

Abacus Primary School



18/7/25

Thank you to all the family members who have come along and supported the picnics this week, we really do appreciate it, especially as the weather has not been the best for all the picnics. It was lovely to see Mrs Craske and Mila join the Turquoise Class picnic on Thursday. I am delighted to tell you that Miss Bradley had a little boy on Monday who she has named Brodie. Mum and Brodie are both doing well and are home, I am sure you will join me in wishing them all the very best as they begin their new chapter as a family of four.

We welcomed Mrs Cooksey back from maternity leave this week and Mrs Craske returns on Tuesday.

I can't believe we are approaching our final two days of this academic year, where does the time go. School closes on Tuesday 22nd July for the summer break and reopens on Wednesday 3rd September 2025 for the new academic year.

There will be a final newsletter on Tuesday.



Tuesday 22nd July 2025

To celebrate the end of another fantastic year at Abacus, we are inviting children to come in non school uniform on Tuesday (not Year 6) - there is no charge for this event.



**Staff
Parking
Only**

Following numerous incidents throughout this academic year, the governors have made the decision that from September 1st, no parents, grandparents or family members will be permitted to use our car park. **This will be for staff parking only.** This includes anyone who is currently accessing the disabled bay too.

This is at any time of the day before, during and after school, including dropping off and picking up from clubs.

Next week, we will be offering our two most popular menu options to end the term.

Monday—

Red Band: Chicken Nugget Wrap

Green band: Veggie Nugget Wrap

Yellow Band: Jacket Potato

Purple Band: Ham and Cucumber Pitta Bread.



Tuesday -

Red Band: Sausage Baguette

Green Band: Vegetarian Sausage Baguette

Yellow Band: Jacket Potato

Purple Band: Cheese Bagel.

THANK YOU!



As a thank you to our Team Captains we organised a 'Thank You' afternoon tea on Thursday afternoon. Thank you to Mrs Kemp-Baker for supporting our Team Captains this year and for organising this event.



What a great time Year 6 had on Thursday when a flight simulator visited for the day with the WW1 Aviation Heritage Trust

Throughout the day the children took part in a range of activities which included:

- Sitting in the flight simulator with VR headset to feel what it would have been like to fly in a dogfight
- Using other VR headsets to practise control with the joy stick (and shooting enemy planes if they wished)
- Writing poems on seeded paper (poppies, cornflowers and forget-me-nots to represent Britain, France and Germany) which will be distributed from a plane over three key sites of the Battle of the Somme on 1st July 2026 marking the 110th anniversary of the beginning of the battle.
- Learning about Captain Lanoe Hawker and the planes used in WW1
- Creating a piece of art based on the dogfights



Waddle ~ON-SEA~



We are so excited to be able to introduce you to Mr Waddles who will be part of the Waddle-On-Sea trail from next week. Apologies for any confusion, our sculpture will be placed in The Victoria shopping centre (not the Royals as I previously communicated)...we can't wait to see your selfies with Mr Waddle.



THE
READING
AGENCY

Summer Reading Challenge

Delivered in partnership with libraries

2025

Story Garden

Adventures in Nature and the Great Outdoors



summerreadingchallenge.org.uk

Lloyd from Wickford Library came into school this week to deliver a whole school assembly to launch the summer reading challenge.

sports news



Year 3 Festival

On the 9th July 2025, our year 3 children attended a Multi Skills Festival at Wickford Primary School.

They worked in small teams with children from St Lukes and Wickford Schools as they completed a circuit of 7 different activities including: golf, tennis, football, cricket, netball, athletics and rugby. They really impressed us with their behaviour and attitude and all had a great time.











Year 4 Festival

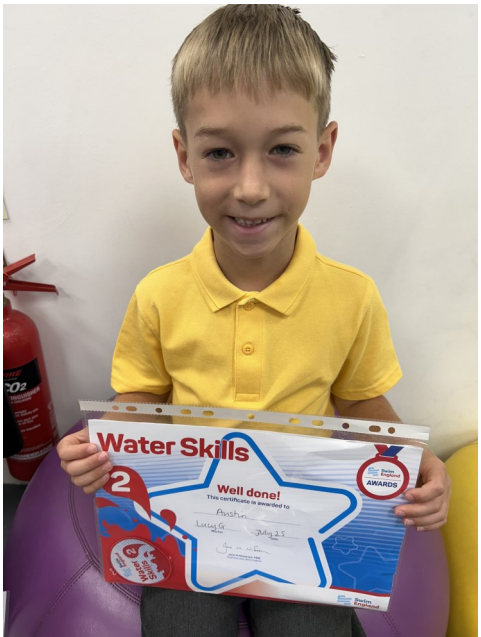
On the 9th July 2025, our year 4 children attended a Multi Skills Festival at St Luke's Primary School.

They worked in small teams with children from and other Wickford Schools as they completed a circuit of different activities including: hockey, cup stacking, howler throwing and target games. They all tried their best and had a great time.



 	 	 	 
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10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

STAYING SAFE AROUND WATER

Enjoying time in, on, and around water plays a vital role in a young person's overall development, offering a healthy and exhilarating way to have fun. This guide outlines essential safety advice, based on the Royal Life Saving Society UK's Water Safety Code, to help ensure children can enjoy swimming and similar activities safely and responsibly.

1 STICK TO LIFEGUARDED AREAS

It's never advisable to enter unsupervised bodies of water, especially alone. Instead, it's considered best practice to accompany children to places with lifeguards, as they will be trained to respond swiftly in emergencies and provide first aid when needed.



2 LEARN SIGNS AND FLAGS

When going to a new environment, it's important to research the local area and make children aware of safety signage before entering the water. If visiting the seaside, make sure children are always supervised by an adult and that they know what different beach flags mean, so they're knowledgeable of where and when they can enter the sea.



3 STOP AND THINK

Young people should be cautious before entering water, as it's difficult to know what hazards could be underneath. Use the Water Safety Code and encourage children to ask themselves questions such as, "Is the water too deep or too shallow? Are there currents, tides, or underwater objects?" Make sure children know never to enter water from a height, as what lurks below could cause serious injuries.



4 CONSIDER WATER TEMPERATURE

Even on hot days, water can be deceptively cold. Tragedies strike when young people experience cold water shock. Never let children enter water quickly; instead, ensure that they enter slowly and carefully to allow their bodies to adjust to the temperature or exit easily if needed.



5 INFLATABLE SAFETY

Although inflatables may seem like a fun idea when visiting locations like the beach, they can float further out from shore and into more dangerous water. It's advisable only to use inflatables in spaces like appropriately managed swimming pools, where they're used in more controlled and supervised environments.



6 SUPERVISION IS KEY



For young children, and particularly those under the age of five, it's important for them to be supervised at home, outside and at the pool at all times. It's essential for parents and educators to understand that young children can drown quickly and silently; therefore, anyone supervising them must maintain constant watch in case they get into difficulty.

7 DON'T GO TOO FAR



When swimming, especially in open water, it's best to teach children to stay within a safe depth. Share advice with them such as only entering water up to a standing depth, and in the case of visiting the beach, swim parallel to shorelines. This will allow a child to stay in control and get out of the water easily.

8 KEEP POOLS AND TUBS DRAINED



For parents of young children, a simple way to protect them at home is to keep outdoor spaces and bathrooms tidy after playtime. This includes removing water from paddling pools after use and turning them over, returning lids to hot tubs and taking toys out of baths, so all water can be fully drained from the tub.

9 FLOAT AND CALL 999



If a child gets into difficulty in the water, they should try to float on their back, stay calm, and call for help. If a young person sees someone else in trouble, they should dial 999 or 112 immediately, then shout to reassure their friend, encouraging them to float on their back, and letting them know that help is on the way. Children should never enter the water to attempt a rescue or retrieve belongings.

10 TEACH WATER SAFETY



Beyond swimming lessons, children should be educated in school on water safety. Use RLSS UK's accredited programme, 'Water Smart Schools', which offers free lesson plans and resources on how to be safe on, near and around water by following the Water Safety Code.

Meet Our Expert

The Royal Life Saving Society UK (RLSS UK) is a national water safety charity that gives children the chance to enjoy a lifetime of fun in the water, safely. Water safety education provided in schools is vital and, in some instances, could be a child's only opportunity to learn about the water.



The National College®