

# Abacus Primary School



# 9/5/25



What a great time we had on Thursday celebrating and remembering VE day. Thank you to everyone who made the day special and happen. The day began with a whole school assembly led by Mrs Bright and Reverend Sue. The children enjoyed completing a number of activities throughout the day which included decorating medals, making medals from clay and writing poetry.

We were so lucky with the weather and what a delight to see the children enjoying their lunch outside with their friends whilst tapping and singing away

to the music. Thank you to Jean from Silvana Court for coming along and sharing our celebrations. Thank you to Mr Swanson, the kitchen, the office and the midday team for all their efforts. Thank you to FAPS for funding the special commemorative badges.



Next week we will be on:

# WEEK 2







# Power2Inspire

Inclusion through sport



John shared with the children three main things that he wanted the children to remember:

**I can't do it yet!**

**Practice makes progress**

**Never give up**

This week, we have had the pleasure of working with John Willis from <https://www.power2inspire.org.uk/> Tuesday was the turn of KS2 and Wednesday KS1. John, the founder of the charity, was born without fully formed arms and legs. John delivered an assembly where he shared key parts of his life achievements and spoke to the children about how he has made adaptations so that he can still achieve in sport and every day life from drawing art work, learning to drive a car, learning to swim and taking part in many sporting events. Lots of children enjoyed sharing with John that they had seen him on Ant and Dec's Saturday night takeaway!



# LET'S CELEBRATE!



Well done to Francis and Grayson for their achievements in Krav and swimming

## House Points

			
			
6373	5683	6247	6122



# sports news

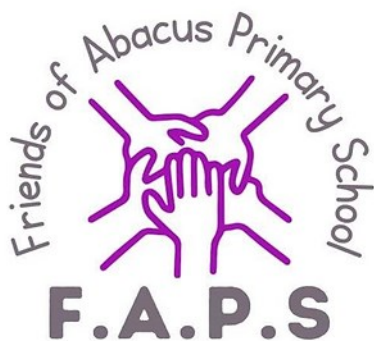


## Rounders Competition

On the 6th May 2025, our Rounders Team took part in a competition with 3 other schools from Wickford as part of the School Games Initiative.

They had some very close games and came 3rd overall with 1 win and 2 losses. As a result they have now qualified for the area final where they will play further games against schools from Billericay, South Woodham and Maldon.

Thank you to the family members who transported the children and cheered them on in their games.



On 6<sup>th</sup> June, FAPS will be organising something special to help you and your children celebrate Father's Day.

Gifts cost £5 each, and could be for Fathers, Grandfathers, Stepfathers or anyone else you'd like to celebrate!

If you would like your child to participate, please use our online booking system at <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/faps-abacus> - the sale will be open from 2<sup>nd</sup> May and will close on 16<sup>th</sup> May – this is a short half term, so please don't delay - **no further orders or amendments will be possible after this date.**



If your child needs any extra assistance with events outside of their usual routine, please let us know by emailing [faps@abacus.essex.sch.uk](mailto:faps@abacus.essex.sch.uk)

# UPCOMING FAPS EVENTS

**FOR SAVE THE DATE PURPOSES ONLY, DETAILS  
WILL BE GIVEN NEARER THE TIME**

Summer Bounce— If you would be happy to have a Temme English sign to advertise this event please contact FAPS.

**FATHER'S DAY  
GIFTS**

**JUN  
3-7**

**JUN  
10/12**

**SPORTS DAY  
REFRESHMENTS**

**SUMMER BOUNCE  
3:30-6PM**

**JUN  
27**

**SEPT  
26**

**FUN WALK**

**BIG SURPRISE  
EVENT (EVE)**

**OCT  
23**

**NOV  
28**

**SKITTLEMAN  
BINGO (EVE)**

**WE ALWAYS NEED MORE HELP.  
IF YOU CAN HELP SUPPORT ANY OF THE ABOVE PLEASE CONTACT  
FAPS@ABACUS.ESSEX.SCH.UK**



# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

## FOSTERING A SENSE OF BELONGING

Feeling a genuine sense of belonging is essential for the emotional and social development of children and young people. Belonging significantly boosts self-esteem, resilience, and mental wellbeing, reducing feelings of isolation and anxiety. This guide provides practical strategies to help parents and educators cultivate inclusive environments, enhancing both academic outcomes and overall happiness among young people.

### 1 CELEBRATE INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES

Acknowledge and celebrate the uniqueness of every child. Promoting diversity and inclusion creates an environment where differences are valued rather than stigmatised. This acceptance empowers children to confidently express their identities and feel genuinely included, fostering a robust sense of belonging within both school and home settings.

### 2 CONSISTENT COMMUNICATION

Regularly communicate and actively listen to children, showing genuine interest in their thoughts and experiences. Creating open communication channels helps young people feel heard and valued. This approach not only builds trust but also reinforces children's perception of themselves as a vital part of their family, school and community.

### 3 MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION

Give children opportunities to actively participate and contribute, whether in classrooms, at home, or in community activities. Meaningful participation helps children feel their input matters, reinforcing a sense of purpose and value. Including them in decisions and responsibilities enhances their self-worth, promoting a deeper sense of belonging and inclusion.

### 4 FOSTER STRONG RELATIONSHIPS

Support and encourage positive relationships between peers, educators, and families. Strong, healthy relationships significantly impact a child's sense of belonging, providing emotional support and reducing feelings of loneliness. Facilitate social interactions through group activities, teamwork, and collaborative learning to strengthen these vital connections.

### 5 CREATE INCLUSIVE SPACES

Design environments that reflect diversity and are welcoming for everyone. Inclusive spaces where all children see themselves represented can dramatically improve their feelings of safety and acceptance. Consider classroom displays, books, and resources that celebrate various cultures, abilities, and backgrounds to visibly reinforce inclusivity and belonging.

### 6 MODEL POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

Adults play a crucial role by demonstrating inclusive, empathetic, and respectful behaviours. Modelling positive interactions and attitudes sets a clear standard for children to follow. Children are likely to replicate inclusive behaviour, creating a supportive community atmosphere where everyone feels accepted and valued for who they are.

### 7 BUILD EMOTIONAL LITERACY

Teach and encourage emotional expression and understanding among children. Developing emotional literacy enables young people to articulate their feelings and empathise with others. An emotionally intelligent environment cultivates mutual respect and compassion, fostering a deeper sense of belonging and interpersonal connection within groups.

### 8 SUPPORT PEER MENTORSHIP

Encourage peer mentorship or buddy systems within educational settings. Peer support enhances feelings of connectedness and security, reducing feelings of isolation. When children support one another, they naturally build community bonds, nurturing a supportive culture where belonging and friendship thrive.

### 9 RECOGNISE EFFORTS REGULARLY

Consistently acknowledge children's contributions and achievements, however small. Recognition reinforces a child's understanding that their presence and efforts are important. Celebrating individual and collective successes helps cultivate a positive environment where children feel acknowledged, motivated, and deeply connected to peers and adults around them.

### 10 ADDRESS BULLYING PROMPTLY

Quickly address any incidents of bullying. Promptly intervening demonstrates a clear commitment to an inclusive and safe environment. Creating a culture where incidents are swiftly and effectively addressed reinforces trust, security, and a sense of belonging for everyone involved.

## Meet Our Expert

Anna Bateman is Director of Halcyon Education Ltd and Director for Wellbeing and Family Services at Leigh Trust. With extensive experience in systemic mental health in schools, she supports educational leaders across the UK to develop inclusive, resilient, and supportive learning environments. Anna is also the lead expert for mental health at The National College.



The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: [nationalcollege.com/guides/fostering-a-sense-of-belonging](https://nationalcollege.com/guides/fostering-a-sense-of-belonging)





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