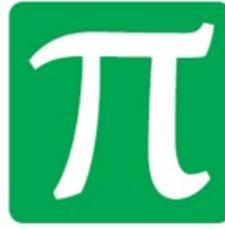
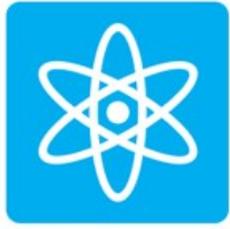


Abacus Primary School

Newsletter 436

4 / 2 / 22



STEM

SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY
ENGINEERING MATHEMATICS

The children have had an action packed week taking part in a number of activities throughout the week focusing on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Mrs Lewis visited on Thursday as



Maths governor to spend some time with Miss Hodkin talking about all the exciting things that have been happening in Maths and also her future plans. Thank you for supporting us with our dress up day today, the children (and staff) all looked amazing and your creativity never fails to amaze us! We were all in safe hands today with so many doctors, professors and scientists in the school plus the children in years 5 and 6 all took part in a First Aid session.

Next week is children's Mental Health week and to celebrate we are inviting children to come "Dressed to Express" on Friday (not impress!) . This could be glasses, a wig, accessories, colourful clothes etc... Please do not go out and buy anything new. This day is a day for all children to not just celebrate being themselves but also be proud of it.



WEEK 3

Next week we will be on Week 3 of our menu. We are swapping the menu for Thursday and Friday next week to allow for the fryer to be cleaned.

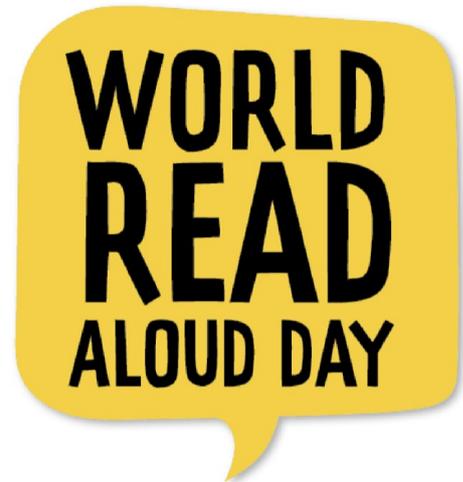


This week we celebrated “World Read Aloud Day”. Listening to a text being read aloud is the most important activity for reading success and lays the foundation for further literacy learning. It helps children learn how to use language to make sense of the world; it improves their information processing skills, vocabulary, and comprehension.

See Scholastic’s recommendation of books to be read aloud for all ages https://www.scholastic.com/content/dam/WRAD2022/WRAD_Book%20Picks_2022.pdf

Visit litworld to listen to different stories, including some read by celebrities.

<https://www.litworld.org/virtualreadalouds>

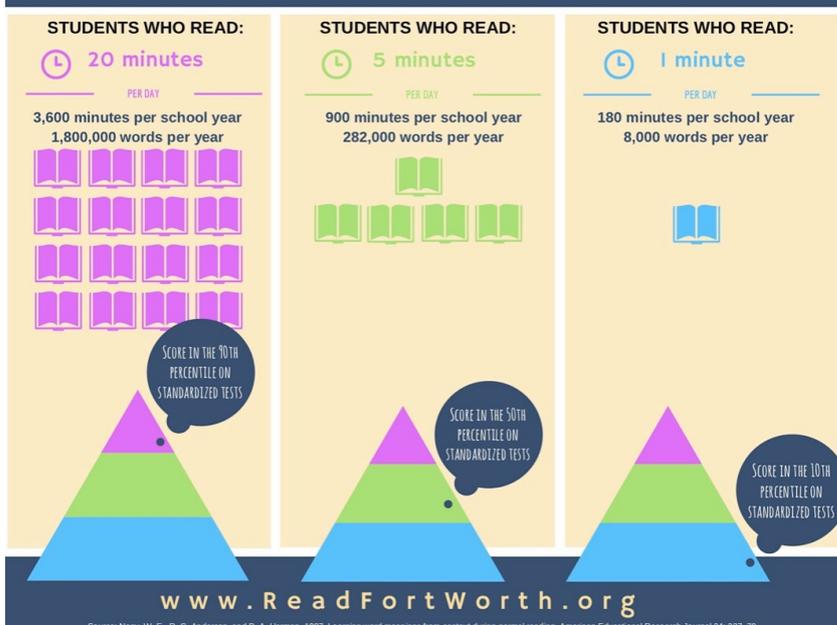


If you want kids to WANT to READ . . .

Then read amazing books aloud EVERY single day.

www.simplyinspiredteaching.com

Why read 20 minutes at home?



Reading aloud with children is known to be the single most important activity for building the knowledge and skills they will eventually require for learning to read.

MARILYN JAGER ADAMS
tinyhumansread.com

The Abacus Costume Library NEEDS YOU!



By the end of the school year, we are hoping to be able to offer our families the opportunity to borrow a costume for future school events from a school costume library.

More details about how this will work will be published once we have enough stock to get up and running!

HOWEVER...to do so, we are asking for donations of any costumes that your children may have outgrown or no longer need. We will gladly accept donations of clean costumes in a good condition, either shop-bought or home-made.

We know that some of these may have cost a lot of money and/or effort in the first instance and hope you understand how helpful your child's preloved costume will be to another child in our school community.

For more information, ask to speak to Mrs Robertson via the office.

Donations can be dropped off in a carrier bag via your child's class or at the office at any point in the coming months.

Many, many thanks in advance!



Christmas!



...and more!

Sportshall Stars



On the 3rd February 2022, our Sportshall Team represented Wickford in the Area Final at William De Ferrers School. They were up against 7 other schools from Billericay, South Woodham and Dengie who had also qualified for the event.



Once again, they all put in great performances in a very competitive event and finished 4th out of the 8 schools, which is an amazing achievement—well done to them all.

Thank you to the parents that transported the children as without you they wouldn't be able to take part—your support is really appreciated.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Pudding Competition



Calling all budding pastry chefs.

Would you like to create a unique dessert that will be made by Mrs Clark and served on our special day to celebrate the Queen's platinum jubilee?



Entries need to include a picture and a recipe.

The winner will get to make a trial version of their recipe with Mrs Clark.

There will be a runner up for each year group, that will be able to join in with trialling of the recipe.

All entries need to be sent to the Office by Friday 25th March 2022.

LET'S CELEBRATE!



Lots of out of school achievements this week, well done to Bella, Lucas, Mae, Archie, Pearce, Sofia and Logan.



House Points

			
St George's Day	St David's Day	Happy St Patrick's Day!	St Andrew's Day
216	170	148	152

Well done to St George's House again this week for being the House Point winners!!

Our Curriculum



<p>Early Years Foundation Stage</p>	<p>Wow, what a wonderful STEM week in Foundation. We have been predicting, considering, watching and waiting in anticipation of what is going to happen in our experiments. Lots of children were predicting and hoping, I think, for an experiment with an explosion, but not this time... The children have really engaged with every activity, and I am sure they have talked about it at home. We have also adapted our Jack in the Beanstalk story and it has a sunflower in, ask us to tell you our new story.</p>
<p>Year 1</p>	<p>STEM WEEK! What a great time we have had in Year 1 learning about different Scientists and Inventors. Ask us who we have learnt about, there are at least four. Maths has also been exciting this week as we have been using our Maths skills to complete different challenges. In English we wrote about Alexander Graham Bell and in Science we looked at going to Mars, climate change and even made a mini volcano! What a week!</p>
<p>Year 2</p>	<p>In Year 2 this week, we have enjoyed STEM week! We have been learning about a famous British scientist – ask us to tell you facts about Sir James Dyson! We did an experiment in Science where we dropped food colouring into milk and then added washing up liquid. We made predictions about what might happen and although none of us were quite right, it was very interesting! We have continued our work on sharing in Maths, which has been quite tricky! In English, we labelled pirate ships and wrote command sentences on “How to be a Quarter Master”. We also wrote persuasive sentences to Captain Blackbeard to hire us for his crew, and learned how to use the -el word ending.</p>
<p>Year 3</p>	<p>We have enjoyed STEM week this week. We have been solving money problems including adding and subtracting amounts. We linked this to our Maths book that we are focusing on called '100 Hundred Hungry Ants.' In Science, we have been learning about forces of magnets. Can your child tell you which metals attract to magnets? We have also learned about the scientist Isaac Newton. We created rockets and they took off from the force of the gas.</p>
<p>Year 4</p>	<p>For STEM week, we researched Alexander Graham Bell and presented our learning as little fact books. As part of Maths, we enjoyed the book 'How Many Jellybeans?' which showed a million pictorially; we also created bar charts to show how many jellybeans were in a bag of sweets. In English, we have been beginning to write a discussion text using paragraphs to structure our writing. Ask your child what our discussion text is about. In Art, we created pencil sketches of a still life scene using light, medium and dark tones to make the drawing look three-dimensional.</p>
<p>Year 5</p>	<p>This week in Year 5 it has been STEM week. We have had a great time looking at the Dyson Fan. We have discussed strategies that designers use and are using this to improve products in the classroom. This week in Gymnastics we have been creating routines using the skills we have learnt. On Friday we had our First Aid session that was very informative. Ask your child about what they learnt during this session. On Friday we also have NSPCC Number Day, we dressed up as a range of Inventors, Engineers, Scientists and Mathematicians. We also had our Maths lesson on Friday linking to the book 'If'.</p>
<p>Year 6</p>	<p>Year 6 have had a great STEM week. We extracted DNA from strawberries using a special extraction liquid we created. This linked to our understanding of inheritance. In English, we created explosion books and found out about famous naturalists such as Charles Darwin, David Attenborough and Jane Goodall. Ask us about some of the facts we found out. On Friday we took part in First Aid training. This is a brilliant skills for us to learn and could help to save lives in the future. We look forward to telling you all about it!</p>

10 Top Tips for Respect Online: A DIGITAL WORLD FOR EVERYONE

Even before lockdowns inflamed the situation, one in every five 10- to 15-year-olds was experiencing bullying online: abusive messages, having rumours spread about them or being excluded from group chats, for example. Through smartphones and tablets, we're used to being able to communicate from anywhere, at any time – but digital devices became commonplace so quickly that it caused a problem: as a society, we haven't properly adjusted to how different they've made life. Our tips can help you to build positive relationships online and avoid some of the potential issues.

WHAT IS NETIQUETTE?

Etiquette is a set of rules to help us interact with others: like a code of respect. People follow this code every day (mostly without even thinking about it) and it can help us decide how to act in certain situations. 'Netiquette' (etiquette on the net – we see what they did there!) is the same, except it's designed to help us interact with others online, which is sometimes a whole different ball game.

1 SEE THE OTHER SIDE

Usually when we're online, we can't see the other person's body language or tone of voice to give us clues about what we can say to them, or how to say it. Try to think what the situation might be like for them, how they're feeling and whether we'd say the same thing if they were actually there with us.

2 HIT THE PAUSE BUTTON

Without a person physically there in front of us, it's easy to send something quickly – before we've really thought about whether it's helpful or kind. Just because we can do things quickly doesn't mean we should; it's better to pause for a second and think it through, instead of simply reacting.

3 MIND YOUR LANGUAGE

People have invented loads of different ways to communicate online (emojis, abbreviations like LOL, TBH and so on). Some of these can be triggering to other people (such as USING CAPS SO IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE SHOUTING!), so it's important to stay aware of the style of language you're using.

4 BE SURE BEFORE YOU POST

On social networks like Instagram or Facebook, vast numbers of people might see what you've posted. So if that's something negative about a person, it can feel hugely painful for them. If you're ever tempted to post something like that, ask yourself "do I really need to go public with this?"

5 PROTECT YOURSELF

Always think very carefully before sharing any personal information with someone else or in a group. Once something's been put online, the sender loses any control over where it goes and who might see it. If you've got any uncertainty at all, it's a good idea to talk to a trusted adult about this first.

6 KINDNESS IS CATCHING

Negative communication can spread rapidly online, but so can being kind and helpful (this happened quite a lot during lockdowns, for instance). A friendly, positive message can make a big difference to someone as well as helping us feel good about ourselves – so share the love!

7 WAITING CAN BE HARD

When we've sent a message or posted something online, waiting for a reply or for someone to respond can make us anxious. It could be helpful to think whether you really have to message or post right now – or if you could wait until a better time when it will cause you less anxiety.

8 THE NET LOVES ATTENTION

Most apps, games and sites use sophisticated technology that's designed to keep us coming back for more. It's important to keep this in mind when you feel the need to reach for your phone, tablet or console – once we understand this fact, it becomes easier to control how we use our digital devices.

9 REPLY WISELY

Sometimes it's tempting to fire back an instant response to a post or message we don't like. How we respond is important, however – whether we reply privately to the person or on a platform where lots of people will see it, for example, makes a big difference to how whoever is receiving the message will deal with it.

10 FORGIVE AND FORGET

Even though we try to avoid them, mistakes can – and do – happen online. They can sometimes feel like a bigger deal than they actually are. It's important to remember that we're all only human, and sometimes we mess up. Learn to forgive others and – just as importantly – to forgive yourself.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Carole Francis-Smith is an experienced counselling psychologist who, through her research, specialises in promoting safe and ethical online communications. She consults with businesses and organisations to support positive and effective communication online, often by considering some of the more hidden aspects of the mediums.



10 Top Tips for Respect Online: INSPIRING CHILDREN TO BUILD A BETTER DIGITAL WORLD

Our ability to communicate with anyone in the world, at any time, via the Internet has grown at breakneck speed. For teachers and parents, it can feel impossible to keep up. Worrying about our young people is understandable, and not unjustified: in 2020, for example, one in five 10- to 15-year-olds experienced bullying online. Our tips highlight ways that adults can support young people's positive online behaviours: by adopting and following 'netiquette', we can show them how to avoid getting into difficulty as they learn to negotiate the continually evolving digital landscape.

WHAT IS NETIQUETTE?

Just like etiquette is a set of rules which guides and governs our interactions with others in everyday life, netiquette – etiquette on the net – is the framework which helps inform how we communicate with people online. The rules of engagement often aren't the same as a face-to-face meeting, so it's important that we can accurately 'read' situations in the digital world and know how to act appropriately.

1 ACCEPT DIFFERENT RULES

A lot of our interaction with others is helped by non-verbal signals like body language and facial expressions. Online, of course, many of these clues are missing. Talk to your child about why this makes misunderstandings more likely to occur in the digital world and why keeping in mind that online communication is a very different process can help to prevent difficulties from arising.

2 PRESS 'PAUSE'

It's so easy to do things quickly online that most people (adults included) habitually send or respond to messages without considering the consequences. Pushing 'the pause button' buys a young person some time while they ponder the golden rule: "Would I still say this if the other person was right front of me?" You could practise this with your child on some made-up tricky situations.

3 THE INTERNET IS ADDICTIVE

Apps and sites use sophisticated algorithms and clever marketing to keep us engaged, while notifications to our devices are designed to draw us back in. It's no wonder that people continually return to the digital world, sometimes spending long periods of time there. You and your child could trial turning off notifications on certain apps and instead agree a time to check for updates manually.

4 BEWARE THE DARK SIDE

Getting a hurtful or unhelpful comment on social media or in a group chat can make the recipient feel publicly shamed. That's painful for anyone – but especially for a young person whose status in a group is integral to their sense of identity. Encourage your child to think about the best and safest way to send a message: for example, doing it as a private message rather than a public post.

5 HARMFUL INTERACTIONS

Unfortunately, it's very easy to send a hurtful message or to spread gossip and rumours online. We all know this happens regularly. Not having to deal with actually seeing the other person's distress usually doesn't help people to make a positive decision in the moment. It's important that trusted adults help children to visualise the potential consequences and have empathy for others.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Carole Francis-Smith is an experienced counselling psychologist who, through her research, specialises in promoting safe and ethical online communications. She consults with businesses and organisations to support positive and effective communication online, often by considering some of the more hidden aspects of the mediums.



6 APPRECIATE DIFFERENCES

We're all built differently; some people are simply more emotionally sensitive than others. Young people can be particularly affected by negative online communication, such as group shaming. Even a single message (which might seem trivial at face value) can cause deep anguish. Trusted adults should be prepared to be patient and listen to any difficulties their child might have had online.

7 ACCENTUATED ANXIETY

Young people's online lives create a lot of anxiety. Messages go into a 'black hole' until someone responds, there are more reasons to compare ourselves negatively, and social media can make us feel like we're missing out. Encourage activities such as sports and hobbies to balance this out, and remember that merely blocking out thoughts (by gaming, for instance) isn't the same as relaxation.

8 PRO-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

A huge positive for the internet is how it helps people to feel connected and makes being kind and helpful easy to spread. When young people get involved in pro-social behaviours online, it creates a positive feedback loop which makes them feel good. Show your child examples of when you've done or said something positive online, and praise and encourage them when they do the same.

9 BE A GOOD ROLE MODEL

One of the best things we can do as trusted adults is to role model positive online behaviour. Just letting your child see that you know when it's time to put your phone away and do something more productive can set a strong example. Some families set aside particular times of the week (such as mealtimes or a family walk) where digital devices aren't allowed and conversation takes precedence.

10 SHOW COMPASSION

Mistakes can feel much bigger online, because they're so public. If a young person does or says something regrettable on the internet, it's important to support them to forgive themselves, learn any lessons and move forward positively. Even as adults, we can often stumble when learning how things work in the fast-moving digital world, so it's important to have compassion for ourselves, too.