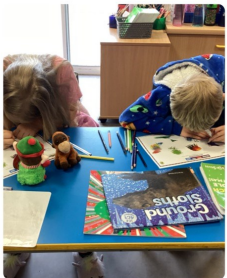


Abacus Primary School

Newsletter 521 8 / 3 / 24



Well done and thank you to everyone for helping us to support World Book Day yesterday. The children carried out a number of activities throughout the day, it was wonderful to hear so much excitement around the school. Thank you to Miss Mitchell, our English leader for all her efforts yesterday.



Next week we are on Week 2 of our revised menu. Which you can view on our website:

<https://www.abacusprimaryschool.co.uk/school-meals>

We love to read!



Well done to Oliver, Jensen, JJ, Ava and Arthur from Year Four for their enthusiasm and confident reading at Silvana Court book club on Monday afternoon.

How lovely to welcome Maisie, our Therapy dog from Essex Therapy Dogs to school this week. Thank you to Nicola Matthews for giving up her time to come into school.



LET'S CELEBRATE!



Wow, so many achievements outside of school to celebrate this week.

WELL DONE!



How lovely to see John Willis from Power 2 Inspire (<https://www.power2inspire.org.uk/john-willis/>) recognised for all his efforts in promoting inclusion in sports on Saturday Night Takeaway. The children were all excited to share that they had seen him.

Abacus Sign Language Club

We're really excited to announce a new after school club here at Abacus- Sign Language Club. This will be for children in Years One and Two and will be led by Miss Waters. The club will take place on a



Tuesday, in Red Class from 3.15pm to 4pm starting 19/3/24 If you're interested then please talk to Miss Waters.



Cross Country Finalists

On the 7th March 2024, our 20 Cross Country Finalists from KS2 represented Wickford in the area final at William De Ferrers School against schools from Billericay, South Woodham and Maldon.

With over 50 children in each race, this was a very competitive event but this didn't faze our team who all put in amazing performances in very windy conditions. We had 5 children who finished in the top 10 of their races. All the children should be very proud of themselves for presenting Wickford in the final.

Congratulations to Stanley in Year 3 and Samuel in Year 4 who both finished 2nd in their races and will now go on to represent our area in the County Finals—what an achievement!



Trampolining Session

On the 1st March 2024, 9 children from years 4 and 5, took part in a trampolining session at Ultima Trampoline Club in Wickford.

During the session they learnt how to do different jumps and a front and seat drop. They all had a great time bouncing around.

Thank you parents for their support in transporting the children to the event.





To recognise Red Nose Day 2024, we invite children to come in non school uniform on Friday 15th March 2024 for a donation to the charity. This will be set up on ParentPay and a link will be texted out to you all.

There is no expectation for any children to buy any Red Nose Day merchandise to wear on this day, but they are welcome to if they wish.

HOLIDAY COURSES

Bikeability Level 1, Level 1 & 2 and 3 and Learn to ride courses

To book, please visit link
essex.cycleready.co.uk/publicbooking
There is a £15 non-refundable booking fee



**SAFER
GREENER
HEALTHIER**

Essex County Council

Holiday Courses for Bikeability Level 1, Level 1 & 2, Level 3 and Learn to Ride courses are available during the School Easter holidays. The courses are being held in the following locations:

- Harlow
- Chelmsford
- Witham
- Colchester

Please see below the link to book Easter holiday courses.

<https://essex.cycleready.co.uk/publicbooking>.

Our Curriculum



<p>Early Years Foundation Stage</p>	<p>Another busy week in Foundation! We have been working on a secret project for Sunday and hope lots of people will have a lovely smile on their face on Sunday. We have enjoyed making our own alphabet inspired by Dr Seuss and his alphabet book. We have been busy reading too this week and enjoyed celebrating World Book Day. We were even inspired to try and write our own stories when choosing this week. We are enjoyed finding out about numbers 6, 7 and 8. We play a game in class called 6 or not 6. Ask us how to play it at home.</p>
<p>Year 1</p>	<p>Second week in and still working hard in Year 1. In English we read Avocado Baby and will be using it to write our own story. In Maths we learnt about length, height and mass. Ask us what the difference is. In phonics were are now learning how some spellings can look the same but sound different e.g. wind and wild. In Science we have now started to learn about the different animal groups. Ask us to name the 5 groups. Of course we can't forget World Book Day. We had lots of fun doing a book trail and guessing the teachers' favourite book.</p>
<p>Year 2</p>	<p>This week in Year 2 we have been learning to measure using cm and metres. We have been measuring things around the classroom and the playground. In English we have practised full stops and capital letters while listening to a "Now Press Play" activity and we have planned our class version of "The Yeti and the Bird". During Science we explored some materials that we could squash, twist and stretch. We have enjoyed World Book Day with some fun activities and we all loved wearing our PJs to school.</p>
<p>Year 3</p>	<p>In Year 3 this week we have been carrying out 'shared writing' for our class adventure stories, remembering to use the punctuation we have learned so far including inverted commas for direct speech. We have been learning to spell words ending in <i>le</i>. Why not ask children if they can remember the rule! Usually (although there are exceptions), the <i>le</i> ending follows an ascender, a descender or a c. In Maths, we have been finishing off our fractions unit by counting fractions on a numberline and by comparing and finding equivalent fractions. We started our new Science topic, light and dark - can children define the words <i>light source</i> and <i>darkness</i>? - and we have learnt about the water cycle in Geography. We have also been practising our assembly. Please could you encourage children to learn their lines and song lyrics at home - this is a very short term so we have less time than usual to squeeze in class rehearsals! Thank you!</p>
<p>Year 4</p>	<p>Year 4 is so busy! Maths has been about further fractions. converting improper fractions to a mixed number and vice versa. Spelling has been about words ending in '-tion'. We've been segmenting words into the correct syllables and phonemes. English, we have been inventing our own journey tale of 'The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane' and being lost. We are making sure we have included fronted adverbials so our speech is correctly punctuated. Science has been so much fun. Our subject is 'Electricity'. We've been investigating what makes a complete circuit and what the different components are. We had a great day on Thursday, Celebrating World Book Day. We have had lots of different activities which we have all really enjoyed.</p>
<p>Year 5</p>	<p>Year 5 have had another busy week, we have been working on our fraction knowledge again this week. We have been multiplying fractions. We have all done an amazing job and have enjoyed learning the new skill. In English we started to look at writing a biography. We will be writing one based on an important person to us. We enjoyed World Book Day this week, we loved wearing out PJs, it was super comfy all day. We got to read lots and take part in some great activities. We have continued looking at materials in science this week. We learnt which materials were soluble and insoluble.</p>
<p>Year 6</p>	<p>Year 6 have had another busy week! We particularly enjoyed our STEM workshop on Wednesday which was led by Mr Randall who is currently working on the HS2 project. He shared a design brief and we then had to design and build a bulldozer using K'NEX. We only had an hour to build which sounds like a long time but really wasn't! Well done Lena, Maxwell, Bella and Max F for winning the class competitions. In English, we have been preparing speeches on issues we feel passionate about. We are using techniques such as repetition for effect and rhetorical questions. Ask us to share our thoughts and ideas with you. We have also linked this to our Art unit where we have been designing street art which delivers a powerful message using the chiaroscuro technique.</p>

COMPETITION TIME!

ABACUS

Easter Bonnet

COMPETITION & PARADE

THURSDAY 28TH MARCH



Prizes for every year group

If you would like to enter the Easter Bonnet competition please ensure your bonnets are in school by the end of the school day on Wednesday 27th March 2024.



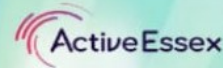
The next Bags 2 School collection is on 14th June 2024.



Department
for Education



Essex County Council



**Crafty
Katie**



Easter holidays

Craft and Fun Activity Days

All days are suitable for 4-12 years.

Venue: Abacus School, Tresco way, Wickford, SS12 9GJ

Tuesday 2nd April – Make & Move - Pic N Mix Day

A day full of crafting and activities. Pick from your favourite crafts or try something new! which may include wooden craft blanks, sand art, painting, brick building and enjoy outside play with archery, swing ball and other fun games and movie afternoon too!

9am to 3pm - £24 10am to 3pm - £21

Wednesday 3rd April – Easter Fancy dress fun day!

The Easter bunny will be joining us for our biggest Egg hunt Yet! Inflatable fun and Lots of themed crafts, games and sweet treats await in our Easter fun day. (fancy dress is optional)

9am to 3pm - £24 New longer day 8.30am to 4pm - £30

Thursday 4th April - Make & Move - Pic N Mix Day

A day full of crafting and activities. Pick from your favourite crafts or try something new! which may include wooden craft blanks, sand art, painting, brick building and enjoy outside play with archery and guest tennis coach Brad

9am to 3pm - £24 10am to 3pm - £21

Friday 5th April – Fun on the Farm– Real animal visits!

After the fabulous success of last years farm visit from Gemmas farm, Once again she will be joining us with this years spring babies, and a selection of animals that children can interact with. A day full of Farm themed crafts and activities.

9am to 3pm - £24 New longer day 8.30am to 4pm - £30



Crafty Katie - Children's Parties



@craftykatie.activities



Monday 8 th April – Wonka Day!

Children will take part in a chocolate workshop where they will create their own bar and wrapper and enjoy other themed crafts like golden ticket making! also a movie afternoon with popcorn!



9am to 3pm - £24 10am to 3pm - £21



Tuesday 9 th April – Make & Move - Pic N Mix Day

A day full of crafting and activities. Pick from your favourite crafts or try something new! which may include wooden craft blanks, sand art, painting, brick building and enjoy outside play with archery, swing ball, and other fun games

We will also be joined by Netball coach Jo for a fun session for all.

9am to 3pm - £24 10am to 3pm - £21

Wednesday 10 th April – Spring Fun Day – Mini Fairy gardens and Gymnastics! Spring into action with a gymnastics session led by fully qualified coaches on the equipment. Children will then spend their crafting time creating a miniature spring garden in a plant pot to bring home and enjoy as it grows. Such a creative and fun activity. Plenty of time for outside fun and games too!



9am to 3pm - £24 New longer day 8.30am to 4pm - £30



Thursday 11 th April - Make & Move - Pic N Mix Day

A day full of crafting and activities. Pick from your favourite crafts or try something new! which may include wooden craft blanks, sand art, painting, brick building and enjoy outside play with archery, swing ball, and other fun games

9am to 3pm - £24 10am to 3pm- £21



To book text or call on 07929 044959 or email a booking form request to craftykatie10@gmail.com or contact us on socials.

Please provide a nut free packed lunch, and a refillable bottle



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators PROMOTING STORYTIME

Being read to regularly can help the under-fives in acquiring literacy; teaches them the value of books and stories; and sparks their imagination and curiosity. Reading to babies, meanwhile, provides the building blocks of language development and the beginnings of social and emotional skills. Here are our top tips for helping children discover the wonder of stories.

1 BE A READING ROLE MODEL

Children thrive on copying the behaviours of adults around them, so it's vital to model regular reading habits: if your child sees you reading, they're likely to copy you. Reading on a screen could be misinterpreted by a child as a different activity, so a printed book is preferable.

2 JOIN A LIBRARY

Local libraries are a cost-effective way of introducing your child to new books. Libraries often host free events to build engagement with reading. Librarians can recommend books based on age, interests, genre or author. Having their own library card and choosing their next read can be exciting for little ones.

3 TAKE IT IN TURNS

Taking turns to read and turn the pages can build your child's confidence and lets you model what's expected. For younger ones, reading doesn't have to mean the exact words on the page – they might prefer their own version! Reading to different audiences is useful: teddies are excellent listeners!

4 CATER TO THEIR INTERESTS

Like adults, children tend to favour books with themes they're interested in. If they're less keen to move away from their preferred subject matter, you could vary the type of book they read by swapping between fiction and non-fiction. There'll be plenty of scope to diversify as they grow up.

5 BUILD READING INTO YOUR DAILY ROUTINE

Building reading into your daily routine will have a positive impact. Just before bedtime is ideal for many families, helping settle the child to sleep. The adult usually reads the story, but children enjoy more interactivity as they get older. It can be handy to have books with you when out and about.

6 USE PICTURES AND PROPS

Most children's books contain beautiful illustrations which enrich the text. Spend time discussing these with your child and pointing things out. As well as doing voices for different characters and making any relevant noises, you could also enhance story time with props such as toys or puppets.

7 RELISH THE LANGUAGE

The language in children's books is varied and rich; sometimes they might include words children are less familiar with, so you can take the opportunity to explain what they mean. With younger children, you could try paraphrasing certain sentences afterwards to help with understanding.

8 A COMFORTABLE ENVIRONMENT

Where possible, read to your child in an environment that's free from distractions. This helps children to get fully immersed in the experience, supporting their concentration and engagement. Doing this often can help to build up the child's ability to focus for greater lengths of time.

9 TAKE REGULAR BREAKS

Although reading can be hugely enjoyable, children can sometimes struggle to sit for long periods or to engage with texts fully. Have regular breaks: reading a few pages is better than none. You could also have some movement breaks – there's no particular 'right' or 'wrong' way to enjoy a story.

10 RE-READ FAVOURITES

Most children have certain stories that they love hearing again and again. This repetition lets them become familiar with language patterns and more engaged by feeling able to join in. Choosing other books by your child's preferred author can help them to discover new favourites.

Meet Our Expert

Kara Kiemann has worked in senior leadership positions (both in the UK and internationally) for 15 years, supported by an MEd in Educational Leadership. As an educational consultant, she now delivers training for a range of organisations – notably on EYFS practice and child development. Previously, Kara was head of a nursery and junior school and has also been a director of early years.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

Source: <https://literacytrust.org.uk/blog/reading-children-so-powerful-so-simple-and-yet-so-misunderstood/> | <https://cdn.booktrust.org.uk/globalassets/resources/research/benefits-of-reading---booktrust-2023.pdf> | <https://www.all4kids.org/news/blog/the-importance-of-reading-to-your-children/>

