

Abacus Primary School

17/10/25



What a pleasure it was to watch the Year 2 Harvest performances on Wednesday and Thursday this week. Each of them spoke with confidence and sang with enthusiasm. Thank you to all the family members who came along to watch their performances and thank you to the Year 2 team for all their efforts in preparing the children for their time to shine.



Next week we will be on
WEEK 1 of our menu

***Keep an eye out for our**
new menu– coming soon *



We were so lucky this morning, as the Wickford Fire and Rescue crew brought a fire engine to school for the children. Thank you to Mr Smith (Elsie and Ethan's dad) and his crew for organising this opportunity. Year 2 loved exploring the fire engine and hearing the sound of the sirens.

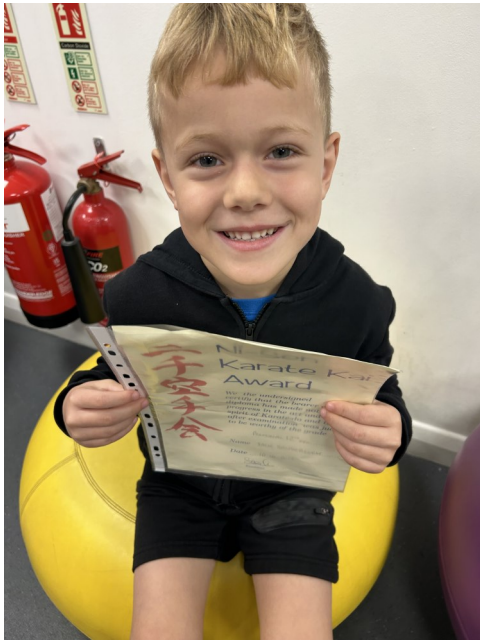


THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who donated items to our Harvest collection this week. Everything was collected today and will be making its way to the local food bank.

The food bank supports over 50 families a week in Wickford, these donations will make a huge difference.

LET'S CELEBRATE!



Wow, so many smiles and so many achievements for this week.

Well done to Jack, Zara, Sophia, Arthur, Louie and Lily for all their achievements outside of school this week.



sports news



Netball League Round 1

On the 13th October 2025, our 5/6 Netball team took part in the first round of the Wickford School's Netball League Tournament which is part of the School Games initiative with 3 other Wickford Schools.

This was the first time the team had played competitively and they had some very close games. They finished 3rd overall after winning one game and losing 2 (but only by 1 goal in each game). They will now be back in training to prepare for the next tournament in February 2026 aiming to improve their position in the league.

Thank you to the family members who transported the children and cheered them on and to Jo from Flames Netball Club for coaching the team.



Through our partnership with The Next Gen Spurs programme, we're excited to offer you the chance to apply for free tickets to a Tottenham Hotspur Women's home match this season!

To enter the draw for any of our remaining WSL matches – including three high-profile fixtures at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium (vs. Chelsea, Everton, and Manchester United). **All other matches will take place at Brisbane Road.**

👉 <https://www.tottenhamhotspur.com/tickets/buy-tickets/womens-tickets/comp-tickets-202526/>



Boy's Football Tournament



On the 14th October 2025, our 5/6 Boy's Football Team played in their 1st football tournament with 6 other Wickford Schools as part of the School Games initiative.

There were some very close games and they were unlucky not to win any but did come away with 2 draws. They finished in 7th place overall. The boys had lots of chances in their games and will now be focusing their training on how to progress this further for the next 2 tournaments to move up the league.



Thank you to the family members for their support in transporting the children and cheering them on and to Wickford Town FC for coaching the boys and providing the venue.

Girls 1st Football Tournament



On the 16th October 2025, our 5/6 Girl's Football Team played in their 1st football tournament with 4 other Wickford Schools as part of the School Games Initiative.

This was the 1st of 3 rounds and the girls played really well: winning 1 game, drawing 2 and losing 1. For some of the girls this was their first time playing competitive football. They finished in 3rd place overall.



They will now continue with their training to prepare for the second round in February 2026.

Thank you to former pupils Cameron, Gracie and Holly who came along and refereed as without them the games wouldn't have been played. Thank you also to the parents for their support in transporting the children and cheering them on and to Wickford Town FC for coaching the girls and providing the venue.



What an enjoyable morning our governors had on Tuesday when 4 of the governors came in to monitor Maths across our School.

The session began with Mrs Mugford (our Maths leader) talking through our key areas for development in Maths and then they got to see it in action by visiting the classrooms. At the end of the morning feedback was shared, which included:

- Evidence of progression and consistency between year groups
- Consistency of planning across classes
- Great use of vocabulary (focused on specific words) and manipulatives
- Lots of questioning and explanation
- Lessons showed good pace with engaged children and lots of positive focus on method and clear steps
- Lovely attitudes towards Maths "I know Maths isn't my strong point but I like trying"
- Great use of starters to warm up and use of Tough 10.
- Lessons allowed for extension and challenge.

If you'd like to see what your children and their classes are currently learning in Maths, don't forget you can log on to their class Padlet.



One area for development which was suggested and discussed was ideas for activities that parents could use to support Maths at Home. Keep an eye out for these are the Family consultation meetings after half term.



WELL DONE!

A huge well done and thank you to everyone who took part in the Fun Walk and also collected sponsorship.

We are amazed that £4743.12 has been raised and this is before the bonus pot has been added.

Well done to Mia (Orange Class), Arla (Blue Class) and Millie (Green Class) who all raised over £100.

Just a reminder

Christmas card ordering must be done by
11th November 2025.



			
			
1134	1217	1012	1028



Some of our gardeners were invited over to the Wick Country Park on Thursday morning to help plant some bulbs.

Thank you to Wickford in Bloom and The Friends of the Wick Country Park for involving us in this event.





Phonics and Reading

We will be holding two meetings to share information and strategies for Phonics and Reading.

Miss Lee and Mrs Borley will be delivering a session on **Tuesday 21st October 2025 at 9am**. This is aimed at Foundation and Key Stage 1 focusing on Phonics and Reading.

On **Friday 24th October 2025 at 2.30pm** Miss Mitchell will be leading a session on Reading at Home, this is aimed more for Key Stage 2 children. Please let the office know if you will be attending.



Younger children in pushchairs can attend, we just ask that they stay in their pushchair and you take them out of the hall if they are crying so that others can concentrate :)



Well done to Year 5 for their efforts in Book Club at Silvana Court on Monday afternoon. They put the biggest smiles on our resident friends faces.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MEMES

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Memes may look like simple jokes, but, for many teenagers, they form a shared cultural language. Quickly created and reworked, they spread across social media platforms as images with text or short videos. Nearly eight in ten teenagers share memes (79%, YPulse), making them part of daily life. While memes encourage creativity and participation, they can also spread misinformation or reinforce harmful stereotypes.

SPREADING MISINFORMATION



While memes help to communicate complex topics, they can also spread misinformation. Memes may sometimes include content presenting false facts or biased viewpoints, especially around health, politics, or current events and, as they're designed to be shared quickly, young people may not question their accuracy.

EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT



Memes are widely circulated, and not always age-appropriate, meaning young people may encounter explicit language, sexual content, or graphic imagery, even without searching for it. As memes spread fast on platforms like Instagram, TikTok, or WhatsApp, it's nearly impossible to filter them completely.

MASKED MESSAGES



Some memes are designed to be confusing or layered with hidden meanings, making them hard for parents, and, sometimes, other young people to understand. Online groups often create these memes to look like inside jokes, but they can sometimes conceal offensive, harmful, or misleading content.

HIDDEN HARMS & LOSING SENSITIVITY



When serious topics like violence, racism, or mental health are turned into jokes, children and young people may become less sensitive to these issues over time. While a funny meme may seem light-hearted, it can carry messages that belittle certain groups, encourage risky behaviour, or mock personal struggles. Repeated exposure through memes can make harmful behaviour seem normal or less important. Over time, this can blur their understanding of what is funny versus what is discriminatory, harmful, or damaging to themselves and others.

PERMANENT DIGITAL FOOTPRINT



Unlike spoken jokes, memes leave a trail. Created or shared memes can resurface later and be misunderstood, even if intended as harmless. Once online, memes may be copied, saved, or spread beyond a young person's control - digital actions can follow them into their future, shaping how they are perceived by peers, teachers, or even employers long after the original meme has been shared.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS



Talk regularly with young people and try to understand their online world - discuss what they find funny about the memes, and why. By listening without judgement, you build trust, making it easier for them to come to you if they see something harmful. Open conversations also help children and teens think critically about the messages behind memes rather than simply accepting them at face value.

MODEL HEALTHY BOUNDARIES



Show children and teens positive online behaviours, such as taking breaks from screens, avoiding late-night scrolling, and engaging in offline activities. Setting clear routines around screen time at home can help to reinforce healthy boundaries and reduce the risks of overuse. By modelling balanced technology use, adults can help children and young people see that digital entertainment, including memes, should be just one part of life.

TEACH DIGITAL LITERACY



Help children and young people learn to question where information comes from and whether it's reliable - developing media literacy skills prepares young people to understand and navigate through their future online lives. Show them how memes can sometimes exaggerate or misrepresent facts for laughs, and encourage them to check credible sources when memes claim to present truth.

FOSTER EMPATHY ONLINE



Remind children and young people that memes should never come at someone else's expense. Encourage them to think about how a meme might make another person feel before sharing or creating it. Highlight examples of positive memes that celebrate creativity without hurting others. Fostering empathy, respect, and kindness in digital spaces will help them become more aware of promoting a safer, more supportive online culture.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Cristina Moreno-Almeida is a Senior Lecturer in Digital Culture at Queen Mary University of London. She specialises in memes, online networks, and youth culture, examining how digital spaces shape identity and everyday life.



See full reference list on our website



The National College



@wake_up_weds



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CHRISTMAS CRAFT & GIFT FAIR

In aid of BCCS a charity which supports the emotional health and wellbeing of children

Registered Charity Number - 1000661



Mill Arts and Events Centre,
Bellingham Lane,
Rayleigh (Free Parking)

SUNDAY 16TH NOVEMBER 2025

10.30am till 4.00pm

CRAFT STALLS ★ GIFT STALLS ★ & MUCH MORE

£1.50 Adults, Children Under 14 Free

For more information contact Damian on 07912 308000 / ddillon@bccs.org.uk



SAVE THE DATE...

Adults only



Friday | 28th Nov



Keep eyes out for details 👁️👁️