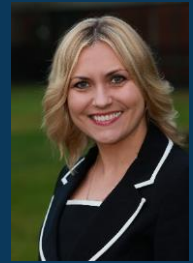




# Head's Weekly Newsletter

Issue 26, 26 March 2021



Mrs Ania Hildrey, Headteacher, [headteacher@abbotsleaschool.co.uk](mailto:headteacher@abbotsleaschool.co.uk)

Dear Students, Families, Colleagues and Friends,

Here we are – Term 4 of this academic year has come to an end and we now begin a fortnight of well-deserved Easter break and I hope that it will provide the staff and the students with a much-needed rest.

This week, we paused and reflected on a first anniversary of Coronavirus pandemic taking hold of the UK as a nation, and we remembered those no longer with us as a result. We also re-affirmed our appreciation of one another and our recognition of just how fortunate we are being able to see each other, come to work and attend school...

It is true that the current times are tough in so many ways and that this crisis is not yet over. However, we have also learnt so much during the past year and have, despite the pressures and trauma, got closer as people. The many examples of collegiate support, neighbourly consideration and joys in the simplest of things must not go unnoticed. Open discussions about mental health, the value of human life and the need for solution-focused, creative, innovative ways to get stronger as a global community have all contributed to the advances in our life (with the development of many vaccinations, for starters!)

As a school, we have taken stock of the accumulative learning – individual, curricular and organisational. As the terms go by, we don't just coast; we drive positive changes and improvements each and every day and across the spheres of our work:

- Our curriculum is outstanding and deliver it onsite or remotely to students of all ages
- Our specialist therapeutic support is superb and will be much-enhanced by the newly created full time Multi Disciplinary Team (MDT) with exceptional candidates appointed this week to the roles of Occupational Therapist (and Sensory Integration specialist), Speech and Language Therapist and Child Psychotherapist. Our search continues for the Educational Psychologist and we are confident we will have the best candidate for the job come forward in the coming weeks!
- Our "back-office", yet oh-so-critical School Business Support (SBS) team is also being revamped, with more capacity being created across the functions, talent being recognised and promoted and capacity to train and develop future professionals through apprenticeships – always at the forefront of our commitment. Thanks to all colleagues for their ideas and suggestions for making things even better!

The team's passion and total commitment to our students, their families and our team is awe-inspiring and no "storms" have or will change that. With that in mind, I thank every single one of you for your work and support and I wish you all a happy Easter and/or a restful break!

Kindest regards

Mrs A Hildrey  
Headteacher

# INFORMATION BOARD

## HOME-BASED TESTING

We have now distributed, to every secondary aged-student – whether or not they took part in the onsite testing – a new kit containing 7 home-based tests.

These testing kits are designed for testing for Covid-19 twice a week, every 3-5 days.

They are calculated to be sufficient for twice-weekly tests to be carried out until and including the Easter break and several weeks of Term 5.

## FAMILY AND SUPPORT BUBBLE TESTING

The kits we give to the students are for their use. There is, however, an open offer of identical home-testing kits for the families of school-aged children and the support bubble of any such family.

We strongly encourage you to order and re-order such kits, as needed by going to:

<https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

## REPORTING OF RESULTS

We only require you to alert us if the test result is positive. Please email [covid@abbotsleaschool.co.uk](mailto:covid@abbotsleaschool.co.uk) as soon as the positive result is received.

This will allow us to conduct track and trace activity within the school to reduce the risk of infection spreading. Please be advised that we are now required to track and trace any close contacts of those who test positive, based on two full clear days prior to the test. This means that, if someone tests positive on Sunday evening, we would include all of their close contacts from Friday.

Please note that anyone receiving a positive result from the lateral flow test (LFT) will be asked to self-isolate and book a confirmatory polymerase chain reaction test (PCR) via the NHS.

If the PCR test comes back negative, we will be contacting all those previously advised to self-isolate, expecting all students to return to school the following school day.

I realise this is likely to be disruptive and turbulent, but I know we can do it!

**Thank you very much for all of your support and help!**



25th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your continued support in the fight against Coronavirus. From the 29<sup>th</sup> March we are going to see some further easing of Coronavirus restrictions as part of the gradual roadmap out of lockdown. From the 29<sup>th</sup> March:

**Social contact – Rule of 6 but no mixing of households indoors**

It is safer for people to meet outdoors rather than indoors. From 29<sup>th</sup> March, when schools start to break up for the Easter holidays, outdoor gatherings (including in private gardens) of either 6 people (the Rule of 6) or 2 households will also be allowed outside. Mixing of households indoors is still not permitted.

**Travel**

The 'stay at home' rule will end on 29th March but many restrictions will remain in place. People should continue to work from home where they can and minimise the number of journeys they make where possible, avoiding travel at the busiest times and routes.

Travel abroad will continue to be prohibited, other than for a small number of permitted reasons. Holidays abroad will not be allowed.

**Testing**

Secondary school pupils should continue to take home tests twice per week. If you're a member of a household, childcare bubble or support bubble of a member of school staff or a pupil you can now access testing twice weekly. Further details can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3cnmF5X>

Testing is voluntary, but we strongly encourage people to access testing available to them.

It is still important that we continue to keep ourselves and others safe. Please continue to follow all Coronavirus prevention guidelines, maintain social distancing and wear face coverings wherever possible.

**For a reminder about Coronavirus symptoms and how to get tested please see supplementary information.**

Please stay safe and thank you for your continued support.

Yours Sincerely,

*Matt Ashwin*

Director of Public Health

*Steve Reddy*

Director of Children's Services



### Supplementary Covid Information

If you have any of the main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), get a PCR test as soon as possible. Stay at home until you get the result.

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a **high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a **new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a **loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

People who are sick with coronavirus may have other flu like symptoms such as:

- body aches
- shortness of breath
- persistent headaches
- nausea or
- sore throat
- diarrhoea
- tiredness

If you don't have any of the main symptoms of coronavirus, you don't need to isolate until you get your result, however you do need to continue to take the usual measures to protect yourself and others from illness.

People with symptoms can get a test here:

<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

People without symptoms can access our community testing sites here:

<https://liverpool.gov.uk/smarttesting>

### Understanding Your Child

**Free Parenting Guide for people living in Liverpool – free access if you have a purple bin!**

Award winning **online courses** about being a parent or carer.

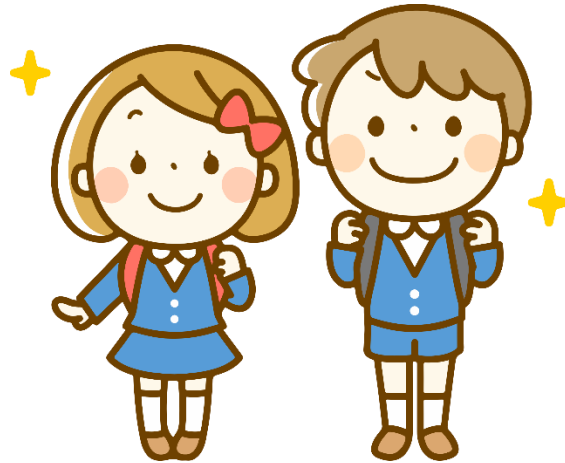
Find out more about:

- How your child develops
- Understanding how your child is feeling
- Different styles of Parenting
- Why is sleep important?
- Communication with your child

These online parenting guides are offered free to parents and carers in Liverpool. Go to

[www.inourplace.co.uk](http://www.inourplace.co.uk) Enter the ACCESS CODE: **PURPLE BIN**

## SCHOOL UNIFORM SHOP



Our nearly new second-hand uniform shop is available to all families, where you can purchase any item for just £1.

All items will have been washed (unless donated new with tags) and we will only sell items, which we believe to be in very good condition.

We have Sweatshirts, Jumpers, Polo Shirts, Shirts, Trousers, Shorts and Blazers all in various sizes.

**Please contact our Family Adviser, Lisa Sharpe on [lisa.sharpe@abbotsleaschool.co.uk](mailto:lisa.sharpe@abbotsleaschool.co.uk)**



# 2020-21 Term dates

## **STUDENTS' SCHOOL DAY:**

8:30am – 2:30pm

### **Term 5:**

Starts: 12 April 2021

*May Day: Monday 3 May 2021*

Term ends - 28 May 2021

**May break: Monday 31 May to Friday 4 June 2021**

### **Term 6:**

Starts: 7 June 2021 – students return

**25 June 2021 – Leavers' Day (for Y11, 12, 13, 14) and end of KS5 programme**

**9 July 2021 – Transition INSET Day**

12 – 16 July 2021 - Transition Week

**Term Ends: 16 July 2021 at 1:00pm**

**School holidays: Monday 16 July to Tuesday, 31 August 2021**

# 2021-22 Term dates

**STUDENTS' SCHOOL DAY:** 8:30am – 2:30pm

## **Term 1**

**INSET – 1, 2, 3 September 2021**

6 September 2021 – students return

Ends: 22 October 2021 at 2:30pm

**Half term break: 25-29 October 2021**

## **Term 2**

1 November 2021 – students return

Ends: 22 December 2021 at 1pm

**Christmas break: 23 December 2021- 4 January 2022**

## **Term 3**

5 January 2022 – students return

Ends: 18 February 2022 at 2:30pm

**Half term break: 21 – 25 February 2022**

## **Term 4**

28 February 2022 – students return

Ends: 8 April 2022 at 1pm

**Easter break: 11-22 April 2022**

## **Term 5**

25 April 2022 – students return

May day: Monday 2 May 2022

Ends: 27 May 2022 at 2:30pm

**Half term break: 30 May – 3 June 2022**

## **Term 6**

6 June 2022 – students return

24 June 2022 – Leavers' Day (for all students in Year 11 and above who leave ALS in 2022), including Leavers' Ceremony on Friday, 24 June 2022 at 1pm (open to families of leavers)

8 July 2022 – End of Year Awards Ceremony (open to families of all students staying at ALS)

11 – 15 July 2022 - Transition Week (students grouped in next year's classes)

Ends: 15 July 2022 at 1pm

**Summer break: 15 July – 31 August 2022** (see below for start of school year 2022-23)

**INSET – 18, 19 July 2022 (worked in lieu during the academic year)**

## **Academic year 2022-23**

### **Term 1**

**1 – 2 September 2022 – INSET**

5 September 2022 – students return

Ends: 21 October 2022

Half term: Monday 24 to Friday 28 October 2022

# Deputy Headteacher

Mrs Emily Tobin, Deputy Headteacher

E: [deputy@abbotsleaschool.co.uk](mailto:deputy@abbotsleaschool.co.uk)



Dear Families

As I mentioned in last week's newsletter article, we are all very excited to be beginning with our Cornerstone's projects when we return from the Easter break on 12 April 2021.

Below, is a little bit of information about the projects in the different Key Stages and how you could support at home by getting your child ready to enjoy next term's learning.

If you were able to explore any of the ideas below, we would love to see pictures!

Feel free to upload them onto *Evidence for Learning!*

Warmest wishes for the half term break.

Mrs E Tobin  
Deputy Headteacher

## **EYFS - Project: "How many sports does a ladybird have?"**

Help your child prepare for their project by researching exotic minibeasts online or in books. Can you find out which countries they come from? You could also try worm charming in your garden. Put a large hoop on an area of earth, water the area with a watering can, and tap your fingers lightly on the ground. Can you entice any worms to the surface? Alternatively, read minibeast-themed stories together, such as Eric Carle's *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* and *The Bad-Tempered Ladybird*, to find out more about these incredible creatures. These books are available online.

## **KS2 – "Coastlines"**

Help your child prepare for their project by visiting a nearby coast and look at what you can see. Can you find old photographs of where you are? How has it changed? You may like to research the work of the RNLI and find out about the work they do to help us.

## **KS3 – Project: "Potions"**

Help your child prepare for their project by hunting around the house to track down a wide variety of items and sort them into solids, liquids and gases. You could also sketch interesting bottles or containers that you have at home. Alternatively, you could try cooking or baking something new together, thinking about how the ingredients change when you mix and cook them.



**KS4 – Project: “Allotment”**

Help your child prepare for their project by exploring food at home or at the supermarket to find out how far it has travelled. You could also visit a local farm shop or garden centre to look at the plants and structures. Alternatively, have a go at planting a sunflower seed and giving it all of the conditions needed to help it grow.

**KS5**

Whilst students in KS5 do not follow our Cornerstones curriculum, there is still some very exciting learning planned!

Key Stage 5 will be focussing on recycling materials and will be creating Strawberry plants in plastic bottles.

Help your child prepare for their project by hunting around the house to track down a wide variety of items and sort them into different materials. You could look at your council's website to remind yourself of which items go in which bins.

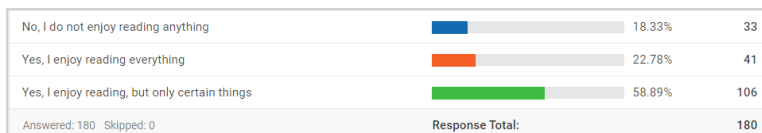
# Head of Autism Research & Development

Miss Sara Muršić, Head of Autism Research & Development  
E: [sara.mursic@abbotsleaschool.co.uk](mailto:sara.mursic@abbotsleaschool.co.uk)



Dear Families, Partners and Friends of Abbot's Lea School

In our school, we put a lot of effort into developing reading, both for academic progress and for pleasure. Last month, as part of our student survey, we asked what motivates our students to read and which types of texts do they prefer to read. The responses were very interesting and I would like to share one segment of the findings with you.



Majority of our students enjoy reading, but some are specific in what they like to read. While social media, blogs and fictional texts are a popular choice, a big group of students chooses comic books and graphic novels. Research offers a clear explanation for that choice:

- The cartoon face expressions are naturally exaggerated. This makes their emotions much easier for an autistic reader to understand and engage with.
- Panels in comic books structure the action in a clear way that makes the story line easy to follow.
- For those readers who have different sensory processing experiences, descriptions of story settings are often not enough. Comic books often include rich illustrations and visually highlighted sound effects.
- By including humour in materials used for reading, students can have positive experiences and relax easily.



My suggestion is to read as much as you can, in whichever format you like. Make these holidays fun and magical – read about new characters, worlds and adventures. Find your favourite comic book or a text novel and let us know what you would like to see in our school library.

Miss Sara Muršić  
Head of Autism Research and Development

## Care and Safeguarding

**Ms Alison Twomey, Head of Care and Safeguarding**

**E: [Alison.twomey@abbotsleaschool.co.uk](mailto:Alison.twomey@abbotsleaschool.co.uk)**



I cannot believe we have arrived at the end of Term 4 already. Whilst only 5 weeks long, we have achieved a huge amount and the return to school of all students has been amazing to see.

This last week has been particularly busy and I am delighted with the progress we have made in making appointments to the new in house multi-disciplinary team. I want to thank all shortlisted applicants for their time, energy and enthusiasm and cannot wait to begin working with the new team in due course.

At Abbot's Lea School, we are always looking to recruit and retain the best professionals in order to fulfil our dream of being the best specialist school in the world. It was heart-warming to hear so many candidates comment on the positive interactions between staff and students they witnessed during their assessment day with us. Everyone was amazed at just how well the class teams knew and understood the students in their class and how quickly they were able to respond to any arising needs. This is something we pride ourselves on and external verification of our classroom practice is always satisfying to receive.

I wish all families a happy and healthy Easter break. Please remember that the Safeguarding Team, can be contacted at [safeguarding@abbotsleaschool.co.uk](mailto:safeguarding@abbotsleaschool.co.uk) and I will be available to visit families who may require support during the holiday.

Ms A Twomey  
Head of Care and Safeguarding

## School Business Support

**Mr Andrew Cocklin, Head of Finance and Operations**

**E: [andrew.cocklin@abbotsleaschool.co.uk](mailto:andrew.cocklin@abbotsleaschool.co.uk)**



During the Easter holidays, we will have a number of projects going on, in particular the completion of our new sensory rooms. There will also be the usual whole school deep clean, repair works, and grounds maintenance to ensure that everything is as it should be for when students and staff return on the 12th April.

We continue to look for exciting projects that can help develop our school site to broaden the scope of activities that all of our students can access. I am hopeful that we will have a really positive project to announce after Easter which I will be looking for students to lead on and take ownership of. We are just awaiting the final confirmation of funding and then I will be able to engage with the students to get their support to lead from start to finish, which will help them develop a wide range of skills.

The drive for positive change never stops, all of our students deserve the best opportunity that we can possibly give them, and we are determined to ensure that we deliver on that.

Happy Easter everyone!

## School Business Support

**Mrs Michelle Griffiths, Head of HR**

**E: [michelle.griffiths@abbotsleaschool.co.uk](mailto:michelle.griffiths@abbotsleaschool.co.uk)**



This term we have celebrated milestones for several staff who are celebrating work anniversaries with us. Congratulations and thank you for your continued hard work and commitment to:

Mrs Edge - Teaching Assistant - celebrating 20 years' service

Miss McBeth - Teaching Assistant - celebrating 20 years' service

Miss Owens - Cook - celebrating 20 years' service

Miss Kearns - Teaching Assistant - celebrating 20 years' service

Mrs Palin - Teaching Assistant - celebrating 15 years' service

Mr Stephens - Facilities Manager - celebrating 10 years' service

Mr Wray - Teacher - celebrating 5 years' service

This week I have been embracing technology and thinking about how it has changed how we approach our work. I have participated in online recruitment activity whilst we were recruiting for our multi-disciplinary team (more details on this to follow!) and also, attending online conferences. Neither of these are things that would have routinely been done online 12 months ago but are now part of our normal working life.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a happy and restful holidays. Hope everyone manages to switch off and relax and safely enjoy our new found freedoms as the Covid restrictions are relaxed.

**Please remember to do your test before returning to school.**

# Key Stage News and Updates

## Early Years and Key Stage 1 Miss O'Neill



[Maria.O'Neill@abbotsleaschool.co.uk](mailto:Maria.O'Neill@abbotsleaschool.co.uk)

### Ireland

Ireland Class have had an excellent week! In Phonics, we have been singing and dancing to our Phonics songs and our focused sound of the week was 'g', where we have been practicing the letter formation and how to say the sound. We have also been enjoying our Rhyme Time and have learned a new Rhyme of the week, which is Little Robin Redbreast. In Maths, we continued to enjoy and sing along to Five Little Ducks and were able to answer questions throughout the song about how many Ducks came back! We have loved exploring our topic for this term, which is 'colour' through painting, foam, chalk and mark making in so many wonderful ways! We were able to enjoy some sunshine on the yard and used the chalk to draw around ourselves! As Easter is approaching, Ireland Class have loved Easter activities. In Art, we have used chalk to make the outline of a rabbit and painted our own rabbits and flowers, in Maths we have been sorting and matching the Easter eggs to the correct number and in Food Tech, we have made chocolate nests. We have also celebrated World Oral Health Day in PSHE by learning the correct ways of how and when to brush our teeth!

We hope you have a lovely weekend!

### Wales

Wales Class have had an EGGciting week this week! We have been learning about the Eater story and created our own Eater cards for our families. We also created Easter baskets for the Eater bunny to leave eggs in! In Food Tech, we followed a recipe to create Eater nests. We even had spares to taste, and they were yummy! In RE we discussed why we celebrate Easter and what items are symbolic. We then tasted some hot cross buns. We also took part in an Easter obstacle course and an egg and spoon race. We had so much fun and cheered on our friends. In Maths, we learnt to tell the time to o'clock and half past. In Science, we explored how the trees change during the different seasons, and then created a Chatta explaining in our own words what we had learnt.

We have had an action-packed week and are looking forward to seeing you all after half term.

We hope you have a lovely Easter

Wales Class Team 🐰

# Key Stage News and Updates

## Key Stage 2

Key Stage Leader: Miss Sell

[Lorna.sell@abbotsleaschool.co.uk](mailto:Lorna.sell@abbotsleaschool.co.uk)



### Italy

This week in Italy Class, we have been busy learning all about Easter. We read the story of Brenda's Boring egg, designing our own eggs and discussing what characteristic the chick that would hatch from our egg would have. In Science, we learnt about the importance of safety when using electricity and made our own posters to tell others how they can stay safe when using electricity. In art, we used our watercolour background to make self-portraits. In history, we had a special zoom visit from Chatta Chris who told us about toys children played with in the Victorian times. In life skills, we learnt the importance of not judging people and asking for help. Well Done Italy Class for a busy week, have a lovely, well-deserved holiday.

### France

Hi France class! It has been a busy week before our half term break! On Monday, the pupils enjoyed celebrating World Poetry Day. We focused on Spike Milligan's poem- The Ning Nang Nong. We highlighted rhyming words, used musical instruments to act out the poem and then drew pictures to illustrate our favourite parts. On Tuesday, we learned about the importance of oral hygiene. We used special chewy tablets to highlight the plaque in our mouths and then used toothbrushes to clean 'plaque' off laminated teeth. In RE we learned about the Easter story and spoke about what Easter means to us. We then continued our Easter celebrations by decorating eggs and working as a team on an Easter themed scavenger hunt! Wishing you all a restful Easter break. France class team

### Canada

We have had the busiest week in Canada Class!

On Monday, we celebrated National Poetry Day 2021! We listened to lots of different poems and rated them, our favourite was Chocolate Cake by Michael Rosen. Mrs Cooney even told us some poems she had made up! On Tuesday, we continued with electrical circuits in science. We learned that a conductor is a material that allows electricity to pass through it, and an insulator does not. We tested different objects like coins, pencils, lolly sticks, paper clips and rubbers to see if they were conductors or insulators. We also did some dancing in PE! Canada Class really impressed us with their coordination and rhythm. On Wednesday, we made Wet Nelly in food tech! We all mixed in the different ingredients and we cannot wait to taste it! We also continued with our work on the Victorians in history. We looked at the different toys the children would play with in Victorian times. Mrs Cooney even brought most of these toys in!! We all got a chance to play with old-fashioned toys, all made, from wood or metal. Did you know that plastic hadn't been invented yet in Victorian Times?!

We have been making some lovely Easter baskets and going on an Easter Egg hunt! We have had a brilliant last week for Term 4 and are very proud of Canada Class! Have a lovely half-term everybody!

## **USA**

USA have had another fantastic week this week. In Food Technology, we made delicious toasties. We had so many different options for the students to try. Some went for tuna, others for chicken and some went with the classic ham and cheese. They were so tasty, the teachers made one for their lunch! We have been looking at data in Maths and could not believe how many different ways there are to show data. Some students used bar charts and others used a tally chart. In English, we have looked at different punctuation and we used a sensory circuit to determine what punctuation went with what sentence. We had another debate in Life Skills about what we should do when things do not go our way. Not only are we learning skills for everyday life we are also practising our communication skills and learning to be respectful of other people's views! Well done USA you have had a fantastic term! Enjoy your Easter break!

## **Spain**

This week Spain class have all worked really hard.

We have been learning about halving shapes in Maths.

World poetry day has been the topic in English.

We have made Easter cards for our families.

Everyone has done lots of exercise through Judo and Yoga.

Lastly, for Science we all measured how much the bulbs had grown which had been planted a previous week.

## **Portugal**

Portugal class have had an amazing last week of this term. For English, we read the poem 'Ning Nang Nong' and used some instruments to play the sounds. In Maths, we looked at pictograms and tally charts and we had a safari hunt where pupils had to find pictures of different animals around the classroom and make a pictogram. We also went on a bus ride to the city centre to spot some lambananas. Portugal class enjoyed this! Some pupils listened to the Easter story whereas others practised their phonics skills on the tablet. We all had fun and enjoyed doing lots' of different activities. Have a lovely break Portugal class, and we will see you all in two weeks. Happy Easter and have fun!



# Key Stage News and Updates

## Key Stage 3

Key Stage Leader: Mr Richard Hodgson

[Richard.Hodgson@abbotsleaschool.co.uk](mailto:Richard.Hodgson@abbotsleaschool.co.uk)



### Brazil

This week has been a busy final week in Brazil class. We have finished reading The Adventures of The Third Liver Bird and this has inspired the students to write their own creative stories. In Food Technology, we have made delicious Easter themed Rice Crispy cakes. In RE we have looked at the Easter story and discussed different Easter traditions, afterwards the students tasted a hot cross bun and used adjectives to describe how it tasted. The students should be really proud of their efforts this term and we wish everybody a relaxing and healthy spring break.

### Peru

Peru class have been busy again this week. We looked at artwork from the artist Paul Curtis and reproduced his city wings street art; which is painted in the colour of the Liver bird. Literacy, we carried on with 'The adventures of the third liver bird' and worked on extending sentences. Maths this week was working on angles. We focused on right angles, obtuse angles and acute angles. Science was finishing off planets. We included some sensory by using the scooter boards to find and order the planets. We then went on to design and name our own planets stating if it was made from gas or rocks. For food tech Peru class enjoyed making toasties, we used toaster bags to make them. After a busy short term back in school we hope you all have a lovely relaxing Easter break.

### Botswana

This week in Botswana, we made our own sandwiches for food tech they tasted amazing with not a crumb left. We also learnt about evacuees in the war in history and even managed to role-play the sirens where we had to quickly find shelter under our tables and continue to have a lesson. I think Botswana class appreciate what people went through. This week Kaiyeem is pupil of the week for being a great friend to others. Botswana would like to wish you all a fantastic Easter break

### Mozambique

This week, Mozambique have been reading the book 'The Third Liverbird' and we created expanded sentences by using exciting adverbs and adjectives. In P.E, we have continued to be practicing our dancing skills using ribbons and scarves to dance to Brazilian music. On Wednesday, we took a trip to the school music room where we used a range of instruments to demonstrate how different emotions can be represented through music. We then had the chance to play an instrument that we enjoyed the most. We also research Liverpool during a chosen time period and learnt all about how Liverpool has changed through time.

### Madagascar

This week class Madagascar has once again been extremely busy. In Maths students focused on area, and how to calculate the area of regular shapes. In English, students continued with the theme of creative writing and produced so amazing stories with improvements in vocabulary and punctuation they used. In our Topic lesson, students explored the digestive system, its function and the role its individual parts play in the digestive process. Students have

also enjoyed both reading to staff, reading to themselves and sharing an audio version of the Twits at the end of the day.

### **Kenya**

This week in Kenya class, we have been looking at different types of poems. We have talked about the different features of a poem, and how we can make a poem sound interesting to read. The students have created a poem called The Magic Box. We have discussed what creative objects we can put into this box. We have also looked at spring shape poetry where we write a description of a spring object in the shape of the object. In maths, we have been looking at the different types of angles. We can tell the difference between a right angle, an acute angle, an obtuse angle and a reflex angle. We were also able to describe the properties of various polygons using the correct mathematics terminology.

We have been studying Georgia O'Keefe's arts in our art lesson. We have produced a close-up picture of a flower or a leaf in the style of her art. We also used blending technique to create the different tones of shades.

### **Seychelles**

Seychelles have had a lovely week we have continued with Dance using ribbons to make patterns to the rhythm of the music. In Maths, we have been using multiplication squares to help us with our timetables and in English we wrote our own story outline. For Science this week we have researched space probes in groups and then presented our findings to the rest of the class. In food tech, we made some delicious Rice Krispies Cakes. Have a lovely Easter break everyone.

### **Fiji**

Fiji class have been really busy this week. All students have taken part in a 'Big Write'. We have worked on characters, settings and descriptive language. The students focused on using correct punctuation, grammar and they have all done really well. Fiji class spent the last day celebrating Easter! We have had a class party to celebrate all the birthdays we have missed in lockdown. We have also had an Easter egg hunt, which all the students really enjoyed. Finally, we have finished filming our WW2 movie. It will be edited over the Easter holidays, and sent out for you to watch when we return. Have a wonderful restful break.... it is very well deserved.

### **Cape Verde**

This term has been a very busy one with home learning, returning to school and we are all so proud at how well the pupils in Cape Verde have coped and adjusted to all the changes. This week we have celebrated world poetry day by looking at images, writing short verses to accompany them and looking at rhyming couplets. In maths, we have worked on co-ordinates and how to convert time, from the 12-hour clock, to the 24-hour clock. Monday was world water day and we marked this by looking at ways to conserve water during everyday activities. We had some very creative ideas to save water too. On Tuesday, we celebrated world oral health day and learnt more about our teeth and to keep them healthy. We were very surprised to see the effects fizzy drinks can have on our teeth during an experiment involving immersing an egg in coke for a few hours. We wish you all a happy Easter and a safe and restful two week break.

# Key Stage News and Updates

## Key Stage 4

Key Stage Leader: Mr Lyons

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**For information:** Links to open sessions at Hugh Baird College and Myerscough college for September.

<https://www.hughbaird.ac.uk/events>

<https://www.myerscough.ac.uk/whats-on/online-course-advice-morning-february/>

### Australia

It has been a good solid week of learning for Class Australia. The students have risen to the challenge of looking at ratios and fractions in Maths. We also looked at employee rights and responsibilities of employees in Life Skills. We hope everyone has a good, restful Easter break.

### Samoa

The last week before Easter half term and Samoa Class have been still working hard this week. We finished our topic of Oliver Twist this week. We looked at direct speech at the beginning of a sentence and at the end. We were lucky enough to watch the film to take inspiration in our writing.

For maths, we looked at reflections and every pupil worked hard to understand reflections in shapes. We are so happy with how every pupil understood reflections.

We have looked at Teamwork in our employability lessons and the pupils discussed behaviour, and how we talk to someone in a professional manner compared to our friends.

In life skills, we talked about emotional wellbeing. All the pupils were so engaged with this lesson and showed great speaking and listening skills.

We made Fifteens this week, all the pupils got involved with this cooking and the teamwork skills were exceptional.

We hope everyone has an amazing two weeks Easter break! Do not eat too much chocolate!



Samoa Class Team!

### New Zealand

New Zealand have made a huge effort to practice and remember how to calculate the area of triangles this week. They have completed exam style questions and done so well. We are currently reading "Lord of the Flies" and have arrived at the point where the boys on the island are starting to fight. Well done everyone, reading this challenging novel. We are looking forward to the film next term. This week's literacy focus has been punctuation and we have revisited proper and common nouns, commas and question marks. Our study of systems in the body continues and the process of respiration has been fascinating - great work from the class labelling quite detailed diagrams. Today we have enjoyed hot cross buns, ready to start our Easter Break, enjoy the holiday, from The New Zealand Team.

### **Tasmania**

This week in Tasmania class, we have been learning about the celebration of Easter. We designed Easter cards, Easter baskets and cooked an Easter meal in Food Technology. We grilled some chicken, chopped some salad and used the microwave to make some jacket potatoes. We also enjoyed some school trips this week. We walked to Strawberry Fields and to a local postbox to practice posting a letter. We are really proud of how hard Tasmania class have worked this term and wish you all a lovely Easter break!

### **Papua New Guinea**

Last week of half term and PNG have had a busy and productive week! In English, we have carried on reading the 'Woman in Black' and had a zoom with the Chatta creator, which looked at a particular character. In Maths, we have finished learning to use the mean, mode, median and range. For Science, we have completed another unit that goes towards the Science qualification, which looks at fuels and pollutions. For Life Skills, the class have learnt how to identify health and safety signs and how to deal with situations such as sickness, emergencies and fire safety at work. As well as this, we have made chocolate chip cookies in food tech and they looked really yummy! Well done PNG and have a lovely restful half term!

## Key Stage News and Updates

### Key Stage 5

Key Stage Leader: Mr Ryan Mason

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<https://www.myerscough.ac.uk/whats-on/online-course-advice-morning-february/>

### **Christmas Island and Malawi**

As part of the social action project KS5 have been working on, some students explored and discussed the idea of "charity". They ranked their priorities for charity; environmental, human or animal charities. They showed great maturity exploring this moral dilemma. They then researched different charities and presented their PowerPoints to the group practicing public speaking skills.

The students have also been working towards creating their own personal statements, ready to apply for college. The students have been self-evaluating their skills and qualities ready talk about themselves in college interviews. The staff are really proud of how well the students have worked this week.

### **Supported Interns**

This week our Interns have continued in their growth of working independently. Each of them has this week, had to adapt to a few changes in their routine. We then took time to speak about this during our class-based day and discussed what strategies they could learn to help them cope with unexpected change.

The boys helped with staff training on the climbing wall, with Liam and Adam being the "guinea pigs". Well done boys!

Aiden worked hard removing screens from old laptops and assisted Charlotte with the delivery of pupil's home testing kits. Adam buttered, what felt like a ton of toast for one lunch this week and Liam restocked all the equipment for the cleaning team.



**Primary Department**

Theo 29 March

Samuel 31 March

Lotte 7 April

Georgina 9 April

**Secondary Department**

Harry 26 March

Jack 27 March

Troy 30 March

Nathanael 31 March

Jamie 2 April

Joel 6 April

Mason 8 April

Scott 13 April

We wish you all a **Wonderful Birthday** and have fun!



## Student of the Week 25

Early Years and KS1		
Ireland	Harley	for amazing communication skills and being a kind friend
Wales	Ethan	for trying new foods!
Nurture Provision		
Spain	Kaiden	for doing outstanding Math work
Cape Verde	Karim	for following the golden rules fantastic work ethic this week
Tasmania	Jessica	for excellent attendance and working hard
Key Stage 2		
Italy	Jason	for excellent phonics work.
Portugal	Bobby	for being kind to his friends
France	Oscar	for a fantastic participation in our Judo lesson!
Canada	Lotte	for impressing us with her phonics work this week, especially on Bug Club. She has also been very sensible, mature, and handled situations really well
USA	Alfie	for putting 100% into every activity and trying not to get distracted by what's happening around him. Well done Alfie!
Key Stage 3		
Brazil	Jack	for having an excellent attitude towards learning
Peru	Hayden	for staying on task during lessons all week
Mozambique	Sean	for trying really hard in our lessons and for trying new foods for snacktime
Botswana	Kaiyeem	for being a good friend
Madagascar	Justin	for excellent effort and attention to detail when producing a piece of creative writing
Kenya	Patrice	for working so hard and being so kind to everyone around him
Seychelles	Leighton	for having brilliant week and a positive attitude
Fiji	Jacob	for being incredible this week. Jacob has completed all tasks set and really helped support our class production based on WW2. Well done Jacob
Key Stage 4		
Australia	Spencer	for working hard and being very helpful at snack time
PNG	Dan	for being a kind student and attending school all week
Samoa	Matthew	for engaging in class discussions and being very proactive and completing tasks without being prompted
New Zealand	Nicholas	Well done, you have been very focused this week and made tons of progress! Amazing!
Key Stage 5		
Malawi	Sean	for a great clear well-structured speech on his chosen charity "Water Aid"
Christmas Island	Chloe	for working independently all week and demonstrating fantastic social skills with her peers

# Week 26 Photos

