



ABBOT'S LEA SCHOOL

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



6 December 2024

Dear Families

Ref: Key Information – Term 3 (Monday 6 January – Friday 14 February)

As we approach the end of Term 2, I would like to take this opportunity to share an update about the exciting activities we have planned for Term 3.

At Abbot's Lea School, our ASD Model © remains at the heart of everything we do. By giving equal importance to academic progress, therapeutic support, and life skills development, we ensure our enrichment activities are purposeful and tailored to meet the needs of our students.

Next term's calendar (below) is packed with opportunities designed to build on the successes of this term, fostering students' growth academically, personally, and socially. Whether it's through themed events, skill-building sessions, or celebrations of our students' achievements, we aim to create a rich and engaging school experience for all.

Date	Activity	Notes
Monday 6 January	Return to school	All students return to school
Friday 10 January	Weekly open assemblies led by Mrs Tobin (Deputy Headteacher), Mr Mason (Assistant Headteacher for Secondary) and Miss Gibney (Assistant Headteacher for Primary) Assembly times: 9.30 – 10.00 Primary 10.00 – 10.30 KS3 10.30 – 11.00 KS4 and 5 Coffee morning: 9.30 – 10.30am	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. Please see below for how assemblies will work this year.
Friday 17 January	Weekly open assemblies led by Mrs Tobin (Deputy Headteacher), Mr Mason (Assistant Headteacher for Secondary) and Miss Gibney (Assistant Headteacher for Primary) Assembly times: 9.30 – 10.00 Primary 10.00 – 10.30 KS3 10.30 – 11.00 KS4 and 5 Coffee morning: 9.30 – 10.30am	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. Please see below for how assemblies will work this year.

Monday 20 January	World Religion Day	Students will enjoy a variety of class-based activities which will share knowledge about many different religions and non-religion.
Friday 24 January	Weekly open assemblies led by Mrs Tobin (Deputy Headteacher), Mr Mason (Assistant Headteacher for Secondary) and Miss Gibney (Assistant Headteacher for Primary) Assembly times: 9.30 – 10.00 Primary 10.00 – 10.30 KS3 10.30 – 11.00 KS4 and 5 Coffee morning: 9.30 – 10.30am	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. Please see below for how assemblies will work this year.
Wednesday 29 January	Diversity in Liverpool	Students will be exploring key local figures as an exploration into celebrating diversity in Liverpool.
Thursday 30 January	Student council	Our amazing student council will be meeting to represent the students' views – updates will be shared in our Head's Weekly Newsletter.
Thursday 30 January	Careers workshop	In conjunction with Career Connect, we will be hosting workshops for our Year 6 to 10s students.
Friday 27 September	Chinese New Year	Students will be celebrating Chinese New Year, including trying a Chinese tasting platter!
Friday 27 September	Weekly open assemblies led by Mrs Tobin (Deputy Headteacher), Mr Mason (Assistant Headteacher for Secondary) and Miss Gibney (Assistant Headteacher for Primary) Assembly times: 9.30 – 10.00 Primary 10.00 – 10.30 KS3 10.30 – 11.00 KS4 and 5 Coffee morning: 9.30 – 10.30am	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. Please see below for how assemblies will work this year.
Monday 3 February	Start of LGBTQ History month	Students will learn about the history of this topic at a developmentally-appropriate level.

Tuesday 4 February	Family consultation afternoons (2pm – 6pm)	Families will meet face-to-face or virtually with their child's teacher to discuss progress since September. Teachers will contact you nearer the time to make a 15-minute appointment.
Wednesday 5 February		
Friday 7 February	Weekly open assemblies led by. Today will be led by Miss Sharpe, our Safeguarding Manager who will share important information about Internet safety. Assembly times: 9.30 – 10.00 Primary 10.00 – 10.30 KS3 10.30 – 11.00 KS4 and 5 Coffee morning: 9.30 – 10.30am	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. Please see below for how assemblies will work this year.
Friday 7 February	KS3 and Secondary Bespoke Art Exhibition	During the coffee morning, families are warmly invited to see their child's art work on display. There will be the same opportunity for the KS4 and 5 students' families later in the year.
Monday 10 February	Celebration of National Apprenticeship Week	In conjunction with Career Connect, we will be leading the school in an exploration of apprenticeships.
Tuesday 11 February	Safer Internet Day	Following on from Miss Sharpe's assemblies on Friday 7 February, classes will be completing work on how to stay safe online. We will be concentrating on education surrounding AI.
Wednesday 12 February	Anthony Walker Foundation	Following the success of these workshops in Term 1, more classes will participate and enjoy learning about how we can support equality.
Friday 14 February CHANGE TO ROUTINE	Last day of Term 2 (3pm finish) No assemblies or coffee morning	One of our KS5 classes will lead a whole-school Valentine's Kahoot. In individual classes, we will be celebrating "valuing others" with a series of recognitions and celebrations. Students may wear non-uniform Students will return to school on Monday 24 February, 9am

Attendance and punctuality

At Abbot's Lea School we believe good attendance is vital for a student to reach their full potential. This year, new governmental guidelines have been introduced.

Terminology used by the government:

- PA = Persistent Absenteeism - less than 90% attendance
- EPN = Education Penalty Notices - issued for unauthorised absences (including term time holidays)

Welfare checks:

School will always need to speak to families on the first day of a student's absence. For extended absences we have a duty to see your child face-to-face and let them know we care about them.

My child can't attend:

Report any absences (as early as possible) to the school office via telephone: **0151 4281161** or email: **reception@abbotsleaschool.co.uk**

The school's phone lines are open from 8am each day.

Fines:

EPNs have now been capped nationally at TWO fines within any 3 year period. After this, other actions like a parenting orders or prosecution have to be considered.

Being late:

If your child arrives at school after the register closes at 9.15am, the morning is considered an unauthorised absence. (**please note - this does not include where the situation was beyond the family's control – we appreciate many families rely on the smooth running of SEN transport.*)

Medical evidence:

If your child is PA, or at risk of PA, we will ask you to provide medical evidence to ensure the absence is not unauthorised.

Every child matters; every day matters:

Both families AND school have a legal duty for school attendance. We understand that students can face barriers and so we have a duty to work together to overcome these barriers. This means open and honest information sharing, without judgement. Please reach out to us if you feel we could help you.

School uniform and personal presentation

All students must wear a full school uniform (formal on the days with no PE, and PE uniform on the days when PE lessons take place). Expectations related to the uniform and personal presentation, including hair, jewellery, etc. can be found on our website under policy section: <https://www.abbotsleaschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/School-Uniform-Policy-2.pdf>

Families are asked to adhere to the expectations and support their child with compliance.

Assemblies

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

Assemblies are facilitated by Mrs Tobin (Deputy Headteacher), Mrs Cartwright (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 by the end of the year, all students will be able to sit through a whole assembly and listen well.

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 youngest students. Therefore, if your child leaves assembly before the end, you are invited to leave with your child and enjoy a focussed “stay and play” session with your child.

Please note our gradual approach to full attendance in assembly over the period of a year:

	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” – see schedule below	Welcome song followed by “stay and play” – see schedule below	Welcome song followed by “stay and play” – see schedule below France class will stay for the class assembly and then leave to join stay and play	Welcome song and class assembly followed by “stay and play” – see schedule below	Full assembly <i>An alternative to stay and play will be offered</i>	Full assembly <i>An alternative to stay and play will be offered</i>

Stay and play sessions focus in Term 3:

Our stay and play sessions will be led by a different class team each week. They will take place in the Conference room, or where weather permits, the grounds of the school.

Week	Host
16	Mrs Kelly Aldridge, Spain class teacher
17	Miss Sarah Livermore, Portugal class teacher
18	Miss Emily Quinn, Ireland class teacher
19	Mrs Alex Leyland, Wales class teacher
20	Mr Richard Manley, Italy class teacher

Yours sincerely



Mrs E Tobin
Deputy Headteacher