

Abacus Primary School



Newsletter 510 8 / 12 / 23

★ We Are So ★
Proud Of you



We are all so incredibly proud of Foundation for performing their two performances of 'The Big Little Nativity'. All the children lit up the stage with their smiles and spoke with confidence and enthusiasm. What a huge achievement during their first term in school. Thank you to the Foundation Stage Team who prepared the children for their time to shine and also to all the family members who came along and watched the shows and for your help in providing costumes.



Next week we are on Week 3 of our menu.

Please note that Tuesday & Wednesday are our Christmas dinner days, please see details further on.

Also, Thursday's choices for this week are:

Red: sausage baguette and Green: veggie sausage baguette



Well done to Year 1 for two amazing performances of 'Twinkly Nativity'. You all shone on stage and took your moment to shine. We are so proud of each and every one of you. Thank you to the Year 1 team who worked hard to prepare the children for their performances and to all the family members who came along and watched the shows and for your help in providing costumes.



Years 1 to 6

As a special treat next Friday, we have arranged for a Pantomime to visit school. There will be two performances throughout the day. Children are able to bring in their own treat from home to enjoy whilst watching the performance.

Foundation

On Monday 18th December 2023, we have planned a special event for the children in Foundation...we are keeping it a secret at the moment...but there will be plenty of photos taken.

Thank you so much to FAPS for funding these events for the children.



This year we are hoping to be able to present all of the 86 residents at Silvana Court with a Christmas gift to open on Christmas day.

If you would like to help us by donating a gift of either tins of biscuits or chocolates, we have set up a box in the entrance hall for you to leave your donations in.

Thank you so much to the parents who have already dropped off a gift. Please can we ask that all donations are dropped off by next Friday, to give us time to wrap up the presents.



Foundation/K&S1 Christmas Meal

Tuesday 12th December

Red Band – Turkey, Chipolata, Stuffing, Roast Potatoes, Carrots, Peas & Sweetcorn

Green Band – Quorn Roast, Roast Potatoes, Carrots, Peas & Sweetcorn

Christmas Tree Ice Cream or Satsuma

Wednesday 13th December

(As K&S2 are having their Christmas lunch on this day) the menu options for Foundation/K&S1 will be

Cheese Roll or

Ham Roll with Crisps & Fruit

No other menu options will be available on both days.

Pre-order is not necessary

K&S2 Christmas Meal

Wednesday 13th December

Red Band – Turkey, Chipolata, Stuffing, Roast Potatoes, Carrots, Peas & Sweetcorn

Green Band – Quorn Roast, Roast Potatoes, Carrots, Peas & Sweetcorn

Christmas Tree Ice Cream or Satsuma

The cost of this meal will be the normal price of £3.00 and your child's account will be debited on the day.

No other menu options will be available.

Pre-order is not necessary

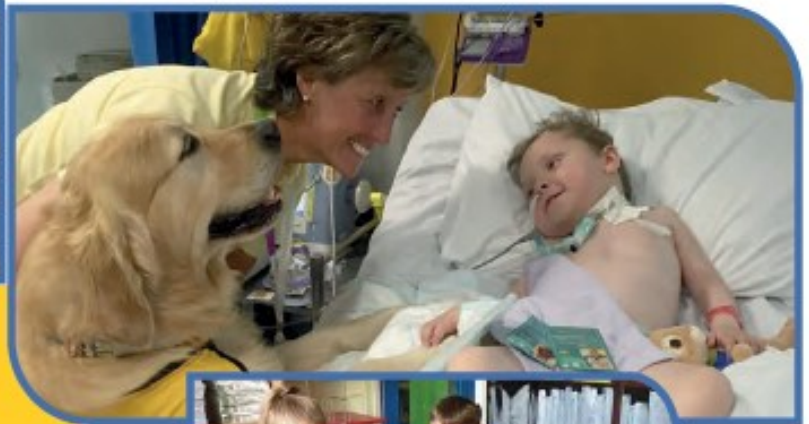
As K&S1 are having their Christmas meal on Tuesday 12th December, can you please provide your child with a packed lunch on this day.

Thank you

**PETS AS
THERAPY**

Our pets and people enriching lives,
one visit at a time

We are looking for our own PAT Volunteer. Could it be you?



Become a volunteer with your pet and you will:

- 🐾 Help your local community
- 🐾 Bring joy to those you meet
- 🐾 Make days a little brighter
- 🐾 Boost your own wellbeing

There's no minimum commitment – we can't
wait to welcome you as our PAT Team!



For more information or help:

🌐 petsastherapy.org
✉ reception@petsastherapy.org
☎ 01865 671440

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📘 [Pets As Therapy UK](https://www.facebook.com/PetsAsTherapyUK)
📷 [petsastherapy_uk](https://www.instagram.com/petsastherapy_uk)



**Please scan
to apply**



Gymnastics

On the 1st December 2023, 8 children from year 4 got to take part in a gymnastics festival.

They were very lucky to be able to use the facilities at Celebrate Gymnastics at Barleylands, which is a fully equipped gymnasium.

The children got to use: the sprung floor, demonstrating forward/backward rolls and cartwheels; the vault; the beam to show off their balancing skills and had a go on the rings.



Boccia, Kurling & Sitting Volleyball

On the 28th November 2023, 7 children from KS2 took part in a competition with 7 other schools from Wickford, Billericay and South Woodham Ferrers.

They played 3 sports—Boccia, New Age Kurling and Sitting Volleyball. Boccia is a precision ball sport similar to bowls; New Age Kurling is adapted from the Olympic sport but played in a sports hall rather than ice and Sitting Volleyball is played from a seated position.

The children have been training for the events and it all paid off as they came 1st in Boccia and 2nd in Kurling—what an achievement—and have qualified for the Boccia County Final.

Thank you to Mrs Newland for training the children and good luck to them for the final.



We love to read!



What a joy it was to spend the afternoon with Archie, Amelia, April, Kiri, Willow and Mason from Year One at Silvana Court - Runwood Homes Senior Living. They put the biggest smiles on our resident friends faces as they built gingerbread houses together.

CALLING ALL YOUNG POETS!

THE TEAM AT ESSEX LIFE ARE GIVING THE COUNTY'S CHILDREN THE CHANCE

TO HAVE THEIR POEM PUBLISHED IN OUR SPRING ISSUE OF THE MAGAZINE.

WE ARE INVITING ESSEX YOUNGSTERS TO SEND US IN

A POEM ENTITLED "WHY I LOVE MY MUM" AND

A SELECTION OF ENTRIES WILL APPEAR IN OUR MOTHER'S DAY EDITION OF ESSEX LIFE.

EACH ENTRY MUST INCLUDE THE YOUNG POET'S FIRST NAME, AGE,

AND SCHOOL AND SHOULD BE SENT AS A WORD DOC OR PDF.

ENTRIES SHOULD BE SENT TO ESSEXLIFEPOET@NEWSQUEST.CO.UK NO LATER THAN FRIDAY,

JANUARY 19 2024.

LET'S CELEBRATE!



Well done to George, Louie, Lewis and Lucy for their sporting achievements this week.

Kids With Bricks

is
coming
to
your
school!



Creativity - Teamwork - Problem Solving

Challenge yourself to create and build, exploring new topics every half term. Work independently and as part of a team to compete in a new exciting interschool competition every week!



£3.99 + VAT

(per child per session)

**To find out more and
book tickets visit...**



www.kidswithbricks.com

Follow us on social media to see
all of the amazing work created
in schools across England and
Wales!



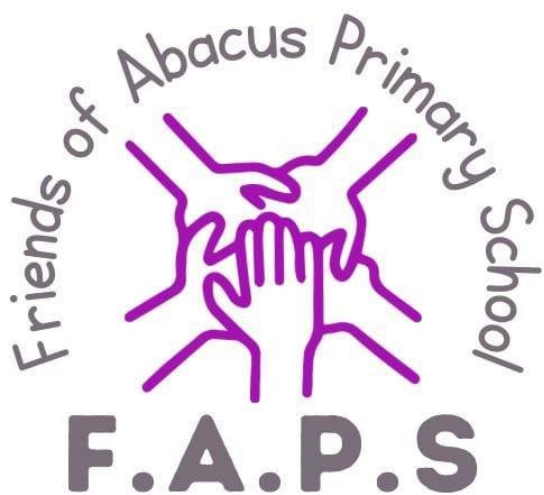
tweetsandbricks



Kids with bricks



kidswithbricks



TOMORROW

We are looking forward to the Magic Night tomorrow.

Doors open at 6.15pm.

Please remember your snacks and drinks



**ABACUS
PRIMARY SCHOOL
PRESENTS...**

THE SOUTHEND SORCERERS SOCIETY

**MAGIC
NIGHT**



SCAN FOR TICKETS



**SATURDAY
DECEMBER 9TH
7PM- 9:30PM**

doors open at 6:15pm

£8PP

SUITABLE FOR SCHOOL AGE +



Bag2School is a **free eco-friendly fund-raising scheme** that helps schools, businesses, community groups, local councils, and charities **raise funds through textile recycling** as well as spreading textile recycling awareness.

We will be taking part in this scheme after Christmas...more details to follow.

Our Curriculum



<p>Early Years Foundation Stage</p>	<p>This week we enjoyed reading the book - 'Aliens Love Santa Claus' It made us laugh so much and we made some Christmas pants decorations for our classroom. We have been counting the number 5 and ways we can make this. Ask us at home if we can show you! Our focus this week has been getting undressed and dressed in our nativity costumes. After we had done this a few times, we were getting very good at it! Our highlight of the week was of course on Wednesday & Thursday- showing our parents our 'Big Little Nativity'. We enjoyed learning the songs, saying our lines and having a boogie to the music. Our first nativity at Abacus...brilliant!</p>
<p>Year 1</p>	<p>Well what can we say, the highlight of this week has got to be our 'Twinkly Nativity'. We loved performing our play and our teachers were so proud of us! It really was a twinkly shiny moment! Thank you for helping us with our lines and costumes too! However we also managed to squeeze in our learning. In Phonics we have completed Phase 5 Choose to Use and will be recapping the sounds for the rest of this term and in English we wrote some Christmas poems. In Maths we have been recapping our place value, adding and subtracting and shape skills. To finish off the week we had great fun doing the Santa Dash and wearing our Christmas jumpers!</p>
<p>Year 2</p>	<p>This week we have been writing instructions using the features of instructional writing. We wrote our piece on 'How to build an Igloo'. We made sure to have a title, a list of things we needed and command sentences using imperative verbs. Ask us what an imperative verb is! In Maths we have been naming 2D and 3D shapes and learning the difference between them. We have been counting the sides and vertices of 2D shapes and been practising drawing them. As part of the Science curriculum we study a famous scientist. We found out about the amazing Sir David Attenborough and the wonderful work he has done for our planet. In Art we made a clay tile using different instruments to make shapes and patterns. We also used 'slip' to add some clay shapes.</p>
<p>Year 3</p>	<p>In Year 3 this week we have been planning and writing our own fantasy stories, learning how to use a thesaurus and practising our challenge words (tricky words - List 12 on Spelling Shed). In Maths, we have finished off our multiplication unit by reflecting on the 2, 4 and 8 times tables and identifying the links between them - give us some questions to work out, or better still, have a few rounds on TTRS! There are Rock Star, Rock Legend and Rock Hero pin badges to be earned! We have practised writing safe emails in Computing, and in Science we learnt that muscles work in pairs; we made a moving arm model to see how muscles contract and relax. In History, we finished off our Stone Age to Iron Age unit by learning about artefacts and remains found in our local area (and Clacton, where lots of children said they had visited!). It was super interesting - see what we can remember! We have also been enjoying playing netball in PE and making natural paints in Art.</p>
<p>Year 4</p>	<p>As we hurtle towards the Christmas break, there has been no slowing down in Year 4. In our reading lessons we have been investigating a new book 'Where Zebras Go' -poems by Sue Hardy Dawson. We've looked closely at concrete poems; they can be tricky to read but also a lot of fun. Spellings have been all about the year 3/4 spelling list. These can also be found in the children's reading diaries. English has been about persuasive writing, continuing from last week. Remembering all of the features and including the commas after a fronted adverbial. Maths, we have finished the unit on multiplication and division, now for the last couple of weeks we have been consolidating what we have learnt this term. Over the last couple of weeks, we have been creative in Art. Ask your child what they have been doing. The end results are really great! In Science we have started a new topic on 'States of Matter'. Ask your child if they can tell you what the definition of solid, liquid and gas are.</p>
<p>Year 5</p>	<p>In Year 5 this week we have been writing out non chronological reports all about our made up planets, we have been including relative clauses, formal conjunctions and technical vocabulary. In Maths we have been recapping and learning about fractions. We have been finding equivalent fractions and have been learning to convert improper fractions to mixed numbers. In Art we have started our space themed work. We started by looking at the 'Space Race' and 'Retrofutrerism' and how designs changed over time. We started to imagine our own futuristic ideas and used a collagraph we created from cardboard to create printed paper ready for next week. In PE we started to learn the 'hand jive' in dance which we were all very good at. We will add to it next week to create a rock and roll dance routine.</p>
<p>Year 6</p>	<p>In English this week we have been using Christmas adverts to help us work on our sentence structures and punctuation. In Maths we learnt about ratio and proportion, creating mocktails (ask us to tell you our recipes) and completed a Cadbury's Heroes investigation. Did you know that in one pack, the ratio of Double Deckers to Twirls is 7:2? In Geography, we enjoyed using Digimaps to explore the landscape in Wickford and consider changes which could be made to improve the area, such as an additional road leading from the A127 to ease traffic. We also had to think about who this would affect and whether all changes would have had a positive impact.</p>

FLU VACCINE CATCH-UP CLINICS

Time is running out to vaccinate your child with this season's flu nasal spray*.

The flu vaccine reduces the risk of serious illness and will top up their protection even if they've been vaccinated before.

Drop into one of our catch-up clinics for primary and secondary aged children and those eligible for a COVID-19 vaccination:

2 December, 9 December

8.30am – 1.50pm

Vaccination Centre, The Lodge, Runwell, SS11 7XX

No booking required. Just walk in.

Booked appointments only on:

16, December

8.30am – 3.50pm

Vaccination Centre, The Lodge, Runwell,
SS11 7XX

Ring 0300 790 0597 to book.

*flu injection is offered as an alternative to the nasal spray



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 platforms which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit nationalcollege.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about DISNEY+

The Walt Disney Company's streaming service, Disney+ combines entertainment from the famous animation studio itself with Pixar, Star and National Geographic, plus the Marvel and Star Wars franchises. With access to the latest releases, Disney classics and original series, there's plenty of content to explore. While parents may have noted that adverts have now been introduced on some versions of the service, the platform is – unsurprisingly for a Disney product – designed to be appropriate for the whole family.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

LESS SUITABLE CONTENT

While Disney+ is predominantly family friendly, there are some movies and shows in its library which are aimed at an older audience: these may scare younger ones or contain themes or language that you'd rather your child wasn't exposed to. You could avoid such situations by enabling Junior Mode (see 'Adjust content settings', below) or specifying a content age rating for your child's profile.

BINGE WATCHING

With the option to view content on any internet-enabled device and a growing catalogue of movies, cartoons and documentaries, Disney+ can make managing screen time difficult. This could result in children binge watching content, distracting them from activities like homework or socialising. Too much screen time has also been shown to negatively impact mood, sleep patterns and weight.

PHISHING EMAILS

Be especially cautious if you receive emails or text messages purporting to be from Disney+. There have been numerous reports of online scammers impersonating Disney+ staff in an attempt to gain access to subscribers' personal information. Disney+ states it will never email or call customers asking for their payment details, their private information or their password.

ENCROACHING ADVERTS

Disney+ has introduced a new subscription package – Disney+ Standard with Ads – which plays commercials before movies and during shows (like many TV channels). There are no adverts in Junior Mode, but profiles with a content rating of 6+ years will see ads appropriate for that age category. Adults who give consent will see personalised adverts based on their location and viewing history.

ACCESSING ADULTS' PROFILES

If adults don't set a PIN for their profile, children could access it and encounter content which isn't age appropriate. In the settings, Junior Mode has a toggle titled 'Kid-Proof Exit' which requires the user to read four words (numbers, spelled out) and enter them to switch profiles. For older children who can read, though, this isn't secure enough – so using a PIN for adult profiles is recommended.



Advice for Parents & Carers

ADJUST CONTENT SETTINGS

When a cartoon, show or movie finishes, Disney+ uses algorithms to identify content with similar themes, which it thinks your child will also enjoy. This suggestion will then automatically begin to play by default. There's an option to turn off this auto-play function in the profile settings, which will encourage your child to take a break from the screen and move on to a different activity.



ADD PIN PROTECTION

Disney+ enables you to effectively lock profiles behind a four-digit PIN. In particular, some of the shows on the platform's Star content hub are far more oriented to adults (including several hard-hitting dramas from US networks), so protecting parents' or older siblings' profiles with a PIN will help to prevent younger children stumbling across material which isn't intended for them.



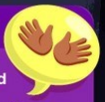
TURN OFF AUTO-PLAY

When a cartoon, show or movie finishes, Disney+ uses algorithms to identify content with similar themes, which it thinks your child will also enjoy. This suggestion will then automatically begin to play by default. There's an option to turn off this auto-play function in the profile settings, which will encourage your child to take a break from screen time and move on to a different activity.



ENJOY AS A FAMILY

When your child watches a movie or show on Disney+ for the first time, you may want to sit with them to ensure it's suitable. You could do the same when introducing them to older films that you haven't seen for years: your perception of what's appropriate has very probably changed, and some of the language and attitudes in movies from your own childhood may seem quite shocking today.



Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



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