



Head's Weekly Newsletter

Week 36



Message from the Headteacher

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

Dear Students, Families, Colleagues and Friends

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

The heat this week has been exhausting and I want to congratulate all of our students on their ability to engage so well with their learning (and for the senior students – with the exams!) and giving it your best each day!

We are fast reaching the end of the year and I have been in awe of the nominations for this year's student awards reaching me from the staff working directly with the students.

Next week, on Thursday, 22 June 2023, we will be holding our Annual Awards Ceremony, celebrating all students, and recognising particular outstanding successes of those, who shone brightly – often, against all odds...

I sincerely hope that some of the families will be able to join us and so, I re-share the specific times for each Key Stage event:

- 9:30-10:10 – Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 and 9)
- 10:30 – 12:30 – Key Stage 4 and 5 (years 10, 11, 12, 13, 14)
- 13:30 – 14:30 – Primary Department: Early Years, Key Stage 1 and key Stage 2 (Reception -year 6) - (parents of students in this event are welcome to take them home after the ceremony – please do inform/cancel your transport provider for that afternoon if you decide to do that and inform the school office)

Please be advised that there will be no parking on site and so, please allow for the parking in the neighbourhood, walk onto the school site and departure (in reverse!). Thank you!

As for this week and my professional reflections? What can I say – Abbot's Lea School truly is the best place in the world, with most fantastic people (students and staff alike!) and I am very proud and privileged to be its Headteacher.

Wishing you a very happy and health weekend,

Mrs A Hildrey
Headteacher

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Key Diary Dates

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Term Dates for next academic year:

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



Term 6

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 for Term 5

Date	Activity	Notes
Tuesday 20 June	Morning only – Secondary Department Sports Day Plan A (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. If this happens we would move to “plan b day” – see below)	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 SPECIFIC TIMES TO BE CONFIRMED IN THE LETTER TO FAMILIES BY 26 MAY 2023

Key Diary Dates

Wednesday 21 June	If Sports Day on Monday, 19 June is cancelled, this will be the alternative PLAN 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 SPECIFIC TIMES TO BE CONFIRMED IN THE LETTER TO FAMILIES BY 26 MAY 2023
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	NO ASSEMBLIES OR COFFEE MORNING	

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 sbm@abbotsleaschool.co.uk
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.

Weekly Attendance Reports

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

Student Progress Reports

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

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

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

Next Week's Menu



Primary Lunch Menu



Week Commencing 19/06/23

Week 3	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Main Meal We provide a variety of seasonal hot and cold dishes for children to freely choose from	Veggie Stir Fry served with Noodles and Baked Spring Rolls	BBQ Chicken served with Rice and Corn on the Cob.	Ham Roast Dinner Served with Cauliflower Cheese, Carrots and Roasted New Potatoes	Macaroni Cheese topped with Chilli Con Carne or Mixed Bean Chilli	Fish Cake or Fish Fingers and Chips served with Mushy Peas
Alternative Jacket potatoes with tuna and other fillings available daily	Cherry Tomato Quiche served with Crisp Fresh Salad	Tuna Pasta with Cucumber and Red Onion	Twice Baked Jacket Potatoes	Cheese and Tomato Toasties	Tandoori Salmon served with Pitta Bread
Homemade Soup	Chef Choice	Leek and Potato	Red pepper Soup	Tomato and Basil	Chef Choice
Starchy Food Various bread choices available	Noodles	Rice	Roast Potatoes	Macaroni	Chips
Vegetables Salad Bar with Hummus	Mixed Vegetables	Corn on the Cob	Cauliflower	Tomato	Mushy Peas
Dessert Fresh fruit, selection of low-fat yoghurts and homemade puddings available every lunch time	Ginger Biscuits Fresh Fruit	Fresh Fruit Salad Fresh Fruit	Apple Pie with pouring Cream Yoghurts	Fresh Fruit Trifle Fresh Fruit	Cheese and Crackers Mixed Flavour Yoghurts

Ask for daily chef specials

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

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

GOOD FOOD CULTURE

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

Ireland class



Have a lovely weekend Ireland class!





Wales class



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



Portugal class





Spain class



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France class



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News

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Canada class



Fun days



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Italy class



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USA class



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Brazil class



NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY WEEK!



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Peru class



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Mozambique class



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Cape Verde class



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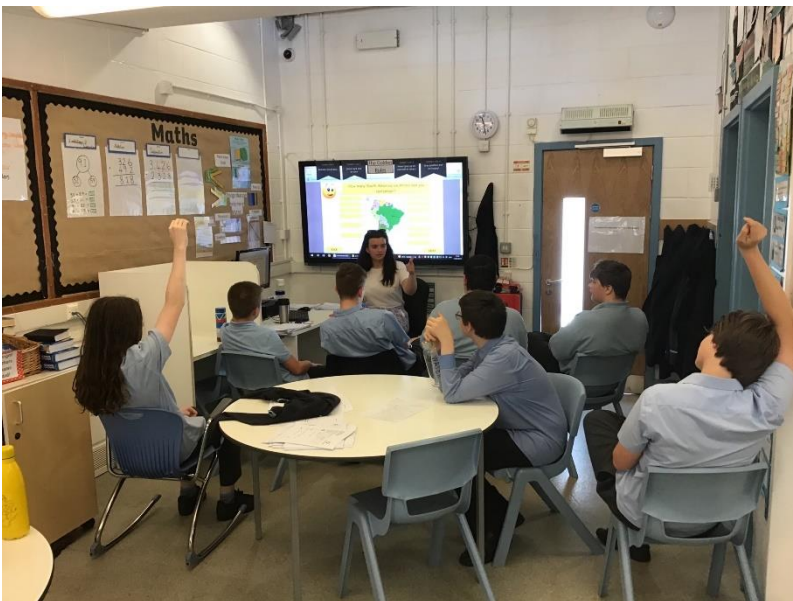
Madagascar class



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Botswana class



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Seychelles class



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Kenya class



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Australia class





Samoa class



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New Zealand class



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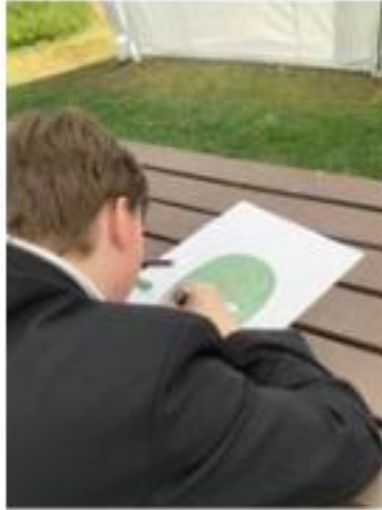
Tasmania class



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Malawi class



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Fiji class



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Papua New Guinea class



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Christmas Island class



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



ABBOT'S LEA SCHOOL

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



Summer 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

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

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

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

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

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

We are hoping you can help by:

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

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

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

reception@abbotsleaschool.co.uk

Yours faithfully

Head Boy



Head Girl



Student of the Week

Student of the Week

Class	Student	Reason why
Key Stage 1		
Ireland	Thomas	For amazing behaviour at the park!
Wales	Henry	For following instructions around his toileting routine and transitioning brilliantly between activities all week!
Key Stage 2		
Canada	Mikey	For being positive towards his learning and working hard in every lesson. Well done Mikey!
Italy	Franky	For being a kind friend.
Portugal	Theo	For 'Excellent participation in Sports Day and fabulous team work'.
France	Wyatt	For sharing that he was nervous about Sports Day but still engaging fully in every race, including the parent race.
Spain	Daniel	For being a superstar participant in sports day.
USA	Adil	For taking part in our Yoga lesson and being really sensible in our lessons.
Key Stage 3		
Brazil	Jayjay	For always being there to help everybody and for being a positive role model to all!
Peru	Brandon	For being more present in class and completing all work.
Mozambique	Jack	For having a fantastic week and giving 100% in his exams. We are really proud of you!
Botswana	Mason	For doing exceptionally well in his Mock exams all week. Well done Mason!
Madagascar	Lotte	For communicating with staff about how she is feeling.
Kenya	Sean	For coping really well with completing assessments in English, Maths and Science.
Seychelles	Ciaran	For demonstrating that he is developing into a mature young man both in and out of the classroom.
Cape Verde	Charlie	For understanding when his friends need space and starting to learn that this really helps a friendship.

Student of the Week

Key Stage 4		
Australia	Nathaniel	For embracing the English GCSE revision session outside of school hours
Tasmania	Mason	For working really hard on his mock exams, showing such positivity and encouraging others to do well in their exams.
Samoa	Liam	For always offering to help his peers and staff when needed!
New Zealand	Joe	For having an amazing week and always carrying himself in a mature manner, making his own independent decisions.
Key Stage 5		
Malawi	Anthony	For always being a ray of sunshine, making a positive impact on both staff and students every day
Christmas Island	Flynn	For being a good friend to everyone and always working hard in all lessons and activities, particularly in PE and football lunch club
Fiji	Halle	For overcoming barriers and having an excellent week.
PNG	Andy	For being really understanding and patient with staff this week especially with the weather being warm and uncomfortable. Well done, Andy!

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

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

Find out more about us on our website www.ypas.org.uk

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

Find out more about us on our website www.ypas.org.uk

Useful Information



Liverpool
City Council

Date: 9 June 2023

Dear Parent or Guardian

The Summer HAF programme starts on the 24th July and there are lots of great activities happening over the school holidays. Children and young people, from reception to age 16 (including year 11 leavers), who are eligible for benefits related free school meals, will be able to access hundreds of activities throughout the summer 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, basketball, arts and crafts, drama, bbq's, water games, 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 and all the details of what is on click on this link - <https://merseyplay.com/summer-haf-holiday-activities-food-2023/> or visit www.Merseyplay.com and click on the Summer HAF link.

When you have chosen an activity, 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 ring 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/>
- ☒ If your child is not eligible for benefits related free school meals you may be eligible for support with childcare costs - <https://www.gov.uk/childcare-calculator>

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 Summer HAF programme. The programme is funded by the Department for Education.

The Liverpool Family Information and SEND Directory also provides a wealth of useful information and support for families - [LFISD](#).

Liverpool City Council

Cunard Building, Water Street, Liverpool, L3 1AH

T: 07525 388559

E: sally.dobbing@liverpool.gov.uk W.Liverpool.gov.uk



THE WELLBEING
WELLBEING
CHARTER



INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE | Accredited
Since 2022

Useful Information

Regards

Sally Dobbing

Sally Dobbing - HAF Project Manager|



Hello

Useful Information



ABBOT'S LEA SCHOOL

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



16 June 2023

Dear Families

Ref: Attendance

I wish to share with you an update about students' attendance at Abbot's Lea School.

This year we have led a number of attendance meetings between Key Stage Leaders and those families who, at times, faced some challenges with getting their children to school each day.

Feedback from these meetings has been very positive, with families finding this a supportive process.

In fact, **59 students have improved their attendance this year**. For the effort that has gone into this by school staff, families and our wonderful students themselves - I thank you.

Of particular delight this year is the improvements we have seen in the attendance of our girls.

Girls are a minority group in our school, for reasons which I largely attribute to the current diagnostic criteria, but maybe that's for another research article! With this in mind, we put a lot of effort into ensuring that our girls feel they belong well in our school. I am delighted to report, that our **girls' attendance has increased dramatically** this year.

Some things that families have reported as being helpful in improving their child's attendance are:

- If you are unsure whether your child is well enough for school or not, send them in. If a child is simply too ill to be in school we will ring you and will even support with helping your child get home again.
- If you keep your child off and they feel well enough for school before the end of the school day – bring them in. If transport is a barrier, please contact us and we will do our best to help.
- If your child has a medical appointment, please enquire as to whether this can be at the very start or very end of the day.
- Each week is made up on 10 attendance sessions. Each morning and afternoon is counted as a separate session. Therefore, better to be late than absent! If life throws you a curveball in the morning; get into school as soon as you can. We are here to help!
- Equally, if you need to attend an appointment in the afternoon, please come into school first. Every session counts!
- If you are struggling to get your child into school, share this with us and never be embarrassed. We will always try to help.

As we finish this school year, we will be categorising your child's attendance into excellent, good or for improvement. We will be transparent and share this with you and we will continue with our attendance meetings, starting again in September.

Beaconsfield Road
Woolton
Liverpool
L25 6EE
United Kingdom

T: +44 (0)151 428 1161
E: reception@abbotsleaschool.co.uk
W: www.abbotsleaschool.co.uk



Useful Information



ABBOT'S LEA SCHOOL

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8 June 2023

Dear Families

Ref: Safety Net – Be Online Aware

The Brain Charity has launched a new programme called SafetyNet and its aim is to educate adults and children with a neurological condition and their parents/carers.

Alistair Barfield is an autistic adult working with The Brain Charity as a Media Literacy trainer, and will be hosting free training sessions.

The sessions cover several topics including staying safe online, common scams to look out for, the issues surrounding fake news and ways in which neurodivergent people may be particularly vulnerable online.

Keeping autistic people safe online is Alistair's passion, as an autistic person himself, he understands the pitfalls and vulnerabilities when interacting with people online.

The sessions are fun and interactive using technology to engage and demonstrate the difficulties with staying safe online. They can be delivered anywhere in the Merseyside region at a time and date to suit, the sessions can even be held in The Brain Charities Centre and are flexible and can be tailored to specific needs.

There is a special session taking place at The Brain Charity Centre on Norton Street L3 8LR on Thursday, 13th July 17:00-18:30 that is dedicated just to parents of neurodivergent children and teenagers.

The link to sign up has gone live and is available to book right now

https://www.thebraincharity.org.uk/event/safetynet-for-parents/?_event_occurrence_id=2949

If you have any questions about their courses please call The Brain Charity on **0151 298 2999**

Yours sincerely

Miss L McComasky
PA to Headteacher and Clerk to Governors



BE ONLINE AWARE
with The Brain Charity's SafetyNet course



Beaconsfield Road
Woolton
Liverpool
L25 6EE
United Kingdom
T: +44 (0)151 428 1161
E: reception@abbotsleaschool.co.uk
W: www.abbotsleaschool.co.uk



Useful Information



BE ONLINE AWARE with The Brain Charity's SafetyNet course

Free media literacy and digital awareness training covering:

Fake news and how to spot it

The basics of Google Documents, printing and email

Online safety, fraud and scam awareness

Using the internet to save money

Conspiracy theories and misinformation

Improving online confidence

Finding reliable online news

Safe use of social media

Free for anyone who has a neurological condition or cares for someone who does. We provide devices to use – just bring yourself!



At
The Brain Charity
(Norton Street, Liverpool)
and venues across
Merseyside.

SAFETYNET

Be Online Aware

To book

Email safetynet@thebraincharity.org.uk
or call **0151 298 2999** and ask for Suzanne or Ali.

Ofcom



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

