

# Abacus Primary School

## Newsletter 508

### 24/11/23



What a great morning we had at St Andrews church on Tuesday morning with 8 artists from across Key Stage 2 viewing the 'From Hong Kong to Wickford' exhibition. The children got to view the work of Ho Wai-On and friends around the church before drawing in their own sketchbooks and creating their own portraits. Thank you to Mrs Playle for organising this event.

**Next week we are on WEEK 1 of our new menu.**

**Please see changes further on.**



# THIS WEEK'S MENU

Please see the changes to the menu below. This affects Wednesday and Thursday's main options and Tuesday and Thursday's dessert options.

Wed: Red- Sausage baguette or Green- Veggie Sausage baguette

Thurs: Red- Pasta Bolognese

Week 1	Red Band	Green Band	Yellow Band (DF)(GF)(EF)	Purple Band	Dessert
Monday	Chicken Korma, Rice & Naan Bread GF, DF, EF	Sweet Potato Korma, Rice & Naan Bread GF, DF, EF	Jacket Potato with Filling	Chicken Nugget Wrap DF, EF	Fruit Cocktail or Fresh Fruit
Tuesday	Meat Feast Pizza Spaghetti Hoops GF, DF, EF	Cheese & Tomato Pizza Spaghetti Hoops GF, DF, EF	Jacket Potato with Filling	Ham Sandwich & Crisps GF, EF, DF	Ice Cream or Fresh Fruit
Wednesday	Sausage Baguette GF, DF, EF	Veg Sausage Baguette DF, EF	Jacket Potato with Filling	Cheese Roll & Crisps GF, EF	Yoghurt or Fresh Fruit
Thursday	Pasta Bolognese GF, DF, EF	Tomato & Basil Pasta Garlic Bread GF, DF, EF	Jacket Potato with Filling	Tuna & Cucumber Baguette GF, DF, EF	Ice Cream or Fresh Fruit
Friday	Jumbo Fish Finger, Chips & Peas GF, DF, EF	Macaroni Cheese & Peas GF, EF	Jacket Potato with Filling	Tomato Pasta Pot GF, DF, EF	Cookie or Fresh Fruit



Our next SEND coffee morning is taking place on **Monday 27th November 2023 from 9.15am**. Essex Family Forum will be in school to talk about how they can support families of children with SEND.

<https://essexfamilyforum.org/>  
The forum is also part of a wider network of parent carer forums including the Eastern Region Parent Carer Forum and the National Network of Parent Carer Forums. For more information on the group and what they can help with, you can watch a video on Essex County Council's YouTube channel. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UNgyAxCP-hA&t=481s>

Please let the office know if you will be attending.





On **Thursday 30th November 2023** it is St Andrews day. We invite children who are in the blue team to come dressed in Blue



On **Wednesday 29th November 2023**, we have our annual Christmas Fayre. This is an outdoor event and all children have made something which will be available to buy on the afternoon.

The event will open from 2.45pm, where you will be able to collect your children from normal classroom doors and walk around the stalls. Our Baton twirling club will be performing at 3.15pm.

## Christmas JUMPER DAY



This will take place on **Friday 8th December 2023**. We invite children to come to school dressed in Christmas t-shirts, jumpers, dresses, hair accessories or hats for a donation to the NSPCC.

Please ensure you keep up to date with all school events by visiting our school calendar regularly <https://www.abacusprimaryschool.co.uk/school-calendar>

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!



# SPORT NEWS

## Tag Rugby Competition



On the 23rd November 2023, 11 children from Year 6 took part in a Tag Rugby Tournament with 3 other Wickford Schools. This was an opportunity to put into practice the skills they had learnt in their PE lessons last term.

We were very lucky to have some extra coaching sessions from South Woodham Ferrers Rugby Club who did some skills sessions with us before refereeing our 3 matches.

The team definitely improved with each game and scored 9 tries across their 3 games. Their last game was so close and they just missed out on 3rd place.

Well done to all the children that took part and thank you to the families who came along to support.



**SUPERSONIC**  
Phonic Friends

Please find the weekly Supersonic Phonic Friends newsletter on the website by visiting the Year 1 letters and information page.

[www.abacusprimaryschool.co.uk/year-1-letters-information](http://www.abacusprimaryschool.co.uk/year-1-letters-information)

(copy the link)

# LET'S CELEBRATE!



Well done to Buddy, Kayla and Samuel for their achievements in football, acro and karate.

# We love to read!



Look at those smiles! Well done to Mia, Cara, Savannah, Kanishk and Jonnie who made our resident friends day by reading to them 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/>

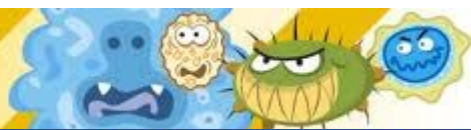
Or scan the QR code shown.

# Our Curriculum



<p>Early Years FOUNDATION Stage</p>	<p>A little bit of Christmas has been creeping into Foundation! Our drawing club story was called 'Baby Jesus' Christmas Party'. Ask us what happens in the story! We have been thinking about the numbers 1,2,3 and 4, looking at different ways to make them, we used the Numberblocks to help us as well. Let us tell you what we know. We enjoyed our first school photo and have been practising our smiles!! Cheesy and cheeky grins! In Phonics the new sounds are building up. We know lots of words and can write them too. We are trying really hard with our handwriting, showing what we can do each day!</p>
<p>Year 1</p>	<p>This week we read the story of Rapunzel and focused on writing character descriptions, making sure we our sentences made sense and use correct punctuation. In Phonics we are continuing to learn new spellings for sounds we already know and this week it's Group 4. Please look at our Year 1 page on the website for more details. In Maths we finished looking at 2D and 3D shapes as well as making repeated patterns with them. We also started to learn about Florence Nightingale in History. Ask us why she is a significant individual. Oh and of course we are busy rehearsing for our Christmas play too.</p>
<p>Year 2</p>	<p>This week in Year 2 we have been reading poems about castles. We have learnt some of the features of a castle and been looking at some higher level vocabulary which we have tried to use when writing our own poems. In GPS we have been learning about command sentences and how they need an imperative (bossy) verb at the beginning of the sentence. Ask us what a command is! In spelling we have been looking at the 'le' spelling pattern. In maths we have been adding and subtracting two-digit numbers and in science we were looking at different animals and the names of their babies. What a busy week.</p>
<p>Year 3</p>	<p>In Year 3 this week, we have become like Santa's Workshop as we have been channeling our inner elves &amp; using our new-found sewing skills to create something incredibly special for you to purchase at our fundraising Christmas Fayre next week. We hope you love them as much as we do! In English, we have finished writing our recounts &amp; we have moved on to planning &amp; writing some winter-themed poetry. In Maths, we have been sharing &amp; grouping, then looking at the 3x table to multiply &amp; divide by 3. Why not have a little go on TTRS to practise? We have been practising our alphabetical ordering in GPS (give the children some lists to alphabetise for you!) &amp; we have recapped spelling words with the suffixes +ing/+ed/+er in spelling (List 10-Spelling Shed). We also enjoyed naming human bones in Science, spotting online adverts in Computing and comparing modern and classic artistic representations of the Trinity in RE.</p>
<p>Year 4</p>	<p>English: The children wrote an emotive poem about the rainforest. They used the information and knowledge they have already learning from their Geography and Music lesson. Maths: Has been all about our multiplication and division practices. We've been learning in a variety of ways, through songs and quiz, quiz trade. Spellings: The focus is on words ending in -lly. D&amp;T: The children have been continuing their advent calendar project. They have been learning how to use a craft knife safely and getting into the festive spirit. Art: we have also been creating our Christmas decorations/gifts ready for the Christmas fair next week.</p>
<p>Year 5</p>	<p>In Year 5 this week we have written our invention of our class book 'Cosmic', we have included lots of grammatical features including relative clauses and loads of great adverbials. Have a look on our class pages in the coming weeks to see some examples of our work. In Maths we have being learning about cubed and square numbers. We started DT this week and are going to become design engineers. We got to look at the workings of an amazing Dyson fan. Did you know it took 4 years to develop? We are going to plan and design our own invention based on a boring product. In PE we completed our dance routines and gave each over lots of constructive feedback. Next week we will be learning the hand jive and are really looking forward to it.</p>
<p>Year 6</p>	<p>It has been another busy week for Year 6! In English we logged in to Google Classroom for the first time and used Docs to top copy our non-chronological report about Pandoran creatures. We learnt about Malala Yousafzai and Dr Martin Luther King Jr in RE, linked to our understand of peace and conflict. In Maths we have shown good understanding when multiplying and dividing fractions - ask us to show you our methods! Many of us increased our speed during our mid-unit cross country assessments in PE and we also enjoyed giving tours to prospective parents - we received lots of positive comments!</p>





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.com](http://nationalonline.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

## Top Tips for Safer Online Shopping on

# BLACK FRIDAY AND CYBER MONDAY

Black Friday and Cyber Monday have become established as two of the year's biggest shopping events, giving consumers the opportunity to snap up a stash of stunning bargains. While this is generally good news, of course, the resultant retail frenzy can lead to people dropping their guard – especially online. In previous years, a seasonal surge in cyber-crime has seen schemes such as phishing emails and credit card scams being unleashed on unwary buyers. Our guide has some essential pointers on keeping your details – and your money – safe while you shop.

### ENSURE A SITE'S SECURE



Before inputting sensitive information (like your card details) into a website, check that the site's secure. The key thing is to look for a padlock symbol in the address bar and check that the URL begins with "https://" – the "s" indicates that the web address has been encrypted with an SSL certificate. Without that, any data entered on the site could be intercepted by criminal third parties.

### TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS



If a deal seems too good to be true, then it probably is. Be especially wary if a site offering unbelievable discounts doesn't look professional (for example, if it's covered with pop-up adverts or it looks particularly outdated) – this often serves as a red flag that the seller might not be entirely trustworthy. Minimise risk by sticking with well-known, reputable retailers instead.

### REVIEW BANK STATEMENTS



Even if you've followed all our tips, it's probably worth checking your next bank statement for any unusual transactions. Criminals know that on Black Friday and Cyber Monday, lots of people make numerous purchases online; they're hoping that any stolen money will get lost in the crowd of other transactions. If you see a payment or payee you can't identify, raise it with your bank straight away.

### BEWARE OF SUSPICIOUS EMAILS



Black Friday and Cyber Monday often bring a significant spike in phishing emails, as criminals use the events' sense of urgency as cover for stealing personal information. Even if they look legitimate, be wary of emails requiring you to do something unusual or suspicious: providing your personal details in exchange for access to last-minute deals, for example, or clicking on a link to an unfamiliar site.

### CHECK IT'S THE REAL DEAL



It's not just cybercriminals you need to be wary of. Research has shown that some online retailers increase the price of certain items in the weeks before Black Friday and Cyber Monday – enabling them to then advertise "discounts" (which, in reality, have simply restored the cost to normal levels). Use an online price comparison tool to verify whether these "reductions" truly equate to a saving.

### MINIMISE MICROTRANSACTIONS



Black Friday and Cyber Monday promotions extend to digital items as well as physical ones. Some gaming companies will offer discounts on in-app and in-game microtransactions such as loot boxes. If you're concerned about how much your child might spend on these upgrades, you can restrict their ability to make purchases (via their device's settings) or remove any linked payment methods.

### SET STURDY PASSWORDS



A strong, unique password is one of the most straightforward ways to protect yourself from cyber-crime. As most of us have multiple online shopping accounts, it can be tempting to use the same password for them all – but this puts your personal data at greater risk. You could try using a password manager to create a different, robust password for each online retailer that you visit.

### DITCH THE DEBIT CARD



Where possible, it's safest to shop online with a credit card (as opposed to a debit card) because it offers additional protection. If a purchase is made fraudulently on your credit card, there's a fair chance of your bank reimbursing you. Should criminals obtain your debit card details, however, they could empty your account in moments – and it can be difficult to recover your money.

### RESIST THE INFLUENCE



Recommendations from social media influencers are another thing to remain vigilant for on Black Friday and Cyber Monday. While many of these will be legitimate, remember that influencers are often paid to promote products – and to publicise deals that aren't quite as amazing as they might seem. Don't feel pressured into buying purely on their advice; look at everything with a critical eye.

### TAKE CARE ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Social media scammers are more active on Black Friday and Cyber Monday, as they know people are hunting for deals online. These scammers tend to concentrate on platforms such as Facebook and Instagram, posting malicious links that can compromise shoppers' personal details. Other scammers, meanwhile, falsely advertise products in an attempt to trick users out of their hard-earned cash.

### 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 tech tabloid *The Inquirer*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

Below is a Focus on support videos for parents from the Local Authority

### SEND online learning event for parents and carers

Good evening and a warm welcome!  
ECC are delighted to offer these sessions from a variety of professionals across support teams in Essex.  
Please use the chat function to ask any questions so they can be raised at an appropriate time during the session by the facilitator. We also politely remind you NOT to share any specific information in the chat, such as names of people or settings.  
We hope you enjoy the session and find it useful!  
Thank you  
ECC SEND Teams



### Supporting your child's early speech, language and communication development.

Jo Grace  
Early Language and Communication Strategy Officer  
Lisa Gridley  
SEND Strategy Lead



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W4sEC01LRsw>



**TOILETING TIPS: SUPPORTING CHILDREN WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS**

www.clearstepsconsultancy.co.uk Charmaine Champ  
Continence Sleep & Behaviour Consultant

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=62OXrsFs-Y>



**Sensory Processing Differences in Children with Autism**

An introduction for parents and professionals

Jan Forwood  
DinCOT, Advanced practitioner in sensory integration

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aB8db0Nj1-A>



Essex County Council

**Understanding Behaviour**

November 2022

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LC6MR4rsQLY>



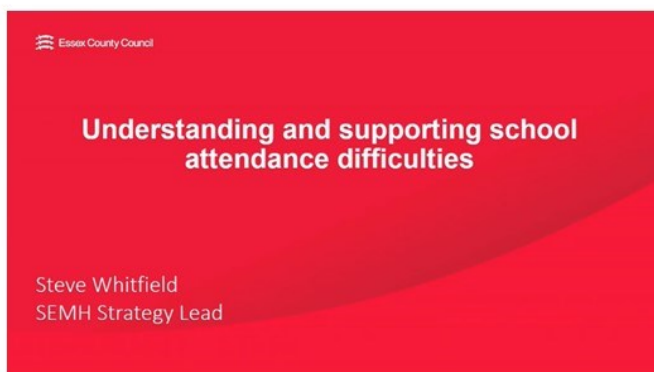
Essex County Council

**School Focused Anxiety**

Jan McBride QSEP Mid  
Kirsty Wagner SSEP SEMH South

Date 23/11/22

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ucEea5ofe4I>



Essex County Council

**Understanding and supporting school attendance difficulties**

Steve Whitfield  
SEMH Strategy Lead

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sLy5kKI2oHg>



**SNAP CHARITY**

WWW.SNAPCHARITY.ORG - 01277 212300 - FAMILYTEAM@SNAPCHARITY.ORG - THE SNAP CENTRE, BRENTWOOD

**Introduction to Visuals**

with Kate Batson (Family & Information Manager)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wmqOtc\\_dqv0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wmqOtc_dqv0)