



ABBOT'S LEA SCHOOL

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



14 July 2023

Dear Families

Ref: Key Diary Dates (and other Useful Information) – Term 1 (1 September 2023 - Friday 27 October)

As is normal towards the end of each term, I am writing to share information about the activities coming up when we return in September.

This year has been full of amazing opportunities for our school community and it has been a pleasure to watch students engage in a range of events which all play a vital part in the development of their skills, their enjoyment of school and in their capital culture.

I also include information about the upcoming assemblies and the slight change that will take place for our Early Year, Key Stage One and Bespoke Key Stage 2 students.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for all of your support over this last academic year.

Date	Activity	Notes
1, 4 and 5 September	INSET days	School closed to students
Wednesday, 6 September	School re-opens for students	The school day is 9:00am – 3pm. Please note that all vehicular access will be asked to join the queue of traffic, with no visitors' parking permitted in the staff' car park. Gates will open at 8:45am in the morning to allow the vehicles on site. Staff will collect students at 9am (students may not leave the vehicles beforehand). In the afternoon, the gates will be open from 2:45pm. Students will be discharged from school when the lessons finish at 3pm.
Friday, 8 September	Weekly open assemblies led by Mrs Tobin (Deputy Headteacher), Miss Gibney (Assistant Headteacher – Primary Department) and Mr Mason (Assistant Headteacher – Secondary Department) Assembly times: 9.30 – 10.00 Primary 10.00 – 10.45 – Secondary 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 school via your child's class teacher. Please see below for how assemblies will work this year.

Wednesday, 13 September	Roald Dahl Day	Students will be learning about the life and works of Roald Dahl in their classes.
Wednesday, 13 September	Residential Trip meetings: Meeting 1 – 9:30 – 10:30 Meeting 2 – 3:30 – 4:30 Meeting 3 – 4:30-5:00 (remote online session)	See letter here: http://www.abbotsleaschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Residential-Trips-2023-24.pdf
Friday, 15 September	Weekly open assemblies led by Mrs Tobin (Deputy Headteacher), Miss Gibney (Assistant Headteacher – Primary Department) and Mr Mason (Assistant Headteacher – Secondary Department) Assembly times: 9.30 – 10.00 Primary 10.00 – 10.45 – Secondary 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 school via your child’s class teacher. Please see below for how assemblies will work this year.
Monday, 18 September	Deadline for Residential Trip deposit payment	Deposit payment of £35 is non-refundable
Friday 22 September	Weekly open assemblies led by Mrs Tobin (Deputy Headteacher), Miss Gibney (Assistant Headteacher – Primary Department) and Mr Mason (Assistant Headteacher – Secondary Department) Assembly times: 9.30 – 10.00 Primary 10.00 – 10.45 – Secondary 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 school via your child’s class teacher. Please see below for how assemblies will work this year.
Tuesday 26 September	European Languages Day	Students will get to experience food from different European countries, play games and learn different languages.
Friday 29 September	Weekly open assemblies led by Mrs Tobin (Deputy Headteacher), Miss Gibney (Assistant Headteacher – Primary Department) and Mr Mason (Assistant Headteacher – Secondary Department) Assembly times: 9.30 – 10.00 Primary 10.00 – 10.45 – Secondary 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 school via your child’s class teacher. Please see below for how assemblies will work this year.
Monday 2 October	Start of ADHD awareness month	Student will learn about different people who have ADHD and some

		of the strengths this condition brings with it.
Thursday 5 October	National Poetry Day	Classes will be studying different poetry from around the world and using it to explore their world.
Friday 6 October	Weekly open assemblies led by Mrs Tobin (Deputy Headteacher), Miss Gibney (Assistant Headteacher – Primary Department) and Mr Mason (Assistant Headteacher – Secondary Department) Assembly times: 9.30 – 10.00 Primary 10.00 – 10.45 – Secondary 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 school via your child’s class teacher. Please see below for how assemblies will work this year.
Tuesday 10 October	World Children’s Mental Health Day	Students will practise new techniques to support positive mental health.
Friday 13 October	Weekly open assemblies led by Mrs Tobin (Deputy Headteacher), Miss Gibney (Assistant Headteacher – Primary Department) and Mr Mason (Assistant Headteacher – Secondary Department) Assembly times: 9.30 – 10.00 Primary 10.00 – 10.45 – Secondary 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 school via your child’s class teacher. Please see below for how assemblies will work this year.
Monday 16 October	World Food Day	Students will learn all about different food from around the world. We will look at where our foods come from and the employment involved with getting food to our tables.
Friday 20 October	Weekly open assemblies led by Mrs Tobin (Deputy Headteacher), Miss Gibney (Assistant Headteacher – Primary Department) and Mr Mason (Assistant Headteacher – Secondary Department) Assembly times: 9.30 – 10.00 Primary 10.00 – 10.45 – Secondary 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 school via your child’s class teacher. Please see below for how assemblies will work this year.
Wednesday 25 October	Diversity in: Inventors and Entrepreneurs	This is the first of our series of “diversity in:” sessions to be held this year. Students will look at hidden figures who have been

		instrumental in the innovations and businesses we benefit from today.
Friday, 27 October CHANGE TO ROUTINE	No assemblies or coffee morning. Halloween party	Our KS5 students will organise a Halloween party for all other students in the school. Students may dress up in Halloween themed costumes. Please note that, despite the nature of this celebration, all outfits must be suitable for a school setting and bear in mind that we have students as young as 3 in our school. No face masks or overly scary detail please.
Friday, 27 October	School closes for the half term break at 3pm	School closes at 3pm

Attendance

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.

Should your child's attendance drop below 90%, our expectation is that you engage with the school via attendance meetings so that we can understand your context and offer appropriate support.

Assemblies and Stay and Play

We warmly welcome families to attend assemblies (with a coffee morning on the same day).

Assemblies are facilitated by me (Deputy Headteacher), Miss Gibney (Assistant Headteacher – Primary Department) and Mr Mason (Assistant Headteacher – Secondary Department).

Each week a different class will contribute to the assembly. When your child's class leads the assembly, their teacher will contact you in advance to let you know.

We work with high expectations that all students should learn to be able to sit through a whole assembly and listen well. However, we recognise that this skill, like any, needs to be taught. In order to do so, we will follow a graduated approach to full attendance in assembly for our younger students, building it up each week, with the first assembly possibly only attracting our youngest students' attention for a "welcome song".

If your child leaves assembly before the end, you are invited to leave with your child and enjoy a "stay and play" session in their classroom (or other designated area.) Where the weather permits, we will be making great use of our fantastic grounds.

Any students who leave assembly will do so with their class and remain in their class group with any family members. The class team will let you know when it is time for you to leave and for your child to re-engage in learning.

I share with you below our anticipated gradual approach to building up to full attendance in assembly:

Classes likely to need this approach:	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Ireland, Wales, Portugal, France, Italy, Spain and Canada	Welcome song followed by "stay and play"	Welcome song and class assembly followed by "stay and play"	Welcome song, class assembly and birthdays followed by "stay and play"	Full assembly	Full assembly	Full assembly

I hope that you find this information useful.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class team.

I wish you and your family a lovely summer.

Yours sincerely

Mrs E Tobin
Deputy Headteacher