of Portugal Class' resilience, they have worked so hard! There have been many 'WOW' moments which we have celebrated daily. We hope everyone has a wonderful half term and look forward to welcoming the students back for our final term together!

## Italy class

During Week 29, we commemorated the royal family. Our students participated in a regal tea party, showcasing their refinement and sophistication. Additionally, they engaged in the creation of King Charles bunting, exhibiting their artistic skills and attention to detail. In drama class, they explored the world of royalty.

As Week 30 unfolded, the spirit of St. George's Day brought forth a sense of adventure and imagination. Our classroom became the stage for a magical occurrence—a dragon egg mysteriously appeared! Through the use of a special, enchanted liquid, our students witnessed the egg fizz and crack open, revealing a dragon. This event served as a catalyst for creativity as the children crafted their own stories, including a unique tale featuring a vegan dragon. Additionally, we celebrated with a delightful BBQ picnic, where our students prepared their own burgers using the George Foreman grill, emphasizing culinary skills and independence.

National Gardening Week took centre stage in Week 31, providing an opportunity for our students to cultivate their horticultural interests. Through engaging experiments, they explored the transformative power of lemon juice, turning blue sweet pea flowers into vibrant pink hues. Furthermore, we celebrated the coronation of our new king, emphasizing respect and honour for the monarchy while instilling a sense of historical significance.

Week 32 focused on Mental Health Awareness, fostering an environment of empathy and understanding. Our students engaged in open discussions surrounding the importance of community support, self-care, and the ability to seek assistance when needed. This week also saw us attending swimming lessons, promoting physical well-being and a sense of achievement.

Outdoor Classroom Day in Week 33 allowed our students to immerse themselves in nature's wonders. Through activities such as den building, s'more tasting, and the creation of clay riverbanks, they embraced the beauty of the changing seasons and fostered a connection with the environment. A highlight of this week was the of sensory circuit of 'We're going on a bear hunt story'!

Week 34 was all about British sandwich week. Inspired by the story "Whatever Next!," our students embarked on imaginative adventures, pretending to be baby bears soaring through space. A sensory walk through various planets. The use of colanders as space helmets made everyone laugh.

Throughout the term, we have thoroughly enjoyed our Yoga sessions with Miss Katie and judo classes with Mr. Paul have allowed our students to develop physical strength, mindfulness, and discipline. Furthermore, our weekly outdoor school sessions have provided an invaluable opportunity for our students to connect with nature, observe the signs of spring, and appreciate the natural world around them.

Have a lovely break, we will see you for the beginning of the last term of the year!



## Spain class

Spain class had a great first week back after the Easter holidays. We learnt all about Kings and Queens. We started the week exploring a special present which had been sent to Spain class. It was a Castle! We had fun decorating it with orbs, paint, and collage materials. We used special props to learn new words such as crown, castle, and gown. We even got to try on the kings' crown and robe! We decorated our own crowns using beautiful gems. We developed our independence skills by baking scones to eat at a tea party for the king. We mixed, rolled, and cut. Once they were ready, we set the table, spread jam on our scones and enjoyed our party. Some of us even tried some tea!

Our week to celebrate St. George's Day started off in a very exciting way. A mystery egg appeared in Spain class! We sprayed and poured water over it to reveal a dragon inside! We listened and watched the story of George and the Dragon in our puppet theatre and retold it in our own way using a Chatta board. We read 'That's not my Dragon' and explored different textures using our own cardboard cut-out. We used our spreading, mixing, and rolling skills to make dragon shaped pizzas and we rescued dragons from the slime. We used pom-poms and paint to design our own coat of arms, just like St. George had.

Spain class loved gardening week! We worked together to make our own plant pots, using our communication boards to pour soil and sprinkle water for our flowers. Spain became scientists for the week! Using pea flowers and tonic water to turn water from blue to purple, we really enjoyed watching the water fizz. Another experiment we loved was our own garden potions! Mixing foliage from our school forest, with bicarbonate of soda and vinegar making a fizzy foamy potion!

We enjoyed learning about our emotions during mental health awareness week. Spain class explored the uses of lavender making our own lavender playdoh, rolling zones of regulation faces into the playdoh and smelling the lavender to feel calm. We also read our class book 'silly billy' making our own worry dolls with thread and lollipop sticks. Spain class worked amazingly together as a team to make their own sensory bottles, using orbeez and water! Spain have been using our communication boards to tell staff 'shake' and 'pour' excellently! Well done Spain class!



# News

Outdoor learning week was super fun for us, we enjoyed getting outside and taking lots of inspiration from nature. We went on a nature walk around the school grounds and seen what we could find. We then used our finds to make mud pies, natural Paintbrushes, and stamps for leaf printing. We loved our sensory version of 'we're going on a bear hunt' travelling through the swishy swashy grass, the thick oozy mud, the deep cold river and the swirling whirling snowstorm to make it to the dark narrow cave, to find the bear inside.

In art we took inspiration from Jackson Pollock and created some collaborative artwork outside using recycled materials. In food tech we made campfire favourites Smores and practiced our fine motor skills picking plastic bugs out of prune juice. Our week ended with a trip to the play park and a dance party in music.

Our last week of term's theme was space and we listened to the story 'Whatever next'. To celebrate British Sandwich Week, we made the character from our story, Baby Bear, a sandwich to take on his trip to the moon. We then had our own picnic on the moon and tasted the sandwiches we made. In art this week we made spaceships using tin foil, plastic cups and paper plates and space chalk drawings. We practiced our fine motor skills using our very own mission control board, sliding, twisting, flicking, turning, pressing, and lifting the buttons and switches.

This week Spain class progressed to stage 3 in bucket therapy, we have all made huge improvements and had lots of fun getting involved in the activities. Well done Spain! We hope everyone has a lovely half term and are looking forward to seeing you all in term 6.

# News

## Canada class

Canada class have had a fantastically fun half term! We attended two weeks of swimming where we increased our water confidence, swimming on our fronts, backs and rolling over mid-point. One of our favourite things was to jump in from the side of the pool – splashes galore!

As part of our food technology lessons we have been making burgers. We have learned a lot of new skills for example using the bridge method to slice onions. We spent a day learning about employability. We made a class chip shop and applied for the various jobs within. We thought of a name for our shops (Chip off the old block, High Fries and Fries Guys to mention a few!) we made and designed chip containers and finally we peeled and chopped potatoes to cook them in the air fryer. Bon appetite!

We had a fantastic outdoor learning day in our beautiful school grounds. We all enjoyed some time on the play park. We went on a scavenger hunt and tried to find the illusive four leaf clover! We gathered items from the grounds to make salt dough plaques by using the leaves as printing tools. We made bird feeders by threading Cheerios onto pipe cleaners.

In English we have been reading War Horse and working on our comprehension skills. To help us with our spelling work, we have learned how to use a dictionary using words from the book. As a class we have enjoyed participating in a whole group shared read. We are taking it in turns to read parts of the book, Mr Stink.

In Maths, we have focused on shape learning how to describe them using new language of vertices, edges and faces. We looked at regular polygons and regular polyhedrons. Once we learned the rules of how to recognise these shapes, we felt confident to answer questions related to this.

We have continued to be supported by the coaches from LFC. This half term we have played hockey, dodgeball and football. We have learned skills linked to team games such as passing, using the space around them and fair play.

We have also continued to have Chris work with us to further our musical understanding. We are currently writing a song for the school – watch this space!

Our final week of this half term saw us visiting the central library in town! We had an amazing day and really enjoyed our visit to McDonalds as a treat.





# News

## France class

Term 5 was off to a fantastic start due to the amazing hard working attitudes France Class returned with. We introduced The Royal family to France Class who learnt all about the different members, their roles and how their roles are changing due to the up-and-coming Coronation. This week France Class made lot of different art creations including Edible Buckingham palaces, United Kingdom Flags, crowns with jewels and colours, collage King Charles's stamps. They wrote invites to different people to ensure they were aware of the Coronation coming up and some class made biscuits ready for anyone's arrival.

France Class then focused on the history aspect of the Royal Family by learning about previous Kings and Queens. We had many Wow moments this week with students sharing previously gained knowledge from past lessons and teachers which was outstanding! We created a parade to show off our own Kings and Queens of France Class by creating swords, shields, and helmets for imagination play. They also wrote out the story of St George and how he slayed the Dragon to keep the country safe.

Learning about nature and how it has an impact upon the world was the key message of national gardening week. France class made the outdoor area look fantastic and planted a multitude of different plants from cress to sunflowers. We have seen all the flowers grow this term as we have all worked hard to look after them by ensure they get their key needs met by moving them in to the sun and watering them when needed.

We discussed our emotions thoughts and feelings this term and ensured we knew places and people we would feel safe with including when out in the community. We learnt ways to support out mental health by getting outdoors as much as we could when we could be due to the change in weather. We opened The France Class Spa with honey face masks, cucumber slices and a fantastic foot massaging machine which was a class favourite.



# News

After learning all about our gardens and how to support flowers in the wild we expanded our learning of the outdoors by creating things such as food balls for birds, bug hotels, sun catchers and we were able to create a France Class mosaic by discussing different shapes, colours, and patterns to decorate the classroom including the class table.

We focused on our culinary skills as well this half term by celebrating national sandwich week. We learnt all about sandwiches from all over the world. The class Jam sandwich in the UK, ham and cheese baguettes from France and even got to make some fantastic burgers! A big Wow moment from some students in France class here trying new foods, tasting new items and taking our taste buds to new places.

Students loved the arrival of the music man this term they got to play the classics such as 'if you're happy and you know it,' 'I am the music man' and students got to pick their favourite songs and play instruments along to it. We have loved learning about tempo and rhythm which we were able to use at our own Eurovision party! A Wow moment was students who struggle with sound and loud noises were able to touch and use new instruments including a trombone and ukulele.

France class have worked extremely hard this term on supporting each other when it comes to completing activities to the best of their ability and have shown fantastic friendships. They have worked hard on their phonics and readings skills, and we are very proud of all our students. We hope all of France Class have a restful break and we look forward to seeing you for term 6, the last term of this academic year when we come back.

# News

## USA class

It's been another busy term in USA class! The students have worked hard as always and have made excellent progress in their learning.

For RE this term we have been learning about Religious Festivals. The students looked at special days across a range of religions including Christianity, Hinduism and Judaism. As part of their learning, the students made their own coloured salt to create colourful Rangoli patterns and had lots of fun taking part in a colour run for the Hindu festival of Holi. To celebrate the Jewish festival of Purim, the students used a range of materials to make their own traditional Jewish musical instruments.

Our Science topic this term has been all about rocks and fossils. To begin our learning we enjoyed a walk around our schools forest identifying different types of rocks. The students then worked hard classifying the different types of rock and identifying whether they were natural or man-made. For the second half of the term we learned about how fossils are formed and created an informative Chatta board about the different stages. The students then had lots of fun creating their own fossils, luckily, they didn't take millions of years to form!

The Food Technology topic has been our favourite one of the year so far- Brilliant Burgers! We started of our learning by looking at different types of burgers and discussed the different ingredients needed to make them. Over the course of the term the students have developed their cooking, chopping and food hygiene skills and made beef, breaded chicken and vegetarian burgers as well as some delicious chunky chips!

We are really looking forward to Term 6 and all the fun activities we'll be doing together! Keep up the hard work USA class! 😊



## Brazil class

WOW! Brazil class have been busy working hard and having lots of fun this term! To start, we learnt all about the Royal Family in time to celebrate the Kings Coronation, we made fingerprint flags and had lots of fun crafts in class. We also enjoyed learning all about St George's Day, we read the story 'George and the Dragon', and then we designed and created our own shields and character masks in our art lesson to use as props later on in the week, when we to acted out the story in our drama lesson. We enjoyed getting our hands dirty for National Gardening Week! We spent a lot our time outside on the school grounds. We have learnt about the lifecycles of plants and then planted some cress, bell peppers, tomato, basil and sunflowers. We have been keeping a close eye on them over the last couple of weeks, watching them progress from the germination stage to the growth stage.

Brazil had a lovely week full of mindfulness activities for Mental Health Awareness Week. We learnt all about what keeps our minds healthy and what self-care strategies we can use, we then practiced these strategies throughout the week. We took part in some guided meditation, exercise circuits, yoga, and we also completed a mindfulness scavenger hunt in the wooded area of our grounds. At the beginning of the week, we read the story 'The colour monster' and learnt all about our emotions, and what we can do to help us when we are feeling some of these emotions. In our relationships lesson, students discussed the different qualities of a friend and what makes a good friend, they then identified their own qualities and made an affirmation coloured sand jar.



What a blast we had for Outdoor Classroom Week! We loved building different types of shelters outside, especially the shelter we made from branches and foliage. Once we had finished building it, we tested its durability by pouring water over it. Guess what? It kept our mascot dry! Well done James and Brazil students what a fantastic effort! In art we looked at a local famous artist called Andy Goldsworthy; he made his art using natural resources. Brazil class went outside and collected some natural resources and recreated some land art.

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Brazil class were very lucky this term and during their P.E lesson they got to use the climbing wall, all students were absolutely fantastic. The students showed resilience and how brave they can be when they want to challenge themselves. Brazil students are aware of the importance of following instructions in order for them to safely return back to the ground. Seeing the students' faces when they realised they had achieved their goal was brilliant, a very proud moment! We have been doing our travel training lessons for a while now and we are getting so much better! We started off all walking to the house with little guidance from staff and now, we are able to walk confidently and attempt to problem solve when there is a sudden change in the routine. The students are coping so well with this.

One of our highlights this term has been, sitting out in the sun having a picnic with the whole class! The students spent the morning making sandwiches for themselves using ingredients that they liked; cheese, chicken or ham sandwiches. We went outside, laid blankets on the floor and sat in a big circle so everyone felt involved. We had a great time laughing, joking AND chasing the litter across the grass when it got windy! A special shout out to James from Botswana Class, for being our class Buddy this term, you have brought so much joy and fun to our class the students and staff have loved having you in the classroom supporting them with their everyday life skills. Our students know they have found a friend in you. Overall, we are so proud of the progress that you have all made this term. Brazil staff want to say we hope you have a lovely half-term and we will see you on Monday, ready to start the last term before summer! 😊

## Peru Class

What a fantastic term for Peru!

Highlight of the term has to be the proud moment that Peru class won 'best class,' in a book review competition. Our prize was a visit to Central Library and a McDonalds. We were thrilled. What was even better is that we had two pupils who won £50 shopping vouchers for their individual entries. Well done Peru class! That is not all that Peru are proud of. This term we had our class assembly. We had been practising the cup song routine using cups and ribbons and after weeks of hard work, we aced it and were able to showcase our music video to the school and parents. We were very proud. Also, this term commemorated the coronation of our King. We enjoyed dressing up in our red, white and blue and completing activities around the occasion. We further looked at King Charles as part of our English 'biography' topic. We read King Charles' biography as part of the Little People, Big Dreams series. We learnt lots of facts and completed comprehension questions from what we had read. Next, we planned and wrote our own biographies. Who knows, we may have our own biographies published if we are famous one day!

This term we have also been working really hard across subjects. In Science we completed a 'healthy bodies' topic. We particularly enjoyed using smart watches to find our pulse before and after exercise and commenting on the difference. It was also important that we looked at what makes a balanced diet and we tried really hard to learn the different food groups. We also discussed the important of having a balanced diet during our food technology lessons. This terms focus was meat free dishes. Our two favourite dishes were the macaroni cheese and a tomato pasta bake. In fact, most children had to have seconds, their food was that delicious!

Part of having a 'healthy body' is keeping fit and we certainly achieved this during PE lessons this term. For our 'athletics,' topic we learnt how to correctly complete a long jump, as well as throw a shot put. We watched videos from the Olympics to help identify correct form. We also did A LOT of running! We used stop watches to time how quickly we could sprint at a short distance and also long distance, which was much harder. We also worked as a team by completing relay races. Passing the baton was tricky at times but we kept practising.

One of our favourite lessons this this term was Computing. Many pupils in Peru love gaming and during Computing this term, Peru were able to create games of their own. This included designing a character, game background and scenery and a tricky maze to navigate through. Also, catering to Peru classes interests, they loved navigating a newly discovered website which allowed them to design their own mobile phone. For art, we looked at Frida Kahlo. Peru particularly liked her surrealist art and found it enjoyable sketching their portrait on to different animals to match their personalities. They also enjoyed painting important memories and thinking carefully about what colours to use to portray their emotion at the time.

History is also another favourite subject of Peru class and they found it really interesting finding out about the lives of children during WWII. We looked at children evacuees, children's experiences of air raids and also the experience of Jewish children. This has been such a busy term! On to the next, which just as much enthusiasm as the last!



## Mozambique class

Mozambique class have had a fantastic and exciting term. In English we began reading the Spooks Apprentice. As a class we made predictions and learnt new words and their meanings based around the book. All students loved the book and were so excited to find out what happened next.

In Physical Education this term our topic was Athletics. We focused on different aspects and students learnt multiple new skills and techniques including, relay races, long distance running, javelin, and shot put. Over the term all students improved on their fitness and VO2.

In Food Technology our focus has been meat free dishes. We have created some delicious meals and students have tasted new foods. Some of our favourite receipts have been vegetable lasagna, tortilla pizzas and tomato pasta bake.

To celebrate Mental Health Awareness week, Mozambique class prepared and presented an assembly to key stage three students and their families. We shared about this year's theme 'Anxiety' and how important it is to look after our mental health. Students gave examples of things that can help our mental and physical health and shared important information about seeking help if needed.

Some students in Mozambique class took part in the MVP buddy programme and learnt about spreading the message to our students about online safety, being a good citizen and much more. Students went to different classes and presented a PowerPoint to raise awareness and inform students that they are supported by the MVP buddies and Abbots Lea School, should they need them.

Finally, we have celebrated Outdoor Learning Day, in class we created dream catchers using twigs and leaves from the woodland area, we made leaf art and worked as a whole class to build a tee-pee and shelter for our class mascot 'Dougie Dog'.

All staff in Mozambique class are very proud of all students and how hard they have worked this term, have a restful and safe half term!



## Botswana class

Botswana Class have worked incredibly hard this term, and as a class team we are very proud of them.

In English, we have been exploring Shakespearian language through our current text; the *Macbeth* play script. One area of progress that really stands out is the children's work in exploring inference, playwright language and choice of stage directions to explore themes within the story. Examples include attributing the sound of thunder to violence and the three evil witches.

In RE, we have been learning more about Islam and the lives of Muslims in Britain today. We have researched the 5 pillars that underpin their faith, and created our own 5 pillars which we will need to support us throughout our own lives. We have talked about the similarities between the lives of different religious groups in England and the World. The children were able to identify beliefs and ideas that different groups share and have celebrated each other's faiths and belief systems as a class.

With the weather getting warmer, we have tried to spend as much time learning outside of the classroom as possible. We have been taking our Maths, Art, PE and RE lessons outdoors and as a class we have really enjoyed this time. We have also spent a lot of time this term developing our social skills and working together to problem solve challenges in our forestry environment. This has been a real highlight and a special time for us to share and develop our friendships. This was especially memorable in our Outdoor Learning day. We worked together to build a shelter from tarpaulin, string, branches and sticks. It was fantastic to see each member of the class interact with each other and to support some younger students to build their shelters as well. Well done Botswana Class!

In History, we have been learning about how the daily lives of children were impacted during WW2. The children reviewed a range of different historical sources to build up a clear picture of what life was truly like at this time. We learnt about the daily lives of evacuated children in the UK as well as exploring the lives of children in Europe. One moment that stands out for us as a class team was reading quotes and extracts from the *'Diary of Anne Frank'*. The students were particularly engaged in this lesson and were able to explain why they found her story so personally inspirational.

This term has been additionally challenging as we have continued to develop our skills and confidence in the water over two weeks of external swimming lessons. Everybody tried their very best to develop their own skills but all support their classmates. As a class team have been particularly impressed with how respectful and mature the students were off-site, and how willing they were to listen and interact with the swimming instructors. Developing our life skills and independence is particularly important as we prepare for Key Stage four and so seeing the children behave with such maturity and kindness in the community was a pleasure to watch.

In ICT, we have continued to develop our skills and the WOW moment for this term was seeing each student design and create their very own 3D computer game, which they then shared and played with their peers in class and the rest of the Key Stage. They were able to personalise their games, create different levels and add unique design features to make their games truly interactive and as a class team we have had lots of fun playing them together! I can't wait to see what they are able to achieve next term following on from this learning.

We are all really looking forward to next term. Hopefully the weather will be even warmer, and therefore, we plan to spend even more time outside!

Mr Donoghue, Mrs Bright and I wish you and your families all a very happy half term. We are desperate to make the most out of our final term together this academic year. Have a great break and we look forward to welcoming you all back to school next term!



# 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](#)).

## Seychelles class

Seychelles Class have been very busy this term! In RE, we have investigated Islam, researching the 5 pillars that underpin their faith, and created our own 5 pillars which we will need to support us throughout our own lives. Along with the rest of the nation, we celebrated the coronation of King Charles III. -We had fun building a throne in class and making our own crowns! In English we studied Macbeth, focusing on sequencing the story and understanding some of the potentially challenging language that Shakespeare's stories entail. We also researched some of the phrases that Shakespeare created, which we still use today, more than 400 years later!

With the weather getting better, we tried to spend as much time learning outside of the classroom as possible. This involved an outdoor learning afternoon, where we built a shelter from tarpaulin, string, branches and sticks. We took a short class trip to Calderstones Park, where the children enjoyed feeding the ducks, kicking a football around, and ordering their own Ice-creams and Sandwiches. It was fantastic to see each member of the class interact with the employees in the shop, no matter how nervous they were and also to see them sharing their pennies and snacks with friends, if they could not quite afford particular items! We also went swimming for the last two weeks of term. -Every member of the class participated and thrived. The class team were particularly impressed with how respectful and mature the students were off-site, and how willing they were to listen and interact with the swimming instructors. The swimming instructors also complimented the boys for their attitude and ability.

We will be continuing with this term's PSHE topic next term, which is 'Digital Wellbeing'. The topic focuses heavily on staying safe online, which I'm sure you'll all agree, in today's world of mobile technology and social networking, is highly important for the student's development. The topic of technology leads me on to something that all learners really engaged with positively this term: our computing topic 'Multimedia, Sound and Motion'. We created our own 3D computer games and played them in class. I highly recommend that you ask your child if they can log-in to 'Purple Mash' from home, and show you their fantastic games! Myself, and the team were astounded at the level of detail and creativity that the children were able to generate in such a short space of time! We all had great fun playing their games.



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In History, we examined what life was like for children in World War II. This included looking at foods that were rationed, where they were evacuated to and learning about their first-hand experiences - such as 'The Diary of Anne Frank'. This term, Science was all about 'Healthy-Bodies' and how our hearts and muscles work. This leant itself perfectly to our PE topic, which was Athletics. During Athletics, the class had fun experiencing a variety of activities, such as: Shot put, Javelin, discus, long jump, sprinting, relay races, and long-distance running.

We are all looking forward to next term. The weather will be even better, and therefore, we plan to be outside more than ever! Mr Makin, Mr Riozzi and I wish you all a happy half term. We are desperate to make the most out of our final term together this academic year. Have a great break!

## Cape Verde class

This term has been a very short term for Cape Verde class but this hasn't prevented them from working towards both academic and social targets. Cape Verde have had a number of WOW moments this term, ranging from the students creating and cooking their own chosen recipes to successfully analysing parts of a Shakespeare play.

Our theme for food tech this term was vegetables, at first many of the students expressed their hatred for the topic and wasn't too please. This attitude changed drastically when the students were given the opportunity to experiment with the given recipes by adding many different herbs and spices to the dish. Our firm favourite being macaroni cheese which both staff and students loved. This has helped the students to develop their cooking skills, learn what spices may or may not work well together and helped them to develop a strong sense of decision making.

Throughout our English lesson's Cape Verde have been looking at Macbeth focussing mainly on key characters. Within these lessons the students got to partake in some drama performances which they all excelled in, and has helped work towards many social targets relating to speaking and listening. Another activity the students really surpassed in was the analysing of the text; the students were able to work with Shakespearian language and translate into modern day language which then allowed them to describe the personality of a specific character. All members of the staff team are extremely impressed at both the students' attitude towards this topic and the standard of work they produced. Well Done Cape Verde.

Enrichment this term for Cape Verde was food technology as they have said this is their favourite lesson. At the start of the term the students were asked to create a recipe with a dish they would like to cook throughout the term. The students were given a budget of £10 per meal. This was an excellent opportunity to introduce life skills into our enrichment and prepare the students for times when they may need to shop for themselves. We made all the dishes using an air fryer, George foreman and a microwave. The dishes all had fairly easy steps and was never any more than 10 stages allowing these to be carried out at home and when ready independently.

Our final two weeks of term have been a rather fun one with the class taking part in swimming lessons. This included the students all socialising together within the pool, practicing certain strokes such as back, front and breast stroke and finishing off with some free time where they were able to splash around. All students appeared very happy and content when in the pool and enjoyed the break away from the classroom environment.

We hope all students from Cape Verde have a great half term, enjoy the rest and come back to school all refreshed.



## Madagascar class

Madagascar class have had another great term. All the students have enjoyed this terms learning, especially our swimming lessons!

In English, we have been reading No Ordinary Boy, which is part of a series of books about the legend of King Arthur. We read chapter by chapter finding out the fate of Merlin and how King Vortigern wanted him for his magical powers. All Merlin knows is, the village where he mixes potions for wary customers, and dreams strange dreams that sometimes come true. What will the king want Merlin to do?.....

In maths, Madagascar set students have engaged in lessons from the following topics. Measurement; measuring length and height and comparing measurements, position and direction; describing position and movement and time; o'clock, half past, quarter past and to and 5-minute intervals. The maths set of students have worked really well together and are making fantastic progress in their set group.

In science we have studied healthy bodies. We explored how to eat a balanced diet and engaged in making an eat well plate. We discussed different types of exercise we can do to keep our bodies healthy and how to look after ourselves.

In art we have studied the artist Frieda Kahlo. We explored her style of artwork and how she included animals and flowers that are native to Mexico

In PSHE we have studied digital wellbeing. We talked about being responsible when using the internet and how to stay safe when online. In computing, we have looked at computer media and sound. During this topic we used Purple Mash to create our own story, adding text, images, animation and sound.

In FT, we have cooked food under the following heading meat free dishes. The skills used have been washing, chopping, slicing, cutting, grating and mashing. The students have made some fantastic dishes and have enjoyed tasting them in class.

In French, we have studied food glorious food. In food glorious food, we talked about different names of food in French. The students are enjoying learning a new language.

In history, we studied children in WW2. We explored what life was like for children during the war. The students found out about the blitz, shelters, rationing and evacuation.

In PE, we have taken part in athletics and swimming. The students really engaged well during the swimming lessons and got changed and unchanged perfectly.

In RE, we studied art and architecture in religion. We discussed what influences art and architecture have on religious beliefs. We looked at lots of different religious buildings.

Well done Madagascar students! We have had a great term 5. Have a lovely break with your families and staff look forward to welcoming you back to class on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June.

Take care, Mrs Rodway, Miss Unsworth and Mr Foster.



## Kenya class

Kenya Class have been incredibly busy this term, and the class team are so proud of the progress the students have made and the effort they have put into their work. In English, we have begun reading a brand-new text, called “The Spook’s Apprentice” by Joseph Delaney. It is a dark and scary story, with lots of interesting language the students have been able to analyse. We have completed character descriptions, made predictions and inferred details from the text. We also looked at the author’s use of language and how he creates suspense and tension. Using these language techniques, the students were able to write their own short stories about spending a night in a haunted house!

In Science, we have been learning about how our bodies stay healthy. We started by learning what scientists used to know about germs and bacteria and how a scientist called James Lind discovered a link between citrus fruits and curing scurvy. We have also found about different kinds of foods and how we can sort them into groups. We looked at the food pyramid and observed which foods we should eat the most of to keep our bodies healthy. To find out about how our bodies move around nutrients, blood and oxygen, we looked into the circulatory system and saw how the heart and lungs work together to keep our blood flowing.

In PE, we have completed different Athletics activities. We started by finding the optimal sprinting position to help us run as fast as possible. We have completed many sprints, and the students have been able to set themselves new personal bests! We have also taken part in long jumps and shotput throws. The students then worked in teams to complete relay races and put a lot of effort into beating their teams’ personal bests. Kenya Class have done some great work in French this term – as usual! We have been learning to name different modes of transport and we have used this vocabulary to build some longer sentences and have been able to say, “I go to school by...”

Our Art unit this term has focused on Frida Kahlo, a famous Mexican artist. We have observed many pieces of her work and have identified the themes she used. We used her work as inspiration to create our own self-portraits, and we drafted ways we could include aspects of our identity and heritage in our artwork, as Frida Kahlo did with her Mexican heritage. In PSHE, we have been looking into what Digital Wellbeing is and how we can stay safe online. We have discussed safe, respectful, online relationships and what you can do to get help if you see or experience something that makes you uncomfortable. While recognising that the internet is a useful tool, we also outlined different kinds of inappropriate behaviour and the effect that this can have on people.

The relationships in Kenya Class have continued to develop, which has been lovely to see. We have had discussions about anti-bullying and how to maintain a safe, kind and respectful classroom environment and the students have responded excellently. There are more and more students in the class supporting each other and taking part in group games and activities. The class team are so proud of this progress, as we recognise that this can be difficult for some – well done Kenya Class!

This term is my last at Abbot’s Lea School, and I am honoured to have spent it in Kenya Class. Thank you to my class team, the students’ families and most importantly to the students for being so hardworking, funny and kind this year. You have made my last year at this school the best ever! Continue to work hard and be kind to each other and I know you will continue to develop and progress. Thank you, Kenya Class! Miss Joyce.



## Australia class

Australia class have had a fantastic term 5 with lots of learning and laughter, but we are definitely ready for a well-deserved break!

We would like to start this article by saying how proud we are of all our year 11 students for sitting their exams this past week! You are all incredibly talented people who have tried their absolute best and that's all we could ever ask of you. The manner in which you all carried out the exams and the resilience you've shown is outstanding, we're so proud to be your class team!

During exam week, an opportunity arose for our year 10 students to take part in a workshop in the Everyman theatre. Students spent a morning at the theatre taking part in a variety of workshops that taught them all about lighting, sound tech and costume design. The students thoroughly enjoyed themselves and were given an insight into some careers that could potentially be pursued in the future.

In terms of lessons, we've focused predominantly on our new topic 'Animal Farm' in English. The students have really grasped the underlying concepts in the book and have been able to infer what the author is trying to imply in the text. Some students have even read ahead and are bursting to tell us all the spoilers! We have utilised Math's lessons this term to hammer in revision and work on topics that may have been tricky when recently covered, as well as completing a range of past papers to ensure full understanding of exam question wording and how to tackle questions we might not be sure how to answer.

Science has been quite exciting this term as we have been working on our Science Investigation unit, meaning that we were able to conduct an experiment in class. Students were challenged to create a hypothesis based on the statement "all liquids are runny", test their hypothesis and analyse the data found from the experiment. The experiment involved liquids such as oil, double cream, water and even tomato ketchup!

Our main focus in PE this term has been athletics and we've worked on developing our sprinting, long jump and triple jump ability. Students have spent each lesson timing themselves completing the activity and seeing how their fitness has improved over the term. The final PE lesson this term was spent completing a long-distance run where students were challenged to complete the designated course ten times during the lesson.

Unfortunately, our favourite lesson, Food Technology, which usually takes place on a Monday was affected by a few bank holidays this term, meaning that we haven't been able to create as many dishes as we would like. Despite this, we've still made three tasty dishes including Spaghetti Bolognese, Lasagne and Sausage Chilli Cha Cha Cha. All of which were highly praised by the class.

Have a lovely break everyone. We'll see you all back on the 5<sup>th</sup> of June, for the last term of this academic year!



## New Zealand class

This term has been an interesting challenge for New Zealand class, whilst dealing with the disruption of strike days and being taught remotely by their teacher, they have worked extremely hard with all the different topics covered.

In English, students have been reading *Animal Farm* and learning about the history and context of the messages throughout the text. They have thoroughly enjoyed learning about how a fictional text was used to convey different themes and events in history.

Throughout Maths, the class have been recapping their knowledge of measuring shapes and using correct measurements. They were given challenges of measuring items within the class room before expanding their learning on perimeter, building on their adding and taking away skills to solve different problems. They have begun to move onto solving the area of shapes.

Throughout Science, students have been looking at completing different experiments linked to the three states of matter. Students have looked at keeping themselves and others safe whilst performing their own science experiments, predicting and measuring outcomes.

During Employability, the theme has been about building resilience, using budgets, looking at various career pathways and also working with others to solve problems. This has also transferred across to PHSE lessons and RE, when looking at topical events such as diversity and culture differences, highlighting the need for developing key life skills.

During PE, students have showed real enjoyment and engagement when taking part in various athletics events. They have worked both independently as well as part of a team to push and set themselves personal targets to beat. Students have also shown a good level of leadership and team work when taking part in Food Technology, by trying new foods when making pasta and rice dishes.

From all of the class team, we wish both parents, carers and students a restful and safe break before the build up to the final term of the year.





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## Samoa class

Our year 11 students have completed their Maths, English and ICT exams. We have spent a lot of this term doing exam preparation, revisiting old topics and looking at new learning. We know that exams can be a tough time for some students, but now is the time to celebrate and appreciate your achievements and hard work - the staff are so proud of you all.

We have also enjoyed reading the novel *Animal Farm* in class and spending lots of time outdoors, completing our learning around our beautiful school grounds.

We have been lucky enough to have the opportunity to visit two of our city's museums; The World Museum and The Museum of Liverpool. We thoroughly enjoyed our trips, in particular the Planetarium as this coincided with this term's science topic, Space. All students behaved maturely and did a fantastic job at representing Abbot's Lea School – Well Done Everyone!!

Have a lovely break and we will see you after half term.



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## Tasmania class

Tasmania has had a busy term 5 and all students have been working extremely hard this term. A big well done to all!

We have celebrated King Charles III coronation, we have learnt the history behind the coronation and enjoyed some art and crafts activities on this subject.

To celebrate Eurovision, we took part in a Kahoot quiz and tested out our knowledge on it. We designed our own Eurovision posters and costumes.

On outdoor learning day we went to the forest school and created leaf arts. We built a tepee and completed a quiz by scanning QR codes.

In English this term we have started reading *Animal Farm* by George Orwell. We learnt about denotation and connotation and analysed individual creature's connotation. We explored George Orwell's life at the time *Animal Farm* was written and read two allegories and discussed the meaning behind them. We discussed animal characteristics and identified the jobs of each animal and why they wanted to rebel. We analysed the main characters and did various comprehension questions to gain a better understanding of the book. Finally, we continued practising SPaG knowledge including capital letters, complete sentences, singular and plural and paragraph writing.

In Maths we looked at data handling and learnt how to interpret data represented in tables, diagrams, charts and line graphs. We practised drawing line graphs, how to label the axis correctly and what a suitable title for a graph would be. In ICT we learnt to write effective search terms using the Boolean operators, including the use of and, or and not. We used Microsoft Excel and created comparative column chart. We then practised creating and adjusting graphs on Microsoft Excel.

In Science this term we are looking at investigations. We looked at how to maintain health and safety in a lab and the meaning of the different symbols you would see. We then enjoyed carrying out an investigation by testing out the viscosity of different liquids in several experiments.



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In Food Tech we worked together as a team and made some lovely dishes, including spaghetti Bolognese, Lasagne, Bacon and mushroom risotto and Sausage chilli cha cha cha! In PE the students have been working really hard practising sprinting, relay races, 100m run, long jump, triple jump and long-distance run.

In PSHE we discussed following a healthy life style and how this can help avoiding potential health issues. We learnt how regular medical screening can monitor our health. We looked at some life skills, including discussing how to use a washing machine, how to use the cleaning products and how to store clothes properly. We learnt how to use an iron and what settings can be used based on different clothing fabrics. We researched weekly shopping through different websites and the best route to travel to the shop. We separated products we can recycle and why we need to reduce waste. We discussed social media and cyberbullying.

In Employability, we learnt about problem solving and how to tackle potential problems that may arise. In RE we learnt about Mahavira day and discussed what we can do to support charities and how to be kind. We looked at Muslim, Christian and catholic beliefs and the different religious symbols.

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## Malawi class

This term has been a great one for Malawi class!! We have just ended the term on a successful, some may say stressful, exam week. Students completed exams amazingly and maturely and ensured that they tried their best on all. Of course, as well as exams, we have gained lots of new knowledge in all aspects of the curriculum.

In maths this term, the class have completed a range of topics. These have included topics around 3D shapes. This started with drawing 3D shapes including plans and elevations, the topic then moved onto interior and exterior angles in 2D and 3D shapes. This was new knowledge for many students who gained amazing understanding of the topic! Students also completed lots of maths exam papers and questions in preparation for exams. This highlighted the areas that individual students should focus on during exam revision.

In English, students have enjoyed reading our new class book, Great Expectations by Charles Dickens. The class have enjoyed interpreting and analysing the book with getting to know the characters and predicting what will happen. Every few chapters, students wrote a small review of the book, how the story has developed and how they think the story will develop further. Students have also, of course, completed lots of English exam revision for both reading and writing.

Malawi class have had a great term in food technology. The class have made many delicious dishes like fajitas, salt and pepper chicken, noodles with their own choice of topping like a range of vegetables, a range of meats and a variety of sauces to choose from.

Students in Malawi class have all been fantastic in their accredited learning lessons this term. Staff of these lessons always give great feedback about students in Malawi class when they go to their different classes.

In PE this term, Malawi class have taken part in athletics. Students have practiced and used their new skills of shot put, javelin, sprinting, long distance running and relay races.

Overall, it has been a great and successful term in Malawi class and we as a class team are very proud of all students!! Enjoy half term everyone and have a well-deserved rest!!

See you in term 6!!



# News

## Christmas Island class

This has been an exciting and hard working term for Xmas Islands class. We have spent time preparing for our exams, which we completed this week, including English reading, writing, speaking and listening, maths and ICT. Well done to all KS4 and KS5 students who worked so hard to complete these exams! We changed topics in science to explore the universe and the planets around us.

In PSHE we have been exploring appropriate relationships and consent, having mature conversations about what is appropriate in a relationship and empowering people to have the right to say no. In maths we have looked at different measurements including capacity, length and width, applying these to real life objects to compare.

In English we have been studying our class book 'Great expectations', discussing the different characters and the plot after every chapter. In ICT we have focused on mastering different applications including word and excel which helped in preparation for our exams. In PE we have been completing different circuit training and completed games such as the long jump and shot put. In food tech we have explored different foods across the world including fajitas and halloumi pitas. In accredited learning students have enjoyed a variety of activities.

In geography they have focused on famous people, transport and monuments in Liverpool, alongside looking at different natural disasters. In art students drawing their own animated characters and exploring different characters. In music we have been exploring different instruments including drums and guitars.

Some students have had a great time doing work experience in Speke hall, completing different maintenance activities of the garden including weeding and planting. In horticulture enrichment club these students have been working on the school grounds completed activities such as creating a flower garden and clearing areas of the forest school.

We hope everyone has an amazing time off and we will see you in a week!



# News

## Papua New Guinea class

Wow! Another fantastic term for PNG. The students have worked so hard in the various subjects in our Bespoke Curriculum. In World Studies, the class have been learning about all of the Kings and Queens of England from Alfred the Great, to William the Conqueror, to Henry VIII (including all of his 6 wives!). In Independent Studies, we've been looking at different routines such as cleaning routines and weekend routines. After completing their cleaning routines, the students even helped the PNG team make sure the class is clean and tidy so they are always ready to learn! The class has also looked at personal hygiene, exploring the importance of maintaining good personal hygiene as well as the risks of poor personal hygiene. In Vocational Studies, the students have been looking at building their CVs, considering hobbies, skills and interests which could enhance a CV. The students have also made some incredible food tech creations such as halloumi kebabs, fajita wraps, flapjacks and tomato soup.

The students have engaged in a lot of outdoor learning, especially as the weather has been getting nicer. Whether it be enjoying sensory walks, helping water the outside plants or completing scavenger hunts, PNG have thrived in their outdoor learning.

Over the last few weeks, the students have been preparing for their entry level maths and English exams. This week, PNG class sat their exams and the class team is so proud of each and every student – you've all worked so hard.

Well done for a brilliant term PNG! Have a great half term break from all the class team 😊



**Well Done Papua  
New Guinea! 😊**



## Fiji class

This half term in Fiji, we have been preparing for the end of year exams. All of the students have been working incredibly hard and have shown amazing resilience and determination - well done Fiji!

As part of our exam preparation, we took a trip to Sainsbury's in Woolton village to work on money management. We looked at various items in the shop, working out how much things would cost, and then working out how much change we would get from £10 or £20. The students particularly enjoyed the chocolate that we bought as part of our activity!

In English, we have been reading Great Expectations. The students have enjoyed getting to know the character Pip, and have also liked learning more about the Victorian era and what life was like then.

In Science, we spent some time researching the planets and the solar system, and we made a beautiful display in the classroom of all of the planets. The students were also able to order the planets in the correct order.

As part of the "relationships" aspect of PSHE, we have been looking at what constitutes a healthy/unhealthy relationship. Students then discussed any "red flags" that might occur, and were able to talk about what they might do, if they were in a relationship in which these things occur, or if their friend was in a situation like that.

As well as doing our class-based work, we have also been for a few walks for mindfulness and to improve social interaction. We have visited Calderstones Park and Reynold's Park, and on both occasions, our students did us proud, by behaving impeccably and being incredibly polite and respectful to members of the public.

Well done Fiji!



## 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



## Our PBS Team have been featured in the latest issue of 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.

**A**bbot'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 Abbots 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."



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# Student of the Week

## Student of the Week

Class	Student	Reason why
<b>Key Stage 1</b>		
Ireland	<b>Noah</b>	For amazing participation in group activities this week!
Wales	<b>Barnby</b>	For not being too keen on the idea of swimming but giving it a go and learning he quite likes it!
<b>Key Stage 2</b>		
Canada	<b>Alfie</b>	For producing a consistently high standard in his English written work. Fantastic work!
Italy	<b>Adam</b>	For amazing role play in his rocket!
Portugal	<b>Alfie</b>	For modelling positive language around our school and including friends into his games.
France	<b>Wyatt</b>	For engaging in challenging activities this week.
Spain	<b>Charlie</b>	For following the Golden Rules.
USA	<b>Riley</b>	For having a positive attitude this week.
<b>Key Stage 3</b>		
Brazil	<b>Jack</b>	For consistently following the golden rules, participating in every academic activity AND for being a good friend to his classmates!
Peru	<b>Khaya</b>	For great improvement in phonics!
Mozambique	<b>Sonny</b>	For having a great full week back at school and working hard in all lessons.
Botswana	<b>Nathanael</b>	For creating a fantastic game in ICT, well done Nathanael!
Madagascar	<b>Lewis</b>	For working hard in history and French lessons this week.
Kenya	<b>Olivia</b>	For writing a fantastic letter in English, with lots of information and emotive language.
Seychelles	<b>Jamie</b>	For entering the pool at swimming and giving it his best
Cape Verde	<b>Theo</b>	For his improvement in engaging in learning activities.

# Student of the Week

Key Stage 4		
Australia	<b>Jacob</b>	For having a great week and working really hard on your GL assessments.
Tasmania	<b>Lucas</b>	For showing determination in completing his GL assessments and showing great maturity when regulating his own emotions.
Samoa	<b>Dylan</b>	For embracing his exams this week and listening and responding well to staff instructions.
New Zealand	<b>Jack</b>	For being positive despite a tough week completing his exams.
Key Stage 5		
Malawi	<b>Nathan</b>	For completing exams fantastically this week!!
Christmas Island	<b>Louis</b>	For having such a positive attitude this term and having great social interactions with classmates.
Fiji	<b>Kyle</b>	For an excellent exam week.
PNG	<b>Alex</b>	For great communication with staff and fantastic socialisation with other students around the school.

# 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

## 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

## Training for parents/carers and professionals working with children and young people



Merseyside Youth Association's mental health promotion team (RAISE Team) deliver a range of bite-size courses covering a range of mental health issues that impact children, young people and their families.

Bite-size sessions coming up in June, delivered via Zoom unless otherwise stated:

- Understanding Low Mood and Depression in Young People - 05/08/2023 10:00 am - 11:00 am [Book here](#)
- Understanding and Managing Anxiety - 05/08/2023 3:15 pm - 4:15 pm [Book here](#)
- Safety Planning - 06/08/2023 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm [Book here](#)
- Worries of the World - 07/08/2023 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm [Book here](#)
- Social media and mental health - 08/08/2023 10:00 am - 11:00 am [Book here](#)
- Behaviour as Communication - 12/06/2023 10:00 am - 11:00 am [Book here](#)
- Managing Challenging Conversations - 12/06/2023 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm [Book here](#)
- Managing Child Worry - 13/06/2023 10:00 am - 11:00 am [Book here](#)
- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and Trauma - 20/08/2023 9:30 am - 4:30 pm, Merseyside Youth Association, 85-87 Hanover Street Liverpool [Book here](#)
- Introduction to Attachment - 28/08/2023 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm [Book here](#)



### Safety Planning Training

#### 6th June 1pm - 4pm

Delivered by MYA's RAISE Team, this half-day session on safety planning is aimed at anyone working with children and young people who have suicidal ideation and might benefit from the active use of a safety plan.

There will be a focus on what they are and opportunities to compare various plans, exploring risk and risk factors, using shaming language, opportunities for self-care and signposting for further support.

If you know of any additional service or resource that would be useful to the rest of our school community, please share it with our office via [reception@abbotsleaschool.co.uk](mailto:reception@abbotsleaschool.co.uk)

# Useful Information



## Adverse Childhood Experiences: Where are we now and options for action. Rapid 15 Conference

There are limited places available for this conference hosted by Liverpool John Moores University and the Liverpool CAMHS Partnership.

Throughout the day we will hear from a range of speakers, explore the historical context of ACEs and where we are now as well as look at case studies and actions going forward.

### Eye Movement Desensitisation and Reprocessing (EMDR) 2024 Training



Eye Movement Desensitisation and Reprocessing (EMDR) therapy is one of the most significant and innovative recent developments for treating trauma-related conditions and adverse life experiences.

The training will be delivered in the Liverpool City Region, and it will be split into three parts:

Part one: 6 – 8 March	Part 1 (3 days)
Part two: 4 & 5 July	Part 2 (2 days)
Part three: 7 & 8 Nov	Part 3 (2 days)

**The cost for delegates is £950 per person.**

This training is FREE for those who work with Liverpool young people up to the age of 25 and who work in the NHS or the voluntary sector.



# Useful Information

## Get involved - events and forums



### Umbrella Stay and Play

Stay, play and explore strategies with our Early Years ND Team (for children with characteristics / emerging characteristics of ND conditions) every Tuesday 10 am - 11 am at Clubmoor & Ellergreen Children's Centre (free to access, no booking required)

### Neurodiversity 1:1 sessions

Every Tuesday, 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm at Clubmoor & Ellergreen Children's Centre (free to access, however, booking is required).

### Supporting your ND child - Strategies for Grandparents and Carers

Aimed at Grandparents and Carers in Liverpool to help support their neurodivergent children. Working alongside Positive Futures, we are offering face-to-face workshops to build skills and knowledge around neurodiversity.



#### Free ukulele Lessons for trans, non-binary and gender-questioning young people in THE Action Youth at YPAS

Wednesdays throughout June – 4.30 pm - 6.00 pm

Spaces are very limited – contact [ypas@ypas.org.uk](mailto:ypas@ypas.org.uk) to express an interest.

#### Sing It! At YPAS SMARTYs In association with Liam Moore's Sing It programme

Thursdays in June and July 2023 at the YPAS North Hub.

We will be recording sessions that will go out weekly to parents to share progress and on to a YouTube channel for them to show their friends.

Children who want to take part can sign up at North Hub SMARTYs.

#### YPAS Central Hub is upgrading, and we want young people's feedback!

Young people tell us that it is important to have a building in the heart of the city, and so we want to raise money to either rebuild or refurbish the building so that it can continue to meet the needs of children and young people for many more years.

YPAS want to hear from children and young people about what they feel is important to be included in our new building. The survey results will help us to design a building that has features that are important to young people.

Do you know anyone aged 25 and under? Who would want a chance to win a prize of £50 or £10?

Please share the survey via the link below, prizes will be drawn on June 12th.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/h/CMW67GV>

#### Pride Month - CYRO sessions on Autistic Pride at YPAS Central Hub

This year for LGBT Pride Month (June 2023) CYRO sessions will be focusing on Autistic Pride

Through craft activities and discussions, CYRO will be celebrating neurodiversity and exploring how we can make our sessions more accessible. Sessions will take place at YPAS Central Hub. Visit YPAS's website below for times and dates of CYRO groups:

[www.ypas.org.uk/whats-on/](http://www.ypas.org.uk/whats-on/)

## CAMHS Support

### Make a referral to CAMHS online

Children, young people, parents and professionals can make self-referrals into partnership mental health services and get support from Liverpool CAMHS

# Useful Information

## YPAS Alternative to Crisis Drop-Ins

YPAS offers an alternative to crisis drop-in service six days a week across three community hubs. No appointment is needed.

[View times here.](#)



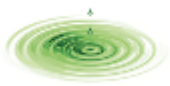
## Family Support



The programme is delivered as live-streamed online sessions, with sessions available on various dates and times, including evenings and weekends.

Referrals for the programme can be made by CAMHS, Local Authorities and Paediatrics. However, families can also self-refer to the service by completing our online referral form.

Families and carers can access the free post "Understanding and supporting my child's ADHD" programme, which explores different aspects of living with ADHD and strategies to support it.



**ADDvanced Solutions**  
Community Network  
Supporting you to find the answers

The team at ADDvanced Solutions Community Network support families living with neurodevelopmental conditions in Liverpool pre, during and post diagnosis.

### What's available?

A weekly programme of virtual and face-to-face Community Network Groups and webinar Learning Workshops for parents and carers of children and young people living with neurodevelopmental conditions pre, during and post-diagnosis and also to the professionals who support them.

Safety Planning Training - [To book, click here](#)

Eye Movement Desensitisation and Reprocessing (EMDR) 2024 Training - [Book here](#)

Event Information - [Request more information](#)

Online CAMHS referral - [Access the referral form here](#)

YPAS Crisis drop-in times - [View times here.](#)

ADHD Foundation Family Support - [Refer here](#)

ADDvanced Solutions Newsletter - [Read the newsletter here](#)

If you know of any additional service or resource that would be useful to the rest of our school community, please share it with our office via [reception@abbotsleaschool.co.uk](mailto:reception@abbotsleaschool.co.uk)

# Useful Information



Date: 19th May 2023

Dear Parent or Guardian

The May “Eat to Meet 2” Half Term programme starts on the 29th May and there are lots of great activities happening over the school holidays. Children and young people, from reception to age 16, who are eligible for benefits related free school meals, will be able to access hundreds of activities throughout the half term holidays including specific provision available for children with SEND or additional needs, at no cost. There’s a great range of activities across the city including boxing, football, music, dance, cycling, cooking, discos, films, bowling, arts and crafts, drama, a make-up course, trips out and much more! Every day there will be a range of fabulous meals available with many schemes holding family events as well.

To find out where your nearest scheme is click on this link <https://merseyplay.com/may-half-term-eat-to-meet/> or go to <https://www.merseyplay.com> and click on the May half term activities link.

When you have chosen the activity/scheme you will need to contact that organisation to book a place. Each organisation will have either a telephone number, email address or online booking system. If your child has any additional needs or dietary requirements then please discuss this with the organisation when you book. There is no central booking system so please read the details of the programmes on the website and contact the providers directly.

☑ If you want to know how to register or how to check if your child is eligible for free school meals then please click on the link <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

☑ You will need your national insurance number or an asylum seekers support number.

☑ If you are struggling with the cost of living then please click: <https://www.liverpool.gov.uk/cost-of-living/>

☑ If you’re more than 10 weeks pregnant or have a child under 4, you may be entitled to get help to buy healthy food and milk. Click on the link to find out how to register <https://www.healthystart.nhs.uk/>

Liverpool City Council is working with Mersey Play Action Council, Sutton Croft and the local schools, voluntary and community organisations, and childcare providers to deliver the Half Term Activity programme.

The Family Information and SEND Directory also provides a wealth of useful information and support for families - FISD.

Regards

Sally Dobbing

Sally Dobbing - HAF Project Manager

# Useful Information

Hello,

To help celebrate NSPCC Childhood Day we are opening the doors of our Liverpool Hub for anyone and everyone to come along have a coffee, some cake and learn about the work we do to help keep children safe in Merseyside and beyond. There will be fun activities along with information sessions on the services we run from the hub along with Childline and our Speak Out, Stay Safe Schools Service.

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June, 9:30-12pm @ NSPCC Liverpool, 112 Great Homer Street, L5 3LQ

Childhood Day is our annual landmark day that brings communities together to raise money, increase awareness and help keep children safe.

Half a million children a year suffer abuse in the UK. That means seven children in a classroom experience abuse before they turn 18.

This can't go on – and it doesn't have to. That's why we created Childhood Day. On 9 June, the UK will come together to make child protection our top priority. And we're asking everyone to play their part.

Other ways to get involved

- Help us promote and spread the word about Childhood Day through your networks. Use the social fresh of the press images for [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#) or [Instagram](#) alongside the copy “[sign up today](#) and play your part to keep children safe”.
- Join our local **Childhood Day collection taking place at Liverpool One on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June**. Registrations are now open so be the first to [sign up to collect today](#)



The poster features the NSPCC logo at the top. Below it, the text 'Join us this childhood day' is written in a playful, rounded font. The word 'childhood' is in green, and 'day' is in a larger, bold green font. To the left, there is a circular image of two people in green NSPCC t-shirts. To the right, there is a circular image of people gathered around a table with a cake. Below the main text, a white box with a green border contains the event details: 'Coffee Morning' in large pink letters, followed by 'Thursday 8th June 9.30am-12pm', the address 'NSPCC Hargreaves Centre, 112 Great Homer Street, Liverpool, L5 3LQ', and the RSVP information: 'RSVP: tel. 0151 556 1000, merseycpt@nspcc.org.uk'.

# 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

24<sup>th</sup> August 5:30-6:30



**Starting School!**

**All 530 – 630pm**

- Whiston Willis 14<sup>th</sup> August
- St Joseph's Huyton 15<sup>th</sup> August
- St Gabriel's Huyton 16<sup>th</sup> August
- Oakdene Primary 17<sup>th</sup> August
- Halsnead 21<sup>st</sup> August
- Evelyn Primary 22<sup>nd</sup> August
- Knowsley Village 23<sup>rd</sup> August
- SEN school mixer 24<sup>th</sup> August

Abbots Lea  
Blue Bell  
Lakeside  
Knowsley Central



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](mailto:womens@thebraincharity.org.uk)





**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**

# MEASLES

## Don't let your child catch it

– get them vaccinated with the MMR vaccine

- measles outbreaks happen when not enough children have been vaccinated
- measles can be a very serious disease, leading to ear and chest infections, fits, diarrhoea, and damage to the brain. Measles can kill
- your child is at risk of measles if he or she hasn't had the MMR vaccination
- 2 doses of MMR vaccine are needed to get the best protection
- if your child is due to have had 2 doses of MMR but has not yet received them, no matter what age they are, you should contact your GP to get them vaccinated as soon as possible\*
- if you can't remember if your child has had any, 1 or 2 doses of MMR vaccine, check his or her personal child health record (the Red Book). If this doesn't help, speak to your GP
- if you don't know how many doses your child has had, it's better to have 2 doses of MMR vaccine now rather than risk leaving them unprotected

\*In response to a local outbreak then the 2 doses can be given one month apart from the age of 18 months.





# Answers to some common questions about measles and the MMR vaccine

## Why are we seeing these outbreaks of measles?

Measles is a highly infectious disease, spreading quickly from person to person, especially in schools. A child with measles will infect almost all unprotected children they have contact with. Since the end of 2017 there has been an increase in measles globally which has affected the UK. This has resulted in some spread into wider communities, in particular in undervaccinated groups.

## When are the MMR vaccinations usually given?

The best times are between 12 and 13 months of age and again at 3 years and 4 months, with one dose on each occasion. But, if your child wasn't vaccinated then, they can be vaccinated at any age with 2 doses one month apart.

## Will there be any side effects to the vaccination?

Your child may get the symptoms of measles, mumps and rubella for up to 6 weeks after the vaccination but in a very much milder form. This proves that the vaccine is working and your child is building up resistance to future contact with the viruses that cause the 3 diseases. Not all children show these symptoms but that doesn't mean the vaccine isn't working.

## Should parents in outbreak areas get vaccinated against measles?

As with many diseases, once you have had measles, you don't catch it again because you have built up a natural resistance to it. So, if you've had measles or 2 doses of MMR vaccine you do not need to get vaccinated now.

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For more information about measles and MMR go to  
[www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/)



# 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)

