

Abacus Primary School



Newsletter 506 10/11/23

Year 3 visited Barleylands



Year 3 had a great time at Barleylands on Monday, where they took part in a Stone Age day. Throughout the day they participated in a number of activities which included making bread, Stone Age stew, cave art, feeding the animals and due to the beautiful weather, they even got to take a tractor ride.

Thank you to the parents who supported on the trip.



Next week we are on WEEK 2 of our new menu.

Please note that Thursdays options are:

Red— sausage baguette, Green— veg sausage baguette and Purple— cheese roll



Diary Dates



To launch Anti-Bullying week, we are inviting children to wear odd socks on **Monday 13th November 2023** as part of their school uniform.



On Friday 17th November 2023 we invite children to wear non school uniform for a donation to Children in Need. This can be any non uniform and does not have to include any official merchandise. We have set up a link on ParentPay for donations which will be text out to you soon.



We are looking for a Parent governor to join our Governing Body. If you are interested in this role and would like more information please visit the school governors page on the Essex County Council website or copy and paste the link below:

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/Education-Schools/Schools/>

[becoming-a-school-governor/Pages/Becoming-school-governor.aspx](https://www.essex.gov.uk/Education-Schools/Schools/becoming-a-school-governor/Pages/Becoming-school-governor.aspx)

If you would like to become a parent governor, please express your interest in writing and hand in to the school office by Friday 17th November 2023.



On Wednesday 15th November flu vaccines will be taking place in school. You have until Monday 13th November to complete your consent forms or your child will not receive the vaccine (texts with links to consent forms sent previously).

JOIN US FOR OUR

Christmas Bazaar

SATURDAY, 2 DECEMBER
11:00 - 15:00

Meet Santa & his reindeer!

£5 / ticket. Includes:
Christmas Craft, Hot Chocolate & Cookie
Meet the reindeer, gift from Santa

Refreshments & Raffle

Silvanna Court
84 Runwell Road
Wickford, Essex
SS11 7HR

RSVP to our
Facebook
event!

Mini Athletics

On Friday 3rd November, 12 children from years 1 and 2 took part in a mini athletics event with 3 other Wickford Schools.

They all took part in 6 events: speed bounce, target throw, standing long jump, shuttle run, balance and team relays.

They all performed with great enthusiasm and came 3rd overall as a team.

The whole afternoon was run by our Sports Leaders who did a fantastic job not only explaining, demonstrating and supporting the children but also working out their scores. They showed great leadership skills and were a credit to Abacus.



Netball Success

On the 9th November 2023, our 5/6 Netball team took part in a Wickford School's Netball League Tournament with 2 other Wickford Schools.

This is our first year entering the league but this did not deter the team who played brilliantly. They won their first game 8-0 and then went on to win their second 4-0, putting them at the top of the league. This is a great start and they are already looking forward to their next 2 tournaments.

Thank you to Jo and Mary from Flames Netball Club for coaching the children and also congratulations to Jo and her family who welcomed a baby boy in half term.



LET'S CELEBRATE!



Well done to Sinead
and Bow for their
amazing achievements
this week!



We love to read!



Well done to Megan, Issy, Stan, Jake and Jack for their enthusiasm when they visited Silvana Court on Monday afternoon.



Do you have any Christmas jumpers or pyjamas that no longer fit your child?

FAPS are asking for donations of Christmas Jumpers and Pyjamas, a box has been left in reception for them

to be dropped off, and then FAPS will sell them these in advance of Christmas Jumper Day.



**ABACUS
PRIMARY SCHOOL**
PRESENTS...

THE SOUTHEND SORCERERS SOCIETY

★ **MAGIC** ★
★ ★ **NIGHT** ★ ★



SCAN FOR TICKETS



**SATURDAY
DECEMBER 9TH
7PM- 9:30PM
£8PP**

doors open
at 6:15pm

SUITABLE FOR SCHOOL AGE +



You can book your tickets here: <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/faps-abacus/>

Or scan the QR code shown.

Our Curriculum



<p>Early Years Foundation Stage</p>	<p>Our theme this week has been celebrations. We have thought about the different ways that we celebrate and discussed birthdays (very important!) Diwali and Christmas. Can we tell you different ways that we celebrate? Our drawing club book has been about Stubby. Ask us what animal he was and we will show you how to salute. In Maths we have 2 cheeky puppets. Can we tell you their names? They have been trying to teach us to count, but I think it might be the other way round! We know how to count without seeing things, using our head, claps or beats. We finished the week with a focus on Remembrance Day, with poppies, red themed activities and a time of reflection.</p>
<p>Year 1</p>	<p>Year 1 have had another busy week of course. In English we have been focusing on more poetry based on Remembrance Day. In Maths we have started to look at subtraction and different ways to find the answer. In Science we learnt the difference between deciduous and evergreen trees. Ask us what it is! Linked to trees we looked at the artwork of Clarice Cliff and recreated her 'Circle Tree' in Art. We also enjoyed our PE session with Mr Adams focusing on ball skills.</p>
<p>Year 2</p>	<p>This week in year 2 we have been continuing to learn the story of 'Where the Wild Things Are' and we have begun to innovate our own version of the story. We have found Maths tricky this week as we were learning to add and subtract by bridging through the number 10. This involved partitioning one of the numbers to make 10 and adding/subtracting the rest. In Science we talked about the importance of personal hygiene and ways we can keep clean and we have explored clay in our art lesson. That was fun!</p>
<p>Year 3</p>	<p>In Year 3 this week we have been thinking of ideas to write our own recount based on Stone Age Boy. In Maths we have been making estimations and finding complements to 100: if you give us a number within 100, we should be able to show you how to work out the complement (what goes with it to make 100) using number lines & pictures. In Spelling, we have been working on the prefix dis- to spell words like dislike, disobey, disappoint & disappear - list 8 on Spelling Shed if you are using the app. In other subjects, we have learnt about the Eatwell Plate in Science (we have sent home some homework too, due in by Weds 15th please!), named animals in French & attempted to think like theologians to understand the representation of the Holy Trinity in the gospel of the baptism of Jesus. And that's not even including our trip on Monday, which was a fantastic day out & the children did us proud with their amazing behaviour & recall of knowledge about the Stone Age. Another super busy - & fun! - week in Year 3!</p>
<p>Year 4</p>	<p>In our Reading lesson this week, we have been investigating parts of the 'Miraculous journey of Edward Tulane' by Kate Dicamillo. The children are really enjoying the parts of the story and pulling it apart to find the answers. Maths has been about Area. Ask the children what important things they have to remember when working out the area of a shape. In English we have been re-writing one of the magic lands at the top of the 'Magic Faraway Tree', using the 'Land of Topsy Turvy' as a template while remembering the key features of a fantasy story. GPS, we have been learning about how to punctuate direct speech. Ask your child what they need to remember. In PSHE we have been talking about how we treat each other with respect and how to be polite and courteous. In French we have been learning about how to present ourselves. How to ask someone how they are feeling and how to answer them. Friday, we have been marking remembrance day and conducted a minutes silence.</p>
<p>Year 5</p>	<p>Another busy week in Year 5, in English we have been continuing our work on our class book 'Cosmic' about a boy who makes silly mistakes and gets himself into lots of pickles. We have innovated the class model text all about his biggest one yet to create a shared write and are looking forward to the invention stage next week. In Maths we have moved onto multiplication and division and have been working hard learning all about multiples. In Science this week we created a solar system using fruit and have been learning all about the different distances of the planets from the sun. Some of them are huge! In PE we added a dynamic to the actions we had created last, our dances are really coming together.</p>
<p>Year 6</p>	<p>We have enjoyed learning about the planet Pandora (the setting for the Avatar films) in English this week and have begun to collect some descriptive vocabulary through poetry. We have begun a new unit on fractions in Maths, finding equivalent fractions and placing them on number lines. In Art, our photography unit is progressing well and we had great fun creating album covers in the style of Derrick Boateng. We then recreated our own versions of famous artwork which look fantastic!</p>

Below is a Focus on information and support
for parents of neurodiverse children.



Nip in the Bud

www.nipinthebud.org

Nip in the Bud uses Short Films and Downloadable Factsheets to inform and educate parents and teachers of primary school children, to help recognise potential mental health conditions in children.

Films for Parents & Carers

The short films and accompanying fact sheets below have been prepared to help parents and children who may have a diagnosis, may be showing symptoms of a potential mental health condition or may be struggling as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic.

Child Mental Health Conditions

Neurodivergent Conditions

Wellbeing

More Info

Neurodivergent Conditions



ADHD



Autism



Conduct Disorders/ODD



Dyslexia

Child Mental Health Conditions



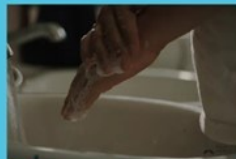
Anxiety



Depression



Eating Disorders



OCD



PTSD



Trauma

From our Blog...



What is PDA? (Pathological Demand Avoidance)

In this blog we explore current perspectives on PDA, and learn from Steph's experience supporting her daughter. Steph is an author and blogger of Steph's Two Girls. For more information about PDA you can visit the PDA Society or the National Autistic Society.



Being Neurodivergent

Neurodiversity can affect people in different ways from childhood right through to adulthood. Here Sarah Nabarro shares her own experience of being Neurodivergent and being diagnosed with Dyspraxia aged 30.

More Info



Early Intervention



Families Under Pressure



Real Life Experience

Wellbeing



Coronavirus



Emotional Wellbeing



Self-Harm

For More Information



<https://nipinthebud.org/films-for-parents-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 of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit nationalonline.org.uk for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about **MICROTRANSACTIONS**

Microtransactions (often abbreviated as 'MTX') are digital purchases made within an app or game to unlock extra features or additional content such as new levels. A popular sub-set of these are loot boxes, which contain a selection (usually random) of virtual items: from character skins to game-changing equipment like better weapons. Microtransactions (and loot boxes in particular) are now widespread in apps and games, but concerns persist that they normalise gambling and can foster addictive behaviours – especially among younger players.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

GATEWAY TO GAMBLING?

Microtransactions have been criticised for promoting gambling-adjacent behaviour in children. Research has also suggested that exposure to the loot box system could affect the likelihood of a young person suffering gambling harms later in life. Children who purchased or used loot boxes in the last 12 months were found to be more likely to have gambled during the same period, as well.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Microtransactions (and loot boxes especially) could lead to young people displaying compulsive behaviours. Loot boxes are designed to be addictive, and the sought-after prizes they contain are dispensed at random. This means that young gamers might not get what they want straight away, causing them to spend more money as well as additional time gaming.

PAYING TO WIN

In many popular games (the FIFA series being a notable example), microtransactions make it far easier to succeed – which is a concern because children can often find it difficult to keep track of their spending. Once a child starts making in-game purchases, they may continue buying to keep up with their friends and other players – sometimes without recognising the mounting real-world cost.

EXCLUSIVE CONTENT

DATA COLLECTION

To allow a young person to complete microtransactions, many app and game developers collect personal data such as their name, address, email, geolocation information, photos, payment details and so on. Even if this data remains secure (which is by no means guaranteed), there's always the chance that it will be used – and possibly sold on to third parties – for marketing purposes.

AFFECTING DAILY ROUTINE

Online games tend to revolve around repeated loops of activity that can affect purchasing decisions and potentially influence children's spending patterns. This could lead to your child not only handing over more money but also adjusting their daily routine to match the game's schedule – potentially impacting more important elements of their day, such as homework and family time.

SATELLITE SPENDING

If you've linked a payment method like a debit card or a PayPal account to your child's game or app, it's wise to keep a close eye on their microtransactions to ensure they aren't racking up a large bill. Letting a child have access to your card (if they're still too young to have their own) or other means of payment could also lead to them spending beyond the apps and games they normally use.

Advice for Parents & Carers

DO YOUR RESEARCH

It's important to have a serviceable idea of whether the games your child plays use the loot box system (even if it goes by a different name) or include the option of buying items, equipment and so forth. If so, it's crucial to help your child understand that this costs actual money, and that they shouldn't feel pressured into making any purchases.

CHAT ABOUT 'CHANCE'

It may help to explain to your child that many microtransactions involve an element of chance: they could pay money and still not get what they want in return. Emphasise that – while not usually costing much individually – these in-app and in-game purchases can soon add up. Talk to your child about how spending their money in a game or app means they have less to use in the real world.

(GIFT) CARDS ON THE TABLE

Investing in an in-game currency gift card can be a useful way of helping your child get to grips with budgeting: if you buy, say, a £10 V-bucks Fortnite gift card, monitor how long it takes them to spend it. When they come to you asking for more, you could make it the starting point for a conversation about how quickly that money went and how they could earn their next gift card.

STOP SPENDING AT SOURCE

You might decide that the wisest strategy is to remove the potential for spending money on microtransactions. If so, most games, apps and devices have options in their settings to help you manage what your child can spend – or to disable that function altogether, preventing them from buying additional items for their games or boosted functionality for certain apps.

WATCH FOR THE SIGNS

If you're worried that your child's passion for a particular game or app may tempt them into habitual spending on microtransactions, it's important to remember the indicators of addictive behaviour. Irritability, a lack of concentration and prioritising recreational screen time ahead of homework or mealtimes could all be signs that you need to have a conversation about a more balanced routine.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of *Technology Magazine*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.

