

Abacus Primary School

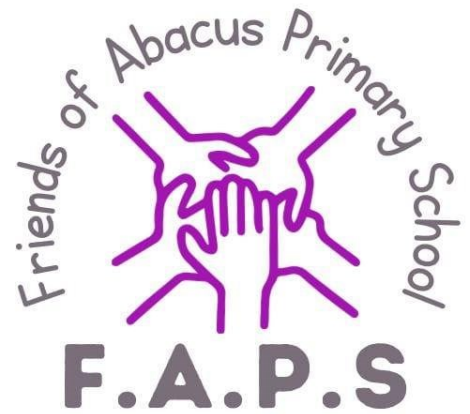


4/7/25

Well done and thank you to our amazing FAPS committee for all their efforts in organising the Summer Bounce last Friday. Thank you to everyone who came along to support the event. Over £2500 was raised and lots of fun was had at the same time. Thank you to all the family members who contributed to the class colour ham-

pers...these were fantastic and the winners were very happy. Well done to Yellow Class for winning the class hamper Amazon voucher and Frozen Friday vouchers, you contributed so

many things it had to be made into two ham-pers!!!



Class Hamper Winners



thank
YOU
SO MUCH

Next week, we will be on:



WEEK 3



Year 6 Enterprise Event

Thank you to everyone who came along and supported Year 6 with their enterprise event on Tuesday afternoon. The children showed confidence and professionalism with their marketing, sales pitches and products. Next stop the Apprentice! I am delighted to say that all their efforts paid off and they raised over £1400... which they should all be so incredibly proud of. A big WELL DONE to everyone involved.







More photos have been uploaded to the Class Padlets.



sports news



Primary Athletics

On the 2nd July 2025, 46 children from KS2 represented our school at the Wickford Primary Athletics event at Bromfords School. There were 7 schools in total and children took part in running events on the track, field events—throwing and jumping and team relays at the end.

It was very touch and go whether the event would go ahead due to the rain but this did not deter our squad who all put in great performances in their individual event and the relays. This paid off when we were crowned champions of the event coming 1st overall.

Well done to each child as every run, jump and throw contributed to the end result.

There was also an award for the best overall girl performance which went to Kayla for her 600m run.

Thank you to Bromfords School for hosting such a well organised event and to all the family members who came along and supported the children.



LET'S CELEBRATE!





Oh my goodness, so much to celebrate this week...well done to you all.

House Points

 	 	 	 
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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about APPLE IPADS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Tablets remain a staple of children's digital lives – and Apple's iPad is by far the most popular model. According to Ofcom, over half of younger children regularly use a tablet to play games, watch online content or access apps. With their broad functionality, iPads can be helpful tools, but without supervision, they may expose children to risks ranging from inappropriate content to screen overuse.

COSTLY TO REPAIR

Unlike some child-friendly tablets, the iPad is not built for rough handling. Its slim design and high cost mean that a drop or spill can result in a costly repair. If a child is using the device regularly, a sturdy case and screen protector are strongly recommended to help prevent accidental damage.

DATA PRIVACY

While Apple is known for strong privacy protections, a recent study found that many iOS apps aimed at children still share personal data. Over 40% of the tested apps sent at least one piece of user information to third parties, raising concerns about advertising and analytics being targeted at underage users.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

The App Store and Safari browser provide almost unrestricted access to online material. Children may stumble upon age-inappropriate content, whether through apps, advertisements or online searches. Even recommended content algorithms can surface unsuitable material.

BYPASSING RESTRICTIONS

Siri – Apple's voice assistant – can potentially override restrictions, especially with the newer text-based commands introduced through Apple Intelligence. Without safeguards in place, children may inadvertently access inappropriate topics simply by asking a question, bypassing certain filters previously set by adults.

SCREEN ADDICTION

iPads can be highly immersive, and excessive screen time may affect a child's emotional and behavioural development. Signs of overuse might include mood swings, irritability, and difficulty focusing on non-digital activities.

REDUCED ATTENTION & COGNITIVE IMPACT

Prolonged use of tablets has been linked with reduced memory, slower processing speeds and difficulties in concentrating. Research shows that children who spend excessive time gaming or consuming media on tablets may struggle with language development and executive functioning over time.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY SHARING

Family Sharing allows you to create a dedicated Apple ID for your child and manage their activity. You can approve purchases, control what content they can access, and set time limits – all done remotely from your own device. It's a simple but powerful way to maintain oversight.

FILTER APPS, WEBSITES & IN-APP PURCHASES

Parental controls in iOS let you block explicit content in Safari, restrict app downloads, and manage in-app purchase permissions. You can also filter websites automatically to prevent access to adult material and disable the installation of certain app types completely.

USE SCREEN TIME FEATURES EFFECTIVELY

Tools like Downtime and App Limits can reduce device overuse. Downtime allows you to block access during key times – such as before bed or during homework – while App Limits sets daily time caps on specific games or apps. Alerts help children anticipate when their time is almost up.

PREVENT UNAPPROVED SPENDING

Children can accidentally (or intentionally) make purchases within apps. Activating Ask to Buy under Family Sharing ensures you receive a notification to approve any app or in-app purchase. This stops surprise charges and allows you to discuss purchases together before they're made.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is a seasoned technology journalist with over a decade of experience. Formerly a senior cybersecurity reporter at TechCrunch, Carly now writes for publications including WIRED, Forbes, TechRadar, and Tes. With a deep understanding of online safety, she brings a valuable perspective to parenting in the digital age.



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