

Abacus Primary School



Newsletter 498

8/9/23

WELCOME BACK!

We hope that you all had a great summer break but it is wonderful to be back and seeing the children so enthusiastic, happy and ready to learn.

Our Foundation team are busy carrying out home visits and we look forward to welcoming our new Foundation children next Friday.

We appreciate that children moving to new year groups and classes can be a little daunting, so we have planned some welcome sessions for parents.

These sessions will include key information for the year ahead

Please see below the date and times of these:

Year 1	9am Monday 18/9/23	In person in large hall
Year 2	2.45pm Monday 18/9/23	In person in large hall
Year 3	10.30am Wednesday 13/9/23	On Zoom Link will be sent out via text beforehand
Year 4	9.30am Wednesday 13/9/23	On Zoom Link will be sent out via text beforehand
Year 5	10.30am Tuesday 12/9/23 (This includes the PGL information)	On Zoom Link will be sent out via text beforehand
Year 6	9.30am Tuesday 12/9/23	On Zoom Link will be sent out via text beforehand



Next week, we will be on
WEEK 3 of our Summer menu.

Whilst we appreciate there are a number of reasons why you need to take a holiday during term time, as we begin this new academic year I wanted to clarify some points regarding term time holidays.



1. Holidays are not authorised during term time.
2. A leave of absence form must be completed, 1 form per child.
3. Once we are aware that you are on holiday this is then reported to the local authority.
4. Schools have a statutory duty to inform the local authority that a child is not in school due to a holiday.
5. It is the local authority who enforce a penalty notice fine or in some cases prosecute.
6. If we believe that you are on holiday (child may have told staff in school or friends) but you have not informed us that this is the case, we can carry out a home visit. We are then obliged to notify the local authority that you are away. It is then your responsibility to provide evidence to show that you have not been on holiday.
7. Please do not put your child in a position that they have to lie when they come back to school and cannot talk about their holiday by not following the correct procedures. This causes anxiety and upset for the child/children.
8. The school does not receive any payment for holidays.
9. School is not responsible to set work for term time holidays.
10. Schools are also required to communicate with each other regarding siblings being off school at the same time.

Abacus gymnastics club

Immediate spaces now available for the after school gymnastics club.

Tuesdays after school 3.15pm - 4.15 pm,
Years 1-6,

For more information or to book your child's place, please email:

nina.coleman@btinternet.com



Crafty Katie

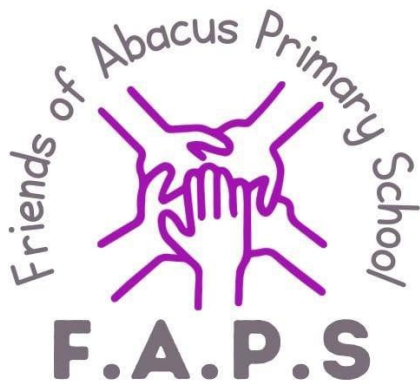
Abacus Primary School

CRAFT CLUB

Fun weekly themed crafts and activities often to include Sand art, wooden crafts, foam crafts, sequins, modelling, brick build, and more
Club runs straight from class and finishes at 4.30 pm. Collection is from the school main entrance.

Wednesday's - for all year groups
Starts Weds 13th Sept till Weds 18th Oct (6 week block)
Cost is £30 for the half term
New school year - bookings open now! Current members will need to rebook as places not rolled over
To book: Text or call Katie on 07929 044959





When buying your circus tickets, please make sure you do 1 order per family, but 1 ticket per person over 2 years old.

When you checkout, you'll be asked for a name per ticket - this can be the same name for all of the tickets.

If you have any problems, please email faps@abacus.essex.sch.uk and we will help you get booked.



Just a quick reminder:

Please ensure you name ALL items that come into school with your child. We had 7 bin bags full of unclaimed lost property from last year, these items were not named so cannot therefore be returned to their owners.

LET'S CELEBRATE!



Well done to Olivia who took part in a gymnastics competition and to Jaden and John for completing the Essex library challenge this summer.



You may have noticed that Miss Neilson has not returned following the summer break. Unfortunately she had a bad fall from her horse and required surgery. She is now home and I'm really pleased to say she is recovering well. We hope to see her smiley face back here at Abacus very soon...I will keep you updated on her recovery.

eSafety

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 of many issues 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 LIVE STREAMING

Live streaming involves broadcasting and watching videos online in real time, often on social media or via platforms like YouTube and Twitch. Viewers can interact through comments, chats and reactions during the broadcast. Such instant engagement makes this an exciting way to share experiences, learn from others and build digital communities. Despite the many positives, live streaming also creates a potential platform for unsuitable content and poses some risks to children. It's essential to keep privacy and safety in mind and comply with each site or app's age restrictions.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

LACK OF AGE VERIFICATION

Despite their age restrictions, some platforms don't require proof of age at sign up – meaning that anyone can register for an account (and potentially pretend to be older or younger than they actually are). In many cases, this means that young live streamers can never be totally certain exactly who they are broadcasting to and who is engaging with their live stream.

DISCLOSING PERSONAL INFO

A characteristic of live streaming is the ability for videos to be instantly shared worldwide. Without the correct privacy settings enabled, a child could inadvertently reveal personal information or their location, making them vulnerable to online predators or identity theft. It's wise to regularly check the privacy settings (and what data is being shared) on any apps your child has signed up for.

ANYTHING COULD HAPPEN

As the video streams are live, children might encounter (or inadvertently share) inappropriate content. Most live-streaming apps have rules to prevent this and monitor their services, also providing report buttons where content can be flagged for review. It may not be dealt with instantly, however, meaning that your child could be further exposed to harmful content during a live stream.

UNAUTHORISED RECORDINGS

Each live streaming platform stores completed videos for different periods (Twitch stores broadcasts for 60 days, for example, while Facebook and YouTube remove them only at the creator's request). Deleting a video, though, doesn't always stop it from being shared: in some cases, streams have been illegally recorded (or screenshots taken) by certain viewers and redistributed on other sites.

ROGUE CONTENT CREATORS

Children can also watch other people's live streams, which could potentially contain anything at any time (such as nudity, drug use or profanity). Most apps claim to monitor live streams and will stop any that don't adhere to their guidelines – but with millions of streams per day, it's complicated to regulate them all, so children could be exposed to inappropriate content without parents knowing.

DANGER OF GROOMING

There are increasing reports of children being coerced into performing "suggestive acts" by strangers on some live-streaming apps. Due to the lack of verification required for certain apps, almost anyone can sign up to these services (including anonymously or under a false identity). It's vital, therefore, to ensure the correct safety measures are in place before your child begins live streaming.

Advice for Parents & Carers

PUT PRIVACY FIRST

Through the streaming app's settings, switch your child's account to 'private', so only their friends and followers can see their broadcasts. You could also turn off the live chat, shielding your child from any upsetting comments – although viewers' feedback is often seen as an integral part of the fun. Identify any nearby items (such as school uniforms or visible landmarks) that could give away your child's location.

MANAGE MULTISTREAMING

Some apps and sites let users stream their content through multiple social media platforms at once. A broadcast on Streamyard, for example, can be shared on YouTube, Twitch, X and Facebook if the accounts are linked. The privacy settings can differ on each of these, so we'd suggest only streaming via one platform at a time to maintain greater control over who's watching your child's videos.

GET INVOLVED YOURSELF

Research suggests a significant number of streams show a child on their own, often in a supposed safe space like their bedroom. If your child wants to live stream, ask if you could be present because you're interested in how it works. You could even set up your own account to gain a more detailed knowledge of what your child talks about in their live streams – and who they're broadcasting to.

TALK ABOUT LIVE STREAMING

Try to start with positives before discussing potential risks. You could ask which live streaming apps your child likes and how they use them. Do they just watch streams or create their own? Explain why it's unwise to reveal personal information while streaming (even to friends). If you feel your child's too young for live streams, explain your reasoning to them and perhaps agree to review this decision in the future.

CONSIDER THEIR ONLINE REPUTATION

As the broadcasts are live, it often causes the misconception among young people that whatever happens in their video simply 'vanishes' once the stream ends. However, videos can stay online indefinitely or be recorded by other users. It's important that your child understands what they do and say in a live stream could potentially damage their online reputation and, quite possibly, be seen by prospective future employers, colleges or universities.

Meet Our Expert

Shoddi Smith is Head of Digital Learning at Thomas's Rowington, London. Recognised in the British 10 UK Awards Yearbook 2022/23 for his efforts in the digital transformation of Cobari, Twin Primary School and Tower Hamlets, he is also a Google for Education Certified Trainer and guest lecturer at University College London on the integration of technology across the curriculum.



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