

Abacus Primary School



20/6/25

It's been another busy week here. The children have coped fantastically well with the change in temperatures....what a great week for swimming to begin! I will never tire of seeing the excitement the children show when getting into the swimming pool with their friends. The swimming teachers, Julia and Alex, have been so impressed with the behaviour of the children.

I can't believe we are approaching the last four weeks of this academic year, our new September starters have begun their induction journey this week with a 'Stay and Play' session on Tuesday evening and a session on their own on Wednesday morning. We look forward to seeing them next week for more sessions.



On Monday, new classes will be communicated to the children and to parents. For classes which are being mixed you will receive a class list at the end of the day on Monday. For classes that are staying together as a class you will receive a text at the end of the day informing you which class your child will be moving to from September. Class teachers will talk to the children during the school day. Whilst I understand that this might be an anxious time for you, please remember that staff know your children well and would not want to make any decisions which would upset them. Thursday (26th) and Friday (27th) are our transition days where the children move up and spend the days in their new classes in preparation for September. Year 6 will also spend the days at their new secondary schools. On Thursday children will still enter and exit their current classrooms but on Friday they will enter and exit their new classrooms.



After half term, we will be on:

WEEK 1



Year 6 Enterprise Event

Tuesday 1st July 2025

Year 6 are busy planning their marketing, branding and products for this event, which has been a great success over the few years. Gates will be opened a little earlier on this afternoon—Parents of children in Year 6 will be able to attend from 2.45pm and parents for the rest of the school will be able to attend from 3pm.



 	 	 	 
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Next Friday (27th) is the Summer bounce from 3.30pm to 6pm (gates will close at 6.15pm), the FAPS committee have been working hard to make this event another success, please remember to supervise your children, especially while on and queuing for the inflatables. This is for everyone's safety and ensures each child gets a fair turn.



Year 5 had the opportunity to work alongside the Year 5 children at Oakfield Primary School on Tuesday afternoon as part of a Wickford wide PSHE project to support transition across the town. The children took part in a number of games designed to get to know the children in the other school including Bingo!

We are looking forward to Oakfield visiting our school this week. Thank you to Mrs Playle for all her efforts and time coordinating this project.

We love to read!



What a lovely afternoon we had at book club on Monday at Silvanna Court. The children from Year three put the biggest smiles on the resident friends faces and enjoyed spending time in their courtyard area enjoying the sunshine, crisps and drinks!

SIGN LANGUAGE CLUB



There was a buzz of excitement at Sign Language Club this week when Reg (and Leah) from Silvana Court attended their club. It was so wonderful to see the excitement on the children's faces when he arrived. Reg signed to them what is their name and they replied by signing. We hope to see Reg again very soon.

sports news



Year 2 Mini Games

On the 18th June 2025, our Year 2 children took part in a Mini Games event with 2 other schools from Wickford,

The children were then split into groups and went round 12 different activities which included a range of different sports from throwing, jumping, running and ball skills.

The day couldn't have gone ahead without the help of our Year 6 Leaders who went along to the event and ran all the stations. They were praised by staff for being supportive to the children and working hard on their stations to ensure the children all had lots of fun.



LET'S CELEBRATE!



Wow, so much to celebrate this week– well done to Hope, Samuel, Mason, Millie, Flynn, Harry and Teddy for all their achievements outside of school.



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about YOUTUBE KIDS



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT BYPASSING FILTERS

YouTube Kids is less likely to show inappropriate material than YouTube, but there have been reports of the app showing age-inappropriate content to young viewers. One investigation found that YouTube Kids had shown videos that promote skin bleaching, weight loss, drug culture and firearms to children as young as two, as inappropriate content had bypassed the platform's algorithms and human moderators.



BE WARY OF ADVERTISING

Like Google's regular YouTube app, YouTube Kids features pervasive advertising before a video plays. While these adverts are designed to be family friendly and are subject to a strict review process, it's worth noting that YouTube Kids collects information around children's viewing to inform targeted content and advertisements.



DESIGNED TO BE ADDICTIVE

YouTube Kids is designed to be addictive. The platform's design features, such as the constant stream of new videos and the reward system of points or virtual stickers, can be very engaging and make it difficult for children to switch off. Research has shown that spending too much time using digital services such as YouTube can lead to screen addiction, affecting children's daily routines, studies, and even their social lives.



SETTINGS CAN BE CIRCUMVENTED

YouTube Kids offers built-in parental controls, enabling you to set screen time limits and curate the content children are able to view; however, children are often more tech-savvy than we think. They can easily bypass or tweak these settings if they have access to the associated Google account password, thereby exposing themselves to age-inappropriate and potentially dangerous content.



AI-GENERATED MISINFORMATION

There is also a risk of children accessing videos that contain disinformation and misinformation. A BBC investigation found that some YouTube channels are using artificial intelligence (AI) technology to create misleading 'scientific' videos that are recommended to children as educational content. These videos included conspiracy theories and ideas that lack scientific backing.



DATA COLLECTION RISK

While there are limits on the data that YouTube can collect on children under 13, children can still inadvertently give away sensitive information when using YouTube Kids. The platform collects data on children's viewing habits, content searches and location, which YouTube and third-party advertisers can use.



Advice for Parents & Educators

PARENTAL CONTROLS

YouTube Kids offers several settings that allow you to manage what content children can view. For example, you can choose what level of content you want them to access, such as 'Preschool' or 'Younger'. You can also turn off the search function, so that only those videos approved by the YouTube Kids team themselves will appear on a child's recommendations list.



SET TIME LIMITS

The built-in parental controls let you keep a tab on how long children spend watching videos. You can set a timer that limits screen time and disables the YouTube Kids app once a specified length of time has been reached. It's also worth speaking to children about the dangers of spending too much time on YouTube, to ensure they remain focused on other, more important activities.



CHECK WATCH HISTORY

YouTube Kids has made it easy for you to keep an eye on what the children in your care have been watching on the app. By clicking on the 'Recommended' icon at the top right of the home screen, you can see which videos they've been viewing, and how much of each. If a child watches YouTube Kids while signed into a Google account, you can check their history through Google's 'My Activity' page.



WATCH TOGETHER

It's important that you try to make YouTube Kids a fun and positive experience for children. One way to do this is by introducing watching sessions, where you all gather around and share the most enjoyable videos that you have recently watched. This can be a great way of giving you both new things to talk about and of keeping an eye on what they're watching.



Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced journalist with more than 10 years of experience covering the technology industry. Previously a senior cybersecurity reporter at TechCrunch, Carly is now a freelance journalist, editor, and copywriter. Her bylines include Forbes, TechRadar, Tes, The INQUIRER, The Metro, Uswitch, and WIRED.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/youtube-kids-2025>



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