



ABBOT'S LEA SCHOOL

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



6 November 2023

Dear Families

Ref: Key Information – Term 3 (Monday, 8 January – Friday, 9 February 2023)

As is normal towards the end of each term, I am writing to share information about the activities coming up when we return for Term 3 in January 2024.

The first 2 terms have already offered an abundance of activities which have been enjoyed by students and many families alike.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for all of your ongoing support and for your involvement with our open-house events.

I include information about assemblies, as well as attendance and punctuality expectations.

Date	Activity	Notes
Monday 8 January	School re-opens for students	Please ensure, as always full attendance, punctuality and uniform compliance
Friday 12 January	Weekly open assemblies led by Mrs Tobin (Deputy Headteacher), Miss Gibney (Assistant Headteacher for Primary Department) and Mr Mason (Assistant Headteacher for Secondary Department) Primary assembly: 9.30–10am Key stage 3 and 4: 10–10.30am Key Stage 5:10.30-11am Open Coffee morning: 9.30–11.30am	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.
Friday 19 January	Weekly open assemblies led by Mrs Tobin (Deputy Headteacher), Miss Gibney (Assistant Headteacher for Primary Department) and Mr Mason (Assistant Headteacher for Secondary Department) Primary assembly: 9.30–10am Key stage 3 and 4: 10–10.30am Key Stage 5:10.30-11am Open Coffee morning: 9.30–11.30am	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.

Monday 22 January	World Religion Day	Students will enjoy a variety of class-based activities which will share knowledge about many different religions and non-religion.
Wednesday 24 January	Next Steps Fair	We warmly invite families and students of KS4 and KS5 to join us at school 3.30pm – 5pm to meet College and Training providers with the intent of gaining information about post-ALS options.
Friday 26 January	Weekly open assemblies led by Mrs Tobin (Deputy Headteacher), Miss Gibney (Assistant Headteacher for Primary Department) and Mr Mason (Assistant Headteacher for Secondary Department) Primary assembly: 9.30–10am Key stage 3 and 4: 10–10.30am Key Stage 5: 10:30-11am Open Coffee morning: 9.30–11.30am	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.
Wednesday 31 January	Diversity in Wars Day	On that day we will be exploring the roles played by men and women of diverse backgrounds during war.
Thursday 1 February	LGBTQ+ history month	Throughout this month, students will learn about the historical context of LGBTQ+ as well as celebrating diversity and modelling the need for educated understanding.
Friday 2 February	Weekly open assemblies led by Mrs Tobin (Deputy Headteacher), Miss Gibney (Assistant Headteacher for Primary Department) and Mr Mason (Assistant Headteacher for Secondary Department) Primary assembly: 9.30–10am Key stage 3 and 4: 10–10.30am Key Stage 5:10.30-11am Open Coffee morning: 9.30–11.30am	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.

Friday 2 February	Art exhibition 9.30 – 11am	Our students will be exhibiting their art creations in Abbot's Lea School's very own gallery! We warmly welcome all families to come and see their child's work on display.
Monday 5 February	National Apprenticeship Week	This week, students will be learning all about the opportunities within the world of apprenticeships.
Monday 5 February	Learning journeys will be sent home this week	Please enjoy looking at your child's journey in pictures and comments from Term 2 of this academic year
Tuesday 6 February	Swimming	Our first swimming session will begin for students. Please note that EYFS, KS1, K2 and KS3 students will be invited to attend swimming lessons between now and the end of Term 5. You child's class teacher will let you know when your child's specific swimming slots are taking place.
Tuesday 6 February	Safer Internet Day	All students will continue with their learning about how to use the internet safely through a series of class-based activities that will enhance their curriculum experience further.
Thursday 8 February	<i>*Shrove Tuesday*</i>	As we will not be in school on Shrove Tuesday, we will be marking it on the penultimate day of Term. Students will learn about the tradition of Shrove Tuesday and will have the chance to try pancakes!
Friday 9 February	No assemblies or coffee morning, as that day is the final day of term.	Students finish at 3pm

Attendance and punctuality

There is clear evidence that strong attendance at school links to strong educational outcomes for students. If your child's attendance is below 90%, we will expect to work closely to understand your family context and work with you on providing the support you need to help your child improve their attendance.

We appreciate that for many of you, punctuality is not within your control, as you rely on SEN transport providers to bring your child to and from school.

However, where you are in control of the journey to school, we do expect a punctual arrival. Despite a heavy flow of traffic, all students have been consistently in lessons by 9.15am each morning unless their transport has arrived late.

In the same way as we monitor attendance, we now also monitor punctuality and will be inviting the families of those students who are regularly late to explain their situation to us so that we can support improved compliance with a punctual arrival to school.

Assemblies

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

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.

We work with high expectations that by the end of the year, all students will 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.

We warmly welcome families to attend assemblies (with coffee morning on the same day). However, if your child leaves assembly before the end, you are invited to leave with your child and enjoy a "stay and play" session with your child 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.

I share with you below our gradual approach to full attendance in assembly.

	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 contact your child's class team.

Yours sincerely

Mrs E Tobin
Deputy Headteacher