

Abacus Primary School

Newsletter 426

12/11/21



We started our tours this week for September 2022. Silver, Gold and Purple helped show 50 families around our school. This is an event that the children have missed doing and I am so pleased that we have been able to offer face to face tours

this year and that the children were able to help.

All the families who were shown around were absolutely blown away by the confidence of the children. Initially they were a little worried about being shown around the school by children, but they agree with us, they really are the experts of our school. Teal class will be helping with the next tours too. There are two more open days so if your child is due to start school in September 2022, please call our school office on 01268 571018 and we can book you in.

Next week we are on week 1 of our menu.

WEEK 1



NEW INTAKE SCHOOL TOURS

Our school is holding tours for prospective parents on the following dates:

WEDNESDAY 10TH NOVEMBER

TUESDAY 30TH NOVEMBER

MONDAY 10TH JANUARY

We are holding 3 sessions on each of the above dates:

9.30am, 10.45am & 1.30pm

The tours will last for approximately 45 minutes and begin with a presentation sharing key information about our school, followed by a tour led by our "experts" in Year 6.

Please contact our school office on 01268 571018 to book a tour.

Tours are by appointment only

We look forward to meeting you all!



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It's been lovely to hear all the positive feedback from the parent/teacher consultation sessions. To compliment these sessions we are offering you the opportunity on Wednesday 17th November 2021 from 3.15pm to 4.15pm to come in to

school and look through your children's work in their classes. Year 5 and 6 will hold theirs on Thursday 18th November 2021 due to being on their school trip on Wednesday.

Please enter your child's classroom through their end of their day classroom doors.

With Christmas fast approaching, we are really excited to let you know about some of the plans we have organised for the festive season. To ensure you do not miss events, please keep a close eye on our school calendar page.

Wednesday 1st December 2021— We have arranged for Foundation, Years 1 and 2 to watch a Pantomime in school— Snow White. There is a charge of £7 for this which has been added to your child's ParentPay account.



Friday 3rd December 2021—We have organised for children in Years 3,4,5 and 6 to visit Chelmsford Theatre to watch Beauty and The Beast. There is a charge of £21 for this which has been added to your child's ParentPay account.

Friday 10th December 2021— Christmas Jumper Day.

Wednesday 15th December 2021— we will be holding an Abacus Street fair from 2.15pm to 3.15pm from classroom doors where each class will be displaying and selling items which they have made in class. Parents will be able to collect their children and visit the stalls with them— more details to follow.

Wednesday 15th December 2021—Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas lunch

Thursday 16th December 2021—Years 3,4,5 and 6 Christmas lunch.

Friday 17th December 2021—Break the Rules Day! Fundraiser—More details to follow



LET'S CELEBRATE!



Lots to celebrate this week.

Well done to Olivia for coming first with her Dance Crew Team, "Little Rascals". Well done to Elliot for being awarded Man of the Match, to Kayla for achieving Stage 4 and swimming 20 metres in swimming, to Ethan for being awarded gymnast of the month, to Isabella for performing in a production of 'We Will Rock You' and to Myles for being awarded Man of the Match.





On Monday 15th November 2021, we are inviting children to wear odd socks to

School as part on Anti Bullying week. Socks should be worn with normal school uniform (unless it's PE day)



Next Friday (19th November 2021) is Children in Need Day. To celebrate this event and support the charity, we are inviting children to come to school dressed in non school uniform.

Any donations, which will all go to Children in Need can be donated via your child's ParentPay account. A link will be sent via text next week.



BBC

**Children
in Need**

Mini Athletics



It was the turn of our younger children to represent the school at a Mini Athletics event on the 4th November 2021 with 2 other Wickford Schools. 11 children from years 1 and 2 took part in 5 events—speed bounce, target throw, standing long jump, shuttle run and team relays.



They all performed with great enthusiasm, listened really well to the instructions given and all had a great time. Our Year 2 team came 1st place overall in the speed bounce, shuttle run and relay while our Year 1 team came 1st place in the standing long jump, speed bounce, shuttle run and relay.



We also had some individual winners: Mae 2nd best Year 2 girl; Louie 2nd best Year 2 boy; Samuel 3rd best Year 2 boy and in Year 1: Georgia 3rd best girl; Kieran 1st best boy and Stanley 2nd best boy.

The whole afternoon was run by Sports Leaders and our 5/6 Sports Ambassadors 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.



Our Sports Ambassadors met for the first time last week following the recruitment of new ambassadors from years 3 and 4.

First, each new ambassador was given a buddy from 5/6 who will be helping to train them up in their new role.

They then discussed their ideas for challenges that would get children active and involved during lunchtimes.

The Sports Ambassadors will be holding their first challenge on the 19th November 2021 with a Children in Need theme. They also have an event planned for the 13th December 2021, with a Christmas theme which will involve every class taking part and each child receiving a medal.

Finally, they discussed the values they will be promoting:



Our Curriculum



<p>Early Years Foundation Stage</p>	<p>In Foundation this week, we have started a new story, Owl Babies. We have been thinking about how the owls in the story were feeling. Ask us who our favourite character is in the story. Our Maths focus is on the number 3 and how to make 3. We can show you this at home. We also took part in Remembrance Day on Thursday and made a picture with poppies.</p>
<p>Year 1</p>	<p>In Year 1 we're all poets and we didn't even know it. This week we have learnt how to use rhyme as well as write lists and shape poems. We have also been very creative in Art exploring lines and in RE making Diva lamps. In Science we also used our classification skills to look at different parts of a plant that we eat and in Maths we have been working hard on addition. We also really want to be good at remembering our number bonds to 10. Maybe you could help us practise at home too.</p>
<p>Year 2</p>	<p>In Year 2 this week we have been writing descriptive sentences about our new story, Where the Wild Things Are. We have also been learning about subordinating conjunctions and using the word "because" to extend our sentences. In Maths we have been using the column method to subtract, which has been tricky! We have learnt about where food comes from (ask us about the three ways we get food! We should be able to tell you that all food is farmed, grown or caught!) and designed a sandwich for the Queen's afternoon tea following a design brief - ask us which flavours we might choose! We had a fabulous themed day for Armistice Day, where we learnt about why we celebrate Armistice Day and why we wear poppies; we learnt a little about evacuees and wrote a list poem about the things we'd miss if we were evacuated from our homes. We also did some AMAZING poppy artwork using pencils and colouring pencils - we can't wait for you to come and see them!</p>
<p>Year 3</p>	<p>This week in Year 3 we got to speak with Reverend Sue over zoom; she told us the story of how Jesus was baptised and then gave us the opportunity to ask all the different questions we have about Jesus' life as a real man. In English we have done some fantastic descriptive writing to help us prepare for writing our own recounts, and in Maths we've been perfecting our formal written methods for column addition and subtraction. We remembered those who fought and died for our country with some reading and poetry work on Remembrance Day. Our new PE unit is dance so we've had fun learning some robotic dance moves and we've started to think about an exciting and festive DT project - watch this space!</p>
<p>Year 4</p>	<p>In Maths, we have been looking at converting equivalent lengths and calculating with lengths. How many m in 1km? In Geography, we have developed our atlas skills to locate countries with rainforests on a map. We then identified that all rainforests are located near the equator. To commemorate Remembrance Day, we created black out poems. In English, we created adverts for a property in 'The Magic Faraway Tree'; we used persuasive language such as exaggeration to make it sound more appealing to the reader.</p>
<p>Year 5</p>	<p>In Year 5 this week we have been dropping marbles and playdough into flour and cocoa powder to make craters in Science. We investigated things such as: Did the force effect the depth of the crater formed? Ask your child what they investigated. In P.E, we started our dance topic. In Maths, we have been looking at statistics, especially timetables. In English, we have been continuing to look at our book Cosmic. Ask your child about some of the text features they have found in it this week. We have also commemorated Remembrance day and have begun our new Design technology block</p>
<p>Year 6</p>	<p>In Year 6 this week we have been writing non-chronological reports about the beautiful yet mysterious world of Pandora. Everyone has made a fantastic effort to include all the key grammatical features including active and passive voice. Ask us to give you an example of each! In art, we have been sketching still life images of our treasured possessions using sketching pencils and charcoal - we are working hard to show the light and shadow. We really enjoyed listening to Mr Dilly talk about Armistice Day and it was great to hear extracts from Tom Palmer's war themed books. Lots of us can't wait to read them!</p>

e-Safety

for parents and carers

All 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 platform of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

NETFLIX

Netflix is a subscription-based streaming service that allows users to watch TV shows and movies on any internet-enabled device that supports the software, such as smart TVs, phones and tablets. The pandemic saw a surge in children consuming on-demand content as many families relaxed their screen-time rules. Netflix's diverse range of programming caters for all age groups – so it's important for parents to recognise the potential risks of children using the service and the measures to help their child enjoy a safe streaming experience.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Netflix produces and curates an extensive catalogue of content that can provide hours of entertainment, if they share the same user account as an adult, this can potentially lead to children accidentally viewing all manner of inappropriate content, including nudity, profanity and extreme violence. This can happen easily on shared accounts, as Netflix cannot establish who's watching.

BINGE-WATCHING

Netflix allows users to view shows and movies quickly and easily without adverts or interruptions, making excessive screen time a concern. Binge-watching has become more common during the pandemic, due to Netflix's regularly updated content and algorithms which recommend content very similar to what's previously been enjoyed. Marathon viewing sessions can lead to children staying up too late, affecting their mood and concentration the next day.

SCREEN ADDICTION

From TVs and phones to consoles and tablets, Netflix is available on almost any device with an internet connection – making it extremely difficult to manage children's screen time. The service is now adding games to its mobile app, tempting users to spend even more time on the platform. Screen addiction can distract children from important activities like schoolwork and socialising, and can impact their health by reducing their exercise and sleep.

HACKING ATTEMPTS

With millions of users worldwide, Netflix is often targeted by hackers who try to steal usernames and passwords to gain access to people's accounts. If successful, they can then steal payment details or try to sell stolen personal data on the dark web, providing other criminals with a profitable opportunity. Netflix also doesn't provide two-factor authentication, making the hackers' task that little bit easier.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

Netflix's Teleparty feature became popular during lockdown periods as it allows users from different households (friends and relatives, for example) to synchronise when they watch content. It requires an access link to be sent to the people you wish to invite: the link, however, can also be distributed to people you don't know. A text chat feature enables interaction with the other users in real-time: this represents a risk to children if a stranger gains access to the Teleparty.

Advice for Parents & Carers

KEEP ACCOUNTS SECURE

Netflix doesn't use two-factor authentication, so a strong password is vital. Your child's Netflix password should be unique (not one they've used elsewhere) and a minimum of eight characters with a mix of letters, numbers and symbols. Emphasise not to share their login details with anyone and remind them to always log out after using the app – so their account remains inaccessible, even if their device is lost or stolen.

SET UP PROFILE PINS

Netflix account holders can lock profiles using a four-digit PIN. Doing this can prevent your child from accessing the wrong account and viewing content that isn't appropriate for their age. Try setting a PIN for each account on your Netflix app – ideally involving numbers that would be easily guessed, such as dates of birth. Remember not to share these Pins with anyone, including family.

CHECK MATURITY RATING

Netflix warns about content that includes violence, sex, profanity and nudity. These warnings form part of the show or movie's "maturity rating". Users can restrict age ratings to avoid children viewing age-inappropriate content. On their profile, open the Profile and Parental Control settings and choose the maturity level for the shows and movies you want to allow.

SWITCH OFF AUTO-PLAY

When a show or movie concludes, Netflix's algorithms select content with similar themes that it thinks your child will enjoy next. This new content starts automatically after a 15-second countdown. Disabling this auto-play feature reduces the possibility of your child being shown something inappropriate and provides a natural break to help prevent them becoming too immersed in Netflix.

CREATE A KIDS' PROFILE

Setting up a Netflix Kids experience profile means your child can only access content which is suitable for children aged up to 12 years. All other content is automatically blocked. This rating can be further restricted via the child's profile settings. Setting up a Netflix Kids experience profile will help to prevent your child from viewing age-inappropriate content.

CHECK VIEWING HABITS

Netflix has tools which enable parents and carers to monitor what their child has been watching. Selecting "Viewing Activity" in each profile's account settings displays a list of what content has been viewed (and when). This can reassure parents that their child is watching age-appropriate content and can open avenues for discussing your child's favourite shows and movies, and why they like them.

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 sending behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday



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