

Abacus Primary School



12/9/25

What a lovely first full week in school we have had. It has been wonderful seeing our new Foundation children skipping up the path this week, as they began their Foundation adventure on Tuesday.



Our dates for this academic year have all been added to the school calendar. If you were ultra efficient and added them to your calendar on Friday we have had to change the dates of the sports days in June 2026, due to the circus arriving at Abacus!

It has been lovely to see so many parents attending the welcome meetings this week. The presentations have been added to our website.

These can be found: (copy and paste the links)

Year 6: <https://www.abacusprimaryschool.co.uk/year-6-letters-information>

Year 5: <https://www.abacusprimaryschool.co.uk/year-5-letters-information>

Year 4: <https://www.abacusprimaryschool.co.uk/year-4-letters-information>

Year 3: <https://www.abacusprimaryschool.co.uk/year-3-letters-information>

Year 2: <https://www.abacusprimaryschool.co.uk/year-2-letters-information>

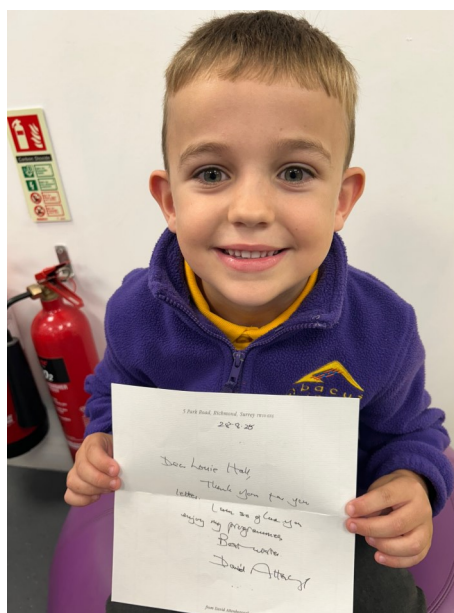
Welcome meetings for Year 1 parents are taking place on Monday 15th September 2025 at 9am. For Foundation parents it's on Monday 29th September 2025 at 9am. Both meetings will take place in our large hall.

Next week we will be on WEEK 2 of our menu

Welcome to Abacus! Look at their smiles.
We look forward to seeing what you will
achieve in your Foundation year and
throughout your Abacus adventure.



LET'S CELEBRATE!



Lots to celebrate this week...letters from David Attenborough (Louie), Published stories (Sophia), Writing talent (Georgia), Green belt in Karate (Bertie), Taking part in the summer library challenge (Grayson), Man of the match at football (Cooper), and Representing Wickford as a carnival Rosebud princess.

Well done to everyone for your achievements.

Fun Walk 26/9/25



Following the success of last years fun walk, we will be doing it again this year. This will be taking place on Friday 26/9/25. We are inviting parents/ grandparents or family members to come and join us for a walk around the Wick. Sponsor forms will be coming home early next week and times will be on next weeks newsletter.

We have lots of gardening ideas for this academic year, if gardening is something that makes you happy and you think you would be able to commit a little bit of time to come and help us, please leave your name with our school office.



House Points

 			 
			
96	85	64	92



Monday– Youth Group

Open youth group for secondary aged children, Games, Crafts & Snacks. Term time only. *No booking required.*

Tuesday – Punching for Purpose

Boxing-based sessions to build confidence and resilience.

🕒 5:00–5:45pm (ages 6–15)

🕒 5:45–6:30pm (ages 16+)

💷 Suggested donation: £7

✉ Booking required: families@megacentrerayleigh.co.uk

Wednesday – T21 Heroes (for families & children with Down Syndrome)

First Wednesday of the month: 1:00–2:30pm (under 5s)

Fortnightly sessions: 3:30–5:00pm (ages 5+) – contact us for dates

Wednesday – Midi Mix (SEND club for school-age children)

🕒 4:00–6:00pm

Activities include arts & crafts, sensory play, table football, table tennis, and outdoor games (weather permitting).

Thursday – Your Space - Youth Wellbeing Group

🕒 4:00–5:30pm

Secondary age. Referral only, please contact us if this sounds like something your child would benefit from

2nd Thursday of the Month – SEND Coffee Morning

🕒 10:00am–12:00pm

Meet other SEND parents, ask questions, and hear from guest speakers on a range of SEND topics.

4th Thursday of the Month – DLA Workshop

Support and guidance for completing Disability Living Allowance forms.

Friday – Mini Mix (Under 5s SEND Group)

A safe, welcoming non-judgemental group for families with younger children who have SEND needs – free play time, no structured activities and no music. Facilitated by experienced SEND professional.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about CONSPIRACY THEORIES

Conspiracy theories are false or misleading beliefs that explain events as secret plots, often involving powerful groups. While once fringe, they are now more accessible through digital media, online influencers and because of algorithmic recommendations. The DfE guidance document, 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (KCSIE) explicitly recognises conspiracy theories as potential content risks. This guide will help parents and educators understand the risks, spot the signs, and build children's resilience to conspiracy theories.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

UNDERMINING TRUST

Conspiracy theories can lead children and young people to distrust democratic institutions and British Values, teachers, and even their own families and loved ones. This erosion of trust makes young people more vulnerable to extremist narratives by isolating them from reliable sources of information.

ONLINE ALGORITHM TRAPS

Social media platforms can often recommend sensationalist content. Once a child engages with one conspiracy-themed video or post, algorithms push more of the same, thereby creating an echo chamber that can intensify their beliefs.

MENTAL HEALTH IMPACT

Exposure to frightening conspiracy content, such as global plots, viruses, or government control, can fuel feelings of anxiety, paranoia, or hopelessness. For some young people, it can trigger prolonged distress or obsessive thinking.

GATEWAY TO EXTREMISM

Conspiracy theories can often overlap with extremist ideologies. Narratives that blame specific groups, such as politicians, scientists, or particular ethnic groups, can groom children in ways that foster hate, bigotry, and radicalisation.

CONFLICT WITH PEERS

Belief in conspiracy theories can lead to isolation or conflict at school. Children may struggle with peer relationships if they express these beliefs or become distrustful of others who disagree; sometimes, confrontation can even result in a strengthening of the belief in the conspiracy theory.

ERODED CRITICAL THINKING

Young people influenced by conspiracies may reject evidence-based learning. This risks undermining their academic progress and weakening their ability to think critically, assess risks, or engage in healthy debate.

Advice for Parents & Educators

I WANT TO BELIEVE

CREATE SAFE CONVERSATIONS

Don't mock or dismiss any questions that children and young people ask about conspiracy theories. Instead, create open, judgement-free spaces to talk. This strengthens trust and makes it more likely they will confide in you.

PROMOTE CRITICAL THINKING

Teach young people how to assess information critically. Encourage them to ask appropriate questions, such as: Who is telling me this? What evidence is there? What do other trusted sources say? Use real examples from current media to explain your answers and reasoning.

MONITOR DIGITAL BEHAVIOUR

Be aware of the content children are accessing, especially on platforms such as TikTok, YouTube, or Reddit. Use parental controls, but more importantly, maintain ongoing dialogue about online experiences and influencers.

REINFORCE RELIABLE SOURCES

Point children toward trustworthy and reliable sources of news and information in a variety of formats tailored to the young person's age. Build habits of verifying facts using reliable sources, and teach them how to spot misleading content.

Meet Our Expert

Brendan O'Keeffe is a headteacher and digital education consultant with over a decade of experience in education. As Director of Digital Strategy across multiple schools and an advisor to The National College, he specialises in digital safety, PREVENT, and pastoral care.



The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/conspiracy-theories>



THE BROMFORDS SCHOOL
ACHIEVE ENRICH PREPARE

YEAR 6 OPEN EVENING

Thursday 9th October 2025

5.30pm - 8.30pm

Come and see our school in action!

Parental Tours will take place from
Monday 22nd September 2025 to
Thursday 8th October 2025
9.00am and 10.00am

To book a parental tour or for further information
please call 01268 471201 or email
office@bromfords.essex.sch.uk