



29 September 2026

Dear Families,

RE: Caring at Christmas – Strawberry Field

In preparation for the festive season in a few months' time, we recognise that Christmas can be a particularly challenging and expensive time of year for some families. Here at Abbot's Lea School, we are always happy to support families who may need a little extra help.

Over the past few years, we have worked with The Salvation Army at Strawberry Field to provide Christmas gifts for students who may be experiencing additional financial challenges during this time of year.

The Salvation Army is well known for its work as a Christian church and charity, and the world-famous Strawberry Field site has been owned and managed by The Salvation Army since 1934. The original mansion house was transformed into a children's home, which opened in 1936. In the early 1950s, a young John Lennon would jump over the wall of the home and later spoke of Strawberry Field as a place of peace and sanctuary.

Following the release of *Strawberry Fields Forever* in 1967, thousands of visitors from around the world began visiting the famous red gates on Beaconsfield Road. The site was opened to the public in September 2019 and now welcomes young adults with learning disabilities and other barriers to employment through its Steps at Work programme. Strawberry Field also has a café, shop, gardens and visitor exhibition celebrating its history with The Salvation Army and John Lennon.

Caring at Christmas is now inviting families who may need some additional support to apply for a festive gift for their student. The support is completely free, confidential and anonymous.

If you feel that you and your family would benefit from Caring at Christmas, please complete the attached form and return it to **Mrs Heller, Safeguarding Assistant**, by **Monday 16 November 2026**. Forms can be returned by email, post or by handing them in at school.

Paper copies of the form are available by emailing us at reception@abbotsleaschool.co.uk

If you would like any support with completing the form or have any questions, please contact Mrs Heller using the details below. She will be very happy to help.

Alternatively, if your family does not require additional support but you would like to donate to Caring at Christmas and help other families at this special time of year, please contact Gareth Lloyd at Strawberry Field at Gareth.Lloyd@salvationarmy.org.uk for further information about how you can get involved.

Thank you for your continued support and for helping us to ensure that our school community is supported during the festive season.

Yours sincerely

Mrs S Heller
Safeguarding Assistant



Strawberry Field
Beaconsfield Road
Liverpool
L25 6EJ

Tel: 0151 252 6135

29 September 2026

Caring at Christmas Referral Form

Caring at Christmas

The Salvation Army at Strawberry Field needs your help. They would like to support you this Christmas if you might find it difficult to buy a festive gift for your child/children who are students with us.

If you would like your family to be part of Caring at Christmas, please complete the form below as soon as possible and return it to Mrs Heller – Safeguarding Assistant, Abbot's Lea School. Strawberry Field would be VERY grateful to hear from you.

Also, if you would like to donate - or offer your support in another way - please contact Gareth Lloyd at Strawberry Field (gareth.lloyd@salvationarmy.org.uk).

Name

Age

Class

Gender

Interests

Last Christmas, The Salvation Army at Strawberry Field provided many gifts to students at Abbot's Lea School and we would love to provide as much Christmas cheer as we can to as many of our Caring at Christmas students as we can.

Gifts will be delivered to your home in the week before Christmas – as they were last year.

Thank you all in advance.

Sharon Heller, Abbot's Lea School

Gareth Lloyd, Strawberry Field

Strawberry Field, Beaconsfield Road, Liverpool, L25 6EJ
Tel. 0151 252 6135 Web: www.salvationarmy.org.uk

The Salvation Army registered Charity No.214779 and in Scotland SC009359; Social Trust Registered Charity No. 215174 and in Scotland SC037691
Republic of Ireland Registered Charity No. CHY6399; Guernsey Registered Charity No. CH318; Jersey NPO0840; Isle of Man Registered Charity No. 267
The Salvation Army Trustee Company, registered number 00259322 (England and Wales). Registered office: 101 Newington Causeway, London SE1 6BN