

Abacus Primary School



Newsletter 551 13 / 12 / 24

CHRISTMAS
JUMPER
Day



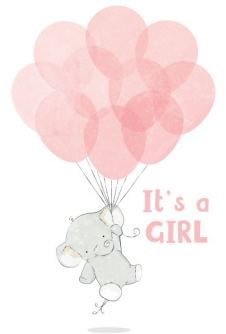
What a wonderful day we've had today. Who knew there were so many Christmas jumpers, dresses and t-shirts available now! The children looked wonderful today as they watched the Pantomime 'Aladdin'.

The large hall was filled with laughter as they all enjoyed watching the show. As part of the performance the audience were all invited

to the wedding of Aladdin and Princess Jasmine.



I am delighted to share with you that Mrs Craske had a baby girl yesterday afternoon. Mum and baby are both doing well.



BOOK FAIR

Thank you to everyone who came and supported the Book Fair. Parents spent £974.46 on books which means as a school we get to spend £487.23 in rewards.

Next week we will be on WEEK 2 of our school menu, which you can view on our website.

On Tuesday next week Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2 will be having their Christmas lunch. Children in KS2 will need to bring a packed lunch (unless FSM)

On Wednesday, it will be KS2 Christmas lunch, children in Foundation, Years 1 and 2 will be able to order a grab bag as part of their Universal Free School meal offer.



Aladdin



Wedding Invitation
We are thrilled to announce that

*Aladdin
and
Princess Jasmine*

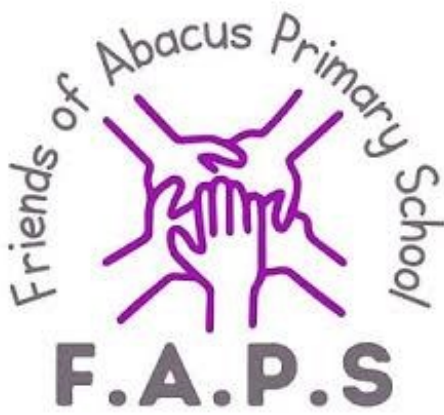
*would like to invite you to their
Christmas Wedding!*

Date
13/12/24

Venue
Abacus Primary School

Dress code
Christmas Jumper





Thanks you to our amazing FAPS committee for all their efforts at the Christmas Discos this week. It was wonderful to see the children so excited to attend and to see them all enjoying themselves. Thank you to all the staff and parents who stayed to help at these events.

Bingo Night – 25th January 2025

Join us for an evening of fun when Skittleman leads us through our Bingo Night! This is an **adults-only event**, so organise a babysitter, and bring all your friends!



We'll be in the school's large hall - doors open at 6.45pm. Please arrive in advance of the start time of 7.30pm.

Tables will be set up for groups of 8-10, so you may be asked to sit with other people if your group is smaller than this. Please bring your own drinks and nibbles – nothing containing nuts, thanks.

There are very limited numbers of tickets, so please don't delay if you'd like to join the fun.

Tickets cost £10 and are available from www.pta-events.co.uk/faps-abacus This covers your first book of 7 games; more will be available to purchase on the night – please bring cash for this.



Any questions, please contact faps@abacus.essex.sch.uk

Thank you
From the Friends of Abacus Primary School
Committee



The Christmas celebrations continue next week with Abachorus singing at the St Lukes' hospice shop on Tuesday morning from 10am, we'd love to see you come along if you're free.

Christmas lunches on Tuesday and Wednesday (see page 1 for further information) Children order their lunch on the day, no pre order was needed.

Break the Rules day on Friday 20th, which is also our last day of term. Please see the rules that children can break on page 7.



After the success of Elizabeth for Herd in the City, I am delighted to say that we have purchased a penguin to create as part of the Waddle on Sea trail.

School Council representatives have been talking to their classes and the work that the hospice does (which costs £7000 a day to run). We are inviting children to create a design which involves every child in school and captures the 'definition of love' which the hospice creates. The design should reflect Abacus in some way. Designs need to be handed to Mrs Blakeley **by Friday 17th January 2025**. The templates for your designs can be printed off our website or collected from school from next week.



What a pleasure it was to watch Foundation and Year One perform their Christmas plays this week. The children all sang with enthusiasm and spoke with confidence and we cannot be more proud of each and every one of the children. Thank you to all the family members who came along to watch. What a special treat on Tuesday afternoon when Jean from Silvana Court came to watch too.













How lucky were Year One to have Jean (and Leah) visit from Silvana Court on Wednesday afternoon to see their Christmas performance.

She texted me later in the evening and said what a wonderful afternoon she had had and was so impressed by the signing and every child's performance.

House Points

 	 	 	 
1663	1328	1578	1910

BREAK THE RULES DAY

Friday 20th December 2024

Come to school in non school uniform including football kits

Paint your nails

Wear make up or face paints

Come to school with funky hair and wear hair accessories

Bring your teddy bear to school for the day

Wear slippers to school for the day (normal shoes will also need to be brought for outdoor activities)

Eat your dessert before your main course

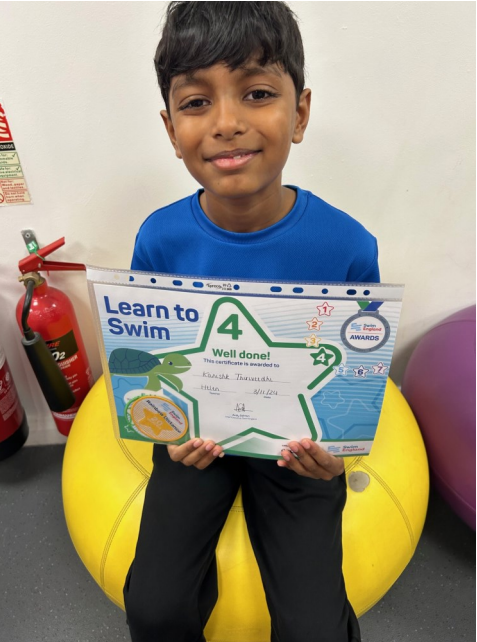
Bring juice in your water bottle

Bring sweets or chocolate for snack (please ensure there are no nuts)

Wear a glitter tattoo

Each rule broken costs 50p. To be paid in cash on the day

LET'S CELEBRATE!



WELL DONE

Sportshall Final

On the 10th December 2024, our team of athletes from Years 5 and 6 represented Wickford in the area final against 6 other schools from South Woodham, Billericay and Maldon as part of the School Games.

Well done to the team who focused on their own performances in their field events (throwing and jumping) and then went on to compete in their relay events with great teamwork.

It was a very competitive event and they were announced in 5th place overall as a team (out of 7 schools) which is a still an achievement. The team improved on their score from the Wickford round by an additional 40 points so shouldn't be disheartened by the final result.



Tag Rugby Tournament

On the 12th December 2024, 11 children from Year 6 took part in a Tag Rugby Tournament with 2 other Wickford Schools. This was an opportunity to put into practice the skills they had learnt in their PE lessons last term.

In the wet conditions (which made the pitch very slippery), the team did well to draw their first game and were unlucky not to win their second which put them in 3rd place overall.

Well done to all the children that took part and thank you to the families who came along to support.



YOUR SCHOOL NEEDS YOU



Would you like the opportunity to speak about how your child's school can improve inclusion for it's neurodivergent pupils?

Join us at a 'cuppa and chat' hosted by Essex Family Forum as part of the PINS project.

(find out more [HERE](#))

Your school are committed to working with EFF to hear your voice and want you to speak openly with EFF about how the school can improve.



The next meeting is-

Wednesday 15th January 2025 at 9am

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators SAFETY OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON

The holiday season, marked by Christmas and New Year, brings joy and togetherness but also presents unique safety challenges for children, families and educators. From busy holiday shopping, traveling and family gatherings to managing digital activity during school breaks, staying safe during this period requires heightened awareness. This guide offers practical tips to help families and educators maintain a more secure and fulfilling festive period.

1 MONITOR DIGITAL ACTIVITY



Children spend more time online during school holidays, increasing exposure to potential dangers such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content and online predators. Balancing screen time, avoiding harmful websites and ensuring children engage positively online can be difficult without proper monitoring tools. Set clear boundaries, encourage open discussions about online safety and use parental controls to manage content exposure and screen time effectively. Regular check-ins and positive reinforcement around digital habits encourage safe online behaviour.

2 PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY PROTOCOLS



The incidence of house fires increases during Christmas due to greater use of candles, cookers and electrical decorations. Open flames, electrical overloads and the need for quick response plans can make fire safety challenging. Ensure smoke detectors are operational, keep fire extinguishers on hand and teach children how to respond in case of a fire emergency. Avoid leaving cooking unattended and use fire-safe candles to prevent mishaps.

3 CREATE TRAVEL SAFETY PLANS

More families tend to travel during the holidays, resulting in busier roads, increased traffic accidents and weather-related hazards. Weather conditions, road rage, fatigue and busy airports can all compromise travel safety. Pack emergency kits and adhere to seatbelt laws. Plan routes in advance and allow extra travel time to avoid rushing and mitigate risks on busy roads.

4 BEWARE OF ALLERGIES



Holiday meals often involve many foods that may contain allergens. Cross contamination, unclear labelling and lack of allergy-friendly options can lead to severe reactions. Communicate any allergy needs to hosts, provide safe food alternatives and carry necessary medications like antihistamines or EpiPens. Teaching children how to advocate for themselves and recognise dangerous foods also contributes to safer celebrations.

5 PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS



Cold weather and seasonal socialising can increase the spread of viruses like flu and COVID-19. Crowded gatherings, schools out of session and frequent travel can lead to higher infection risks. Emphasise hygiene, encourage vaccination, disinfect surfaces and isolate symptomatic individuals. Communication with children about proper hygiene practices is essential to reduce the spread of illness.

6 STAY VIGILANT ON THE ROAD



Increased holiday traffic heightens the risk of accidents for both drivers and pedestrians. Distracted driving, pedestrian safety and inclement weather can complicate road safety. Encourage pedestrian safety practices, avoid distracted driving and never drive under the influence.

7 MAINTAIN SAFE DECORATIONS



Festive decorations such as Christmas lights and candles can pose electrical, fire and choking hazards if mishandled. Frayed wires, topping Christmas trees, small ornaments and open flames can be difficult to control, especially in busy households with children. Inspect and maintain decorations, secure Christmas trees, place fragile or small items out of reach and ensure candles are never left unattended. Testing smoke alarms and using flame-retardant decorations can significantly reduce risks.

8 SET BOUNDARIES FOR GIFTS



Some toys and gadgets can present choking, sharp-edge or safety risks, particularly for young children. Ensuring that gifts meet safety standards and are age appropriate can be complex with so many options available. Inspect all toys carefully and ensure any tech devices have parental controls. Setting expectations around safe gift use and discarding packaging that poses a risk also helps to prevent accidents.

9 ADDRESS STRESS & FATIGUE



Holiday pressures can lead to burnout, which affects both physical and mental health. Overpacked schedules and a lack of downtime can cause stress and fatigue, leading to accidents or poor decision making. Incorporate rest, maintain regular routines and seek support to reduce stress. Encourage activities that promote relaxation to create a healthier, happier holiday experience for everyone.

10 DRINK RESPONSIBLY



Alcohol is commonly present at holiday events, raising concerns about safety and supervision. Excessive alcohol consumption can lead to accidents, impaired judgment and lack of supervision for children. Designate responsible adults, limit consumption and provide transportation alternatives for guests. Teaching moderation and modelling responsible behaviour in front of children ensures that celebrations remain positive and secure.

Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is a chartered health and safety consultant with 10 years of experience in promoting family and community safety. Specialising in risk assessment and preventative strategies, he has worked with educational institutions, public health agencies and community groups to deliver safety education and training.



The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/safety-over-the-festive-season>