

Abacus Primary School

Newsletter 428

26/11/21



We are aware that the increase in confirmed cases across the school may cause some of you to worry. We continue to do all we can in school and we will continue to telephone close contacts and communicate with parents so that you know when there is a confirmed case in your child's class. We have installed CO2 monitors in all

classrooms to ensure that the classrooms are adequately ventilated. Please don't sit at home and worry, if you have some questions or want to talk through your concerns please do give me a call. There have been a number of staff members who have also tested positive. Consistency for the children will always remain our priority we are trying our very best to keep things as normal for children in school and will do all we can to ensure that our Christmas festivities go ahead. This may involve a few tweaks to ensure that we do our best to keep our school community safe. We hope that you will continue to support us during this challenging time. I'd like to thank our staff for their continued commitment, flexibility and offers of coming in on their days off...we really are so lucky to have such a dedicated team working in our school.

On Tuesday 30th November 2021, it is St Andrew's Day, we invite all children who are in St Andrew's House (Blue T-Shirt) to wear blue. This can be as part of their school uniform, PE kit or full non school uniform.



Follow the link for some great resources, which we have been using in school, to help with self care and wellbeing tips for the whole family.

<https://www.explorelearning.co.uk/blog/self-care-for-children-wellbeing-tips-explore-learning/>

Wellbeing

Next week we are on week 3 of our menu.

WEEK 3





I am delighted to say that the Pantos will be going ahead next week.

Wednesday– KS1 (Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2) will be having a Pantomime in school. As this is a special event, children will be allowed to bring a special treat to eat. We will

operate a one way staggered entrance and exit system and ensure that children are sitting in their classes. Please ensure you have paid, on ParentPay as soon as possible. Thank you.

Friday– KS2 (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6) will be attending a Pantomime at Chelmsford Theatre. Children will also be allowed to bring a treat and will eat their lunch once they return, they can order a school dinner as usual. Children may bring a mask to wear on the coach or for the whole



visit if these make them feel more comfortable. We will be organising coaches and seating so that children are sitting with their class. I am also contacting the Theatre to talk through additional measures.

**GIVE A
GIFT THAT
COUNTS**

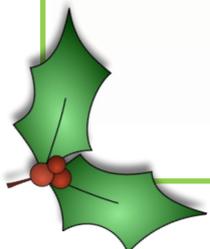
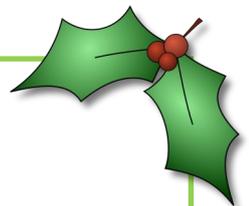


As part of our community links with Silvana Court we are asking for contributions so that we can give each of the 85 residents a gift this Christmas.

We've asked the staff at Silvana Court what they think the residents would like best and they have suggested:

- Fluffy bed socks
- Toiletry sets
- Tins of biscuits

If you would like to help us with this Christmas charity project there will be a box in the entrance hall to leave your contributions. I know the residents will love to receive these gifts.



LET'S CELEBRATE!

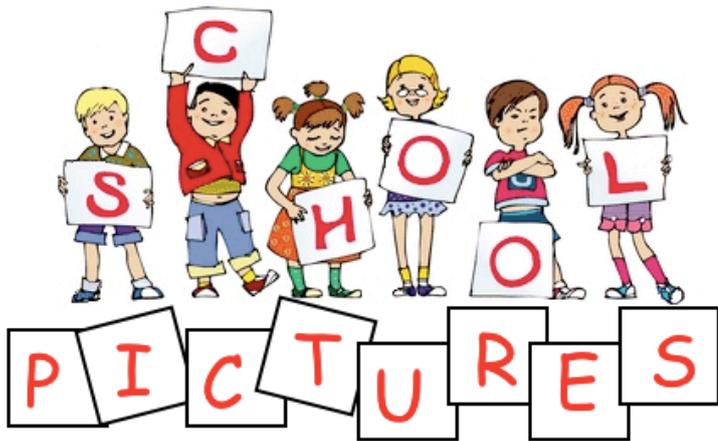


Well done to Mae, Eloise, Gabriella, Grace and LJ for their achievements outside of school this week.



Thank you for your donations. As a school, we have raised £341.00!





You should all have received your photo cards this week with details of how to order your children's photos.

We always strive to find the best photographers and we would love to hear your feedback on this year's photos? If you brought siblings in, how did the photographers

try and get the best photos for you? You can use the text system to let us know or contact Mrs Grahame in the school office. We've loved looking through them all!

We'd love to have your feedback



The Challenge was to see how close children could get the Kurling stone to Pudsey's face. We had some that got right on target!



On Friday the 19th November, our Sports Ambassadors invited children to take part in a Kurling Challenge. Kurling is an adaption of Curling (played in the Winter Olympics) and similar to bowls.

152 children took part!

Sports Ambassador Children in Need Challenge

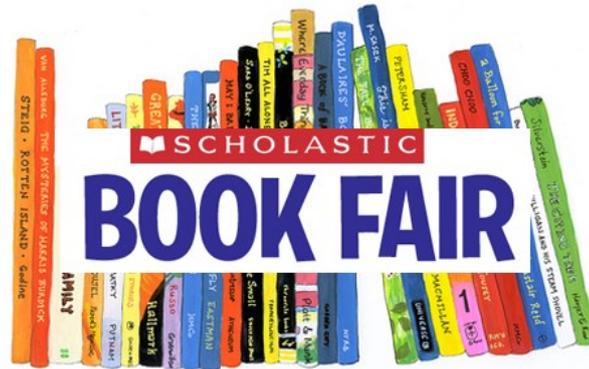
The Winners:
 Year 1/2 Boy: George in Red
 Year 1/2 Girl: Eva in Turquoise
 Year 3/4 Boy: Joey in Green
 Year 3/4 Girl: Annabella in White
 Year 5/6 Boy: Zachary and Declan in Teal
 Year 5/6 Girl: Tahlia in Purple



House Points

St George's Day	St David's Day	Happy St Patrick's Day!	St Andrew's Day
273	218	243	180

Well done to this week's House Point winners....St George's House!



The Book Fair will arrive in school on **Wednesday 1st December** and will remain until **Tuesday 7th**. Each class will have the opportunity to visit the Book Fair and children will be able to complete a wish list with the books they are interested in. Should you wish to purchase any of the books (Christmas is just around the corner!) you will be able to do so by clicking on the following link:

<https://bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/pay/1177172> and then clicking on the button which says **I am paying for Books from a Wish List**.

This payment system will close at 9pm on Monday 6th December.

Please then email the following information to admin@abacus.essex.sch.uk with **Book Fair** in the subject line: **your child's name, their class, the books you have ordered and the payment reference number**. Without this information, we will be unable to ensure the correct books are given to your child.

Please see the list of books which are available to order on our news page <https://www.abacusprimaryschool.co.uk/news>

These prices should be referred to rather than the ones on the Scholastic website.

Thank you for your continued support – each sale at the book fair means more books for our school!



Our Curriculum



<p>Early Years Foundation Stage</p>	<p>We are getting into full Christmas mode, with our Christmas play and talking about the Christmas Story. I am sure we can tell you which part we have in the play if you ask. We have been taking part in our active Maths learning about position. We went to investigate outdoors to see what we could be in front of, under etc. Why not ask us what we found in the school grounds. Can we show you at home as well?</p>
<p>Year 1</p>	<p>Another busy week in Year 1. In English, we have been looking at fiction and non-fiction books; looking for the contents, index and glossary page. Maybe we could find a non-fiction book at home to see if we can find the same pages. In Maths we have been focusing on our subtraction skills and using them to solve word problems. In Art we learnt about primary and secondary colours. Ask us what the difference is.</p>
<p>Year 2</p>	<p>This week in Year 2 we have started to look at money. We have been recognising coins and notes and adding both pounds and pence together. We have started to look at different ways to make the same amount. We have been learning to use a dictionary - as in a book and not using Google! Ask your child how a dictionary is organised. In Humanities we have looked at the capital cities of the countries of the UK and also the 4 seas and 1 ocean that surrounds us.</p>
<p>Year 3</p>	<p>Year 3 has had an extra active week. On Tuesday we went on a geography field trip around the Wick, after which we drew our own maps and plans of the area with keys symbolising different locations. We had a brilliant netball session with Mr Adams on Thursday. In French we are perfecting animal names and in DT we are working on our exciting project for the Christmas Fair - watch this space! Maths has seen the start of our multiplication and division topic so our TTRS is more important than ever, and in English we have finished writing our Recounts and ended the week working on some rhyming, wintry poetry.</p>
<p>Year 4</p>	<p>In Maths, we have been multiplying and dividing by 10 & 100. We used place value sliders to embed our understanding of the skill. In RE, we have been learning about the miracles performed by Jesus and the Lord's Prayer. What miracles did Jesus perform? In Computing, we have been creating posters about the rainforest; we have had to think about the layout, pictures and text. In English, we wrote poems about deforestation. We had to consider the emotive language we used to impact the reader.</p>
<p>Year 5</p>	<p>This week in Year 5, we have been beginning to look at factors in Maths. Ask your child what a factor is. In English, we have been writing our own space adventures. They have been really thrilling and engaging. In Art, this week we are looking at 'Every Picture tells a story' unit. We have been really creative with our artwork. We have looked at work by Hermann Rorschach, Banksy, John Singer Sargent and Magdalene Odundo to inspire our own pieces.</p>
<p>Year 6</p>	<p>This week in Maths we have been identifying equivalent fractions and simplifying them. We have started our new Geography topic, which includes identifying human and physical features of the UK. These include major historical cities, natural landscapes, rivers and landmarks. We've also planned a route from London to the Three Peaks. Our focus in English is the poem 'The Charge of the Light Brigade', where we have identified poetic devices such as alliteration and assonance, and recognised the effectiveness of repetition and tone.</p>

e-Safety

for parents and carers

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one issue of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about CRYPTOCURRENCY

What is cryptocurrency?

Cryptocurrency is software enabling the exchange and storage of digital 'coins' representing financial value. To monitor who owns which coins, platforms save an online record of every transaction, called a 'ledger' or 'blockchain'. This is secured by cryptography: a set of methods for protecting sensitive information. Bitcoin, released in 2009, was the first cryptocurrency; other platforms have since launched such as Ethereum, Tezos and Filecoin. As cryptocurrency becomes a more established part of digital life, young people are bound to encounter it – so it's vital that trusted adults understand its risks, and how it can be explored and used safely.

COMPLEX TECHNOLOGY

Like any new software, cryptocurrency comes with bugs, flaws and limitations. Broadly, it hasn't yet evolved to be as user-friendly as web browsing or social media. Using it safely means spending time learning about the complicated technology it uses. We would strongly suggest anyone considering getting involved in cryptocurrency should consult specialised tutorials to learn about it properly in advance.

WIDESPREAD EXAMPLES

Cryptocurrency software for smartphones is often free to download from app stores. Emails with links to cryptocurrency services can land in any inbox. Cryptocurrency is also advertised on search engines, on social media and in online games (for example to buy add-ons which help players level up). It can't be purchased easily without a credit card or bank account, but young people will still be exposed to cryptocurrency in various settings.

CHANCE OF SCAMS

Cryptocurrency provides another opportunity for scammers to extract personal data and money from unwary web users. Unlike credit card transactions or wire transfers, a bank can't reverse cryptocurrency transactions after a suspected fraud – making it an appealing channel for online extortion. These transactions do leave evidence in the blockchain, however, which means that cryptocurrency scammers can and do get caught.

BEING LOCKED OUT

If you forget your online banking password, you can reset it by proving your identity in another way. In the world of 'crypto', however, the private key to access your funds can't be reset. Cryptocurrency operates without intermediaries like banks – so no-one stores a copy of users' private keys. This has security benefits, but also presents the huge risk of permanently losing access to your account. Learn how to store private keys securely before purchasing any significant amounts of cryptocurrency.

RISKY INVESTMENT

Prices can be very volatile, so cryptocurrencies are considered high-risk investments. If you might need your savings soon, don't hold them in cryptocurrency as their value could drop suddenly and sharply. Sometimes, cryptocurrency may be a profitable investment – but note that any gains are taxable. You may even have to pay tax when exchanging one cryptocurrency for another if the currency you're exchanging is priced higher than it was when you bought it.

Advice for Parents & Carers

AVOID IF UNSURE

In the UK, cryptocurrency is considered risky, because users aren't well protected if something goes wrong. Most cryptocurrencies use software developed by decentralised communities, so there's no customer service and no support if your funds get stolen or you lose access to your mobile cryptocurrency wallet. Unless you understand cryptocurrency, it's probably best not to use it. After all, if you couldn't comprehend the highway code, it wouldn't be safe for you to drive.

CHECK CREDENTIALS

Buying cryptocurrency for the first time involves wiring funds from your bank to a cryptocurrency exchange – a business that converts your money into cryptocurrency. They can also store cryptocurrency for you, though this could present a security risk. Cryptocurrency businesses in the UK must now comply with money laundering regulations: the Financial Conduct Authority's website has a list of all businesses that are approved, and it's best to avoid dealing with any that aren't.

EXPECT EXPOSURE

If your child plays online games that involve some form of virtual currency, and has access to some kind of payment method, they may find themselves in a position to buy and use cryptocurrency. There's probably no immediate danger, but discussing the potential risks with them could be useful. If your child is old enough to understand the concepts of spending and saving or to grasp the basics of programming, then they're old enough to learn about cryptocurrency.

STAY CAUTIOUS, STAY INFORMED

Approach cryptocurrency with caution as well as curiosity. Don't click on links in unexpected emails referring to cryptocurrency and beware of promotions promising free cryptocurrency in exchange for personal information. Avoid mentioning on social media that you own cryptocurrency, as this can attract scammers. Stay informed of potential new risks and regulations by regularly checking specialised sources (such as CoinDesk).

Meet Our Expert

JP Vergne is an educator and associate professor at University College London's School of Management. His award-winning research on technology and organisation has been published in leading academic journals as well as in two books. JP is also a speaker and advises on startups. He tweets at @PirateOrg.



NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday