

# Abacus Primary School



## Newsletter 526 26/4/24



In our Key Stage assemblies this week, I delivered the NSPCC 'Speak Out To Stay Safe' assemblies.

*Speak out. Stay safe.* is a programme for children aged 5-11 which aims to help children understand abuse in all its forms and to recognise the signs of abuse. Children are taught to speak out if they are worried, either to a safe adult or Childline. This child friendly programme is aligned with the curriculum. The content is delivered in an engaging and interactive way with the help of the NSPCC mascot Buddy. If you would like to know

more about the *Speak out. Stay safe.* programme visit [www.nspcc.org.uk/speakout](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/speakout)

Year four children are getting excited about their residential which will be taking place in three weeks. We met with the children today to answer any questions and share the menu and activities for their visit. We will be holding a parent meeting on **Wednesday 1st May 2024 at**

**9am**



## WAT TYLER COUNTRY PARK



Next week we are on Week 1 of our revised menu. Which you can view on our website:

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

# We love to read!



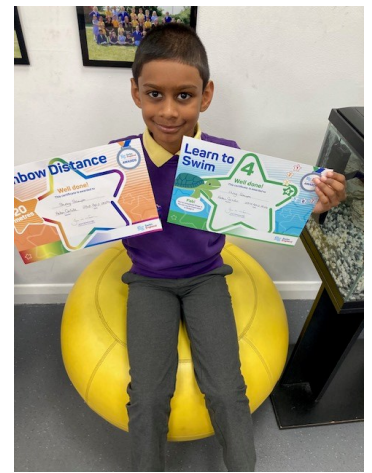
Book  
Club

Well done to Year Four for their enthusiastic reading at Book Club on Monday afternoon at Silvana Court. Our resident friends were so pleased to see you and to share your stories.

Well done also to Eloise and Shrey who have read two million and one million words...what an achievement!



# LET'S CELEBRATE!



So many achievements to celebrate this week. Well done to all of the children for their achievements outside of school.

 Well done!



Well done to Archie K who raised over £1000 for Great Ormond Street hospital through swimming.



# sports

# news

## Netball League Winners

On the 25th April 2024, our 5/6 Netball team took part in the final round of the Wickford School's Netball League Tournament with 2 other Wickford Schools.

They again played 2 games with a win and a loss and after the 3 rounds finished top of the league. This is our first time entering the league so this is a great achievement for them. They are now looking forward to representing Wickford in the area final next Wednesday—good luck team.



**HEALTH  
&  
SAFETY**

Please be reminded that as per prospectus, all long hair (shoulder length and below) must be tied back for school. Prospectus 23-24: 'We do ask that long hair be tied back and that designs or logos are not shaved into hair. No unnatural hair colours (dyed hair) or unconventional hairstyles will be accepted.' This is a health & safety measure to ensure that hair does not get caught in equipment/pulled etc.

# Our Curriculum



## Early Years Foundation Stage

We have enjoyed recapping on our 6 or not six games. Finding different ways of making six and using our observation skills to find six in our play. Ask us to show you how to make it. We have laughed through the book - 'Mr Gumpy's Outing'. Ask us what happened to all the things in the boat! In PE we are beginning to practise races for sports day, following the instructions, listening to the adults and trying our best. We found out about World Earth Day at the beginning of the week and made our pledges of what we are going to do to help the environment. They are things we can do at school and at home, so check with us what we are trying to do.

## Year 1

Our first full week back was kicked off with the story 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea' which we will be using to write our own versions. In Maths we have been learning about equal groups and sharing with lots of practical activities to help us do it correctly. In Science we learnt facts about amphibians; ask us what we learnt. We also started our new RE unit about how the universe came to be and in Art we have been creating images using just lines.

## Year 2

In Year 2 this week we have been learning about the features of a Wishing Tale. We have done some short burst writing which has included what we would wish for given the chance. We have planned our class text and we will begin writing that today. In Maths we have been practising the 4 operations of addition, subtraction, multiplying and division and we have started to problem solve too. We have learnt what a homophone is and have been practising writing sentences with there, their and they're and to, too and two. Our Art has been fun as we have been looking at how to make texture with crayons and paint. What a busy week!

## Year 3

In Year 3 this week we have been adding and subtracting fractions and partitioning the whole, using bar models and part whole models. We have been writing descriptive paragraphs to describe characters and settings in English, learning to spell tricky words in spelling and using apostrophes for possession of plural nouns and nouns ending in an s in GPS. We have enjoyed practising our sprinting skills in PE and learning to do handovers with a baton in relay races. In Art, we have enjoyed recreating Egyptian artworks in pencil and we have been learning about the Qur'an in RE. We learnt all about the parts of flowering plants and the function of each part in Science - see if your child can remember the parts and functions of the roots, stem, leaves and flower.

## Year 4

Cannot quiet believe we are in the Summer term! English: We have been looking at instruction texts and the key features. We really enjoyed writing instructions about how to get rid of grass goblins and writing a box plan, changing some of the text. Science: We have been learning about the different names of teeth and what the different functions are. Maths: Our topic is about Fractions and Decimals, and we have been learning about tenths and hundredths. History: Has been about the Romans and how they built their empire. Ask your child what the tortoise formation is and what was required to be a Roman Army Soldier. PE: We have been learning the forehand in tennis and practicing controlling the ball. Reading: The non-fiction book we have been exploring is a book about the Vikings. They were great travellers and often seen as raiders and warriors. Ask your child if they remember anything else about the Vikings.

## Year 5

This week in Year 5 we have been creating character and setting descriptions based on our new class book 'Anglo Saxon Boy'. In Maths we have been building on our knowledge of fractions, decimals and percentages and looking how we can use these skills in real life situations. In PE we started rounders, focussing on accurate under arm and over arm throwing and catching skills. This week in Science we looked at different life cycles and how some species go through a complete metamorphosis. We are learning about the Anglo-Saxons and how life changed when the Romans left Britannia.

## Year 6

We have started our new class book in English this week 'Letters from the Lighthouse', set in 1941. We have enjoyed making predictions about one of the main characters in particular and sharing some family experiences of life during WWII. For our writing, we've described the setting and atmosphere of a train station when children were evacuated out of London to the countryside. We are looking forward to learning more about the war this term. In Maths, we have been making shapes from their nets, plotting co-ordinates in the four quadrants, and finding lines of symmetry. It has been great to get on to the field to play rounders.

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SHOPPING PLATFORMS

For people looking to make purchases on their phones, several shopping apps – such as Temu – allow users to buy goods at reduced prices. Others, like Vinted and Depop, let you sell items you no longer want. As internet shopping continues to grow, however, so does the risk of scammers, hackers and breaches of privacy.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### MISSING ITEMS

Users of Vinted, Depop and Temu have reported not receiving their products despite payment being taken. Users can initially contact the seller to query a missing item, and they have between two and five days (depending on the app) to tell the company what has happened. However, once the money has reached the supposed 'seller', it can be quite difficult to get back.

### SCAMMERS AND PHISHING

Scammers are always on the lookout for unsuspecting buyers or sellers. Common tactics include cancelling shipment of an item once the payment has been processed or asking to conclude the chat and payment outside of the app, where the victim is no longer protected by the buyer protection plan. This should, naturally, be avoided at all costs.

### DATA MISUSE

Apps of all kinds frequently collect our data, often asking for more information than is necessary to set up an account. Data gathered in this way is then usually sold on to third parties for marketing purposes. Lately, certain apps have been under scrutiny for using spyware to track their members' activities – but all too often, the user's consent to this practice has been hidden away in the terms and conditions.

### FAKES OR REPLICAS

It's certainly not unheard of for poor-quality products to be falsely marketed as luxury items, using misleading pictures or clever wording. These disingenuous sales are sometimes outed by suspiciously low price tags, but this isn't always the case. For children and young people especially, there's a risk that the promise of bagging a high-end item for a fraction of its usual price will outshine any suspicions they may have.

### SLOW REFUNDS

While all apps offer a refund if the product is damaged or doesn't match the description, it can take up to a month to be compensated for this. For many people (especially during a cost-of-living crisis) that can be a long time to be without both the product you bought and the hard-earned cash you spent on it.

### MISLEADING DESCRIPTION

Some people will be able to notice when, say, a product's photo and its description don't seem to match. This isn't a reliable means of picking up on misleading marketing, however – especially not for children and young people, many of whom may not yet realise that such practises even exist. While it's illegal to advertise one thing and sell another, plenty of shady traders use clever wording and omissions to get around this.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### ALWAYS STAY ON THE APP

It's vital that users pay for any goods through the same app on which they found them, to ensure they are covered by buyer protection. This means users can access support if the item arrives damaged, isn't as described, or doesn't arrive at all – allowing them to seek compensation for the loss. Such regulations can't protect you, however, if you didn't do the deal through the app in question.

### BE WARY OF PHISHING ATTEMPTS

Scammers frequently send messages within these apps to steal personal and financial information from other users. Don't respond to these messages – and under no circumstances should you follow any links they contain. Check for spelling errors, as well as inspecting the name of the sender. Report any suspected phishing emails to the app's help centre – and notify your bank if you think your financial information has been compromised.

### CHECK REVIEWS

Take time to read the reviews and comments left by other users – not just of products, but of sellers and buyers, to ensure they're legitimate and reliable. Before buying an item online, check the reviews for comments about the product's quality, the seller's communication and the delivery time. If you're selling, check the reviews of your buyer for red flags such as frequent requests for refunds or claims of 'missing' items.

### KEEP SAFE AS A SELLER

Sellers can be exploited just as much as buyers. Some users may purchase an item, for example, then pretend it didn't arrive to secure a refund. Always take photos of the shipping label, along with a picture of you posting the item. Send the package's tracking number to the buyer and keep a copy for yourself, letting you investigate any future claims that it never arrived. When taking photos of items you're selling, ensure nothing personal is in the background.

### Meet Our Expert

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



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: [nationalcollege.com/guides/shopping-apps](https://nationalcollege.com/guides/shopping-apps)