

# Abacus Primary School



## Newsletter 548 22/11/24



We are really excited for our outdoor Christmas Fayre on Wednesday 27/11/24. Children can be collected from classrooms a little earlier at

2.45pm. All classes have been making items to sell and there will be a range of refreshments and snacks on sale too. Our Christmas raffle tickets will be available by the refreshment stall.

Prizes:

1st—£150 cash

2nd— M&S £50 voucher

3rd—John Lewis Christmas Teddy

Tickets will be sold at Christmas plays and throughout December. The raffle will be drawn in the last week of term.

Abachorus and Abacus All Stars will be performing to open the fayre.









We look forward to seeing you all there.



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



# House Points

			
			
<b>1058</b>	<b>813</b>	<b>1048</b>	<b>1035</b>

I am sorry that I am, once again, having to communicate expectations regarding parents conduct towards staff. We will not tolerate abuse or rudeness towards any members of our team, whether this be in person, online or telephone conversations.

Whilst we appreciate that we might have to have some honest and difficult conversations, as Headteacher I will not allow staff to be put in positions where they are being shouted at, feel vulnerable or intimidated by the behaviour of parents.

If the conduct of a small minority of parents/carers does not improve then I will, with the support of governors, have no choice but to deal with those responsible, this could include warning letters being issued as well as banning parents from our school site. Which means that you will not be able to attend the school for any event or reason.

**PLEASE**  
**RESPECT OUR STAFF**  
**WE WILL NOT**  
**TOLERATE ABUSE**



## Friday 13th December 2024

We have arranged for a Pantomime to come and visit our school. This will take place on Friday 13th December 2024, which is also Christmas Jumper Day.

Children will be allowed to bring in snacks to enjoy whilst they watch the Pantomime.

## Christmas lunches

Our Christmas lunches are taking place on:

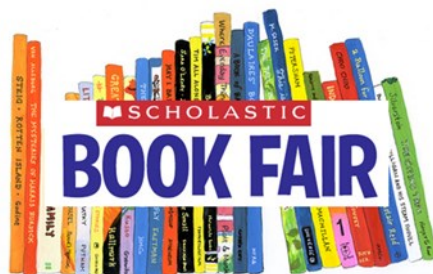
Foundation/Year 1 and Year 2– Tuesday 17th December 2024

Years 3,4,5 and 6—Wednesday 18th December 2024

Please see menus on the following pages.

# CHRISTMAS JUMPER Day





The Book Fair will arrive in school on **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November** and will remain until **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November**. Each class will have the opportunity to visit the Book Fair and children will be able to complete a wish list with the books they are interested in. Should you wish to purchase any of the books (Christmas is just around the corner!) there are two options.

**You can visit the Book Fair in person at the following times:**

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November and Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 8:30-9:00am**

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> and Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 3:15-3:45pm**

You will be able to pay in person via cash or online.

**If you are unable to make it to the Book Fair, you can order books from home by clicking on the following link or scanning the QR code below.**



<https://bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/travelling-books/pay>

**This payment system will close at 9pm on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November.**

Please then email the following information to [admin@abacus.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@abacus.essex.sch.uk) with **Book Fair** in the subject line: **your child's name, their class, the books you have ordered and the payment reference number**. Without this information, we will be unable to ensure the correct books are given to your child.

Please see the list of books which are available to order attached below. These prices should be referred to rather than the ones on the Scholastic

Thank you for your continued support – each sale at the book fair means more books for our school!

## Foundation/KS1 Christmas Meal

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December

**Red Band** – Turkey, Chipolata, Stuffing, Roast Potatoes, Carrots, Peas & Sweetcorn

**Green Band** – Cheese & Onion Yorkshire Puddings, Vegetarian Sausage, Roast Potatoes, Carrots, Peas & Sweetcorn

Christmas Tree Ice Cream or Cookie

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December

(As KS2 are having their Christmas lunch on this day) the menu options for Foundation/KS1 will be

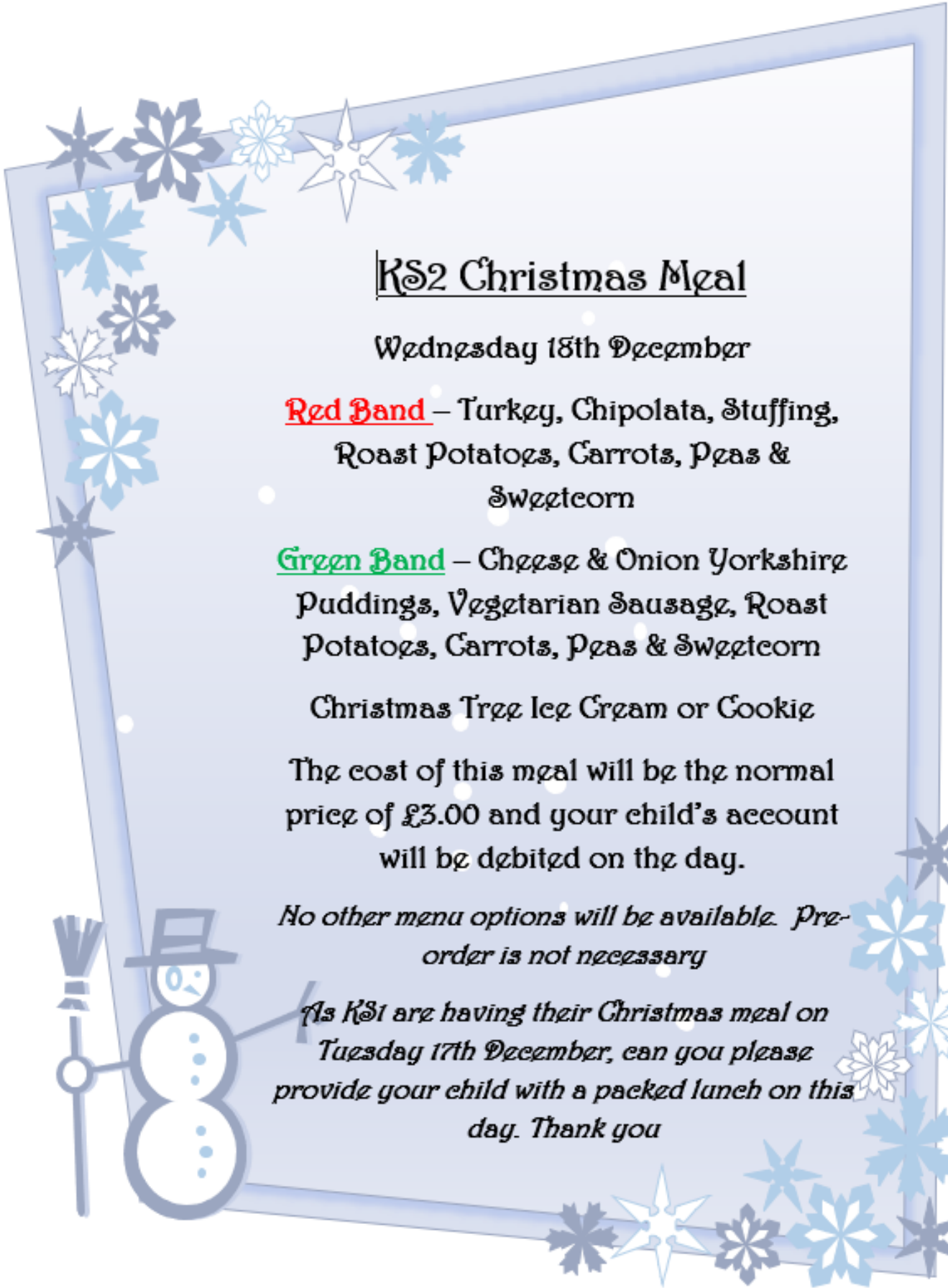
Cheese Roll or

Ham Roll with Crisps & Fruit

*No other menu options will be available on both days.*

*Pre-order is not necessary*





## KS2 Christmas Meal

Wednesday 18th December

**Red Band** – Turkey, Chipolata, Stuffing,  
Roast Potatoes, Carrots, Peas &  
Swede


**Green Band** – Cheese & Onion Yorkshire  
Puddings, Vegetarian Sausage, Roast  
Potatoes, Carrots, Peas & Swede

Christmas Tree Ice Cream or Cookie

The cost of this meal will be the normal  
price of £3.00 and your child's account  
will be debited on the day.

*No other menu options will be available. Pre-  
order is not necessary*

*As KS1 are having their Christmas meal on  
Tuesday 17th December, can you please  
provide your child with a packed lunch on this  
day. Thank you*





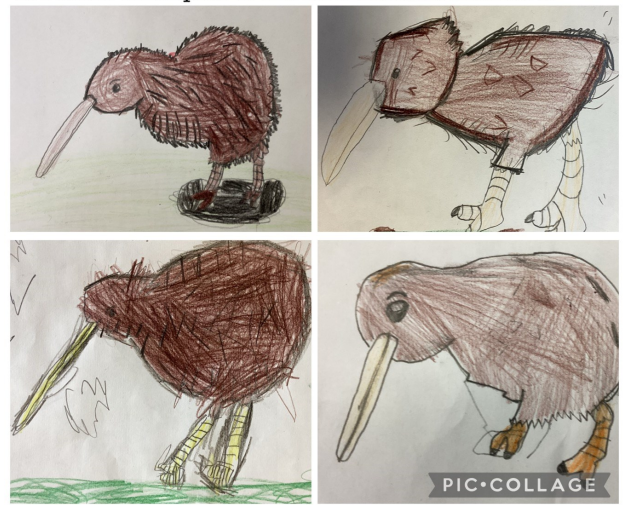
## CELEBRATE GEOGRAPHY



On Thursday the children had the opportunity to take part in a number of activities as part of Geography Awareness Day. Throughout the day the children learnt about different continents and countries within that continent, made flags, cooked foods from their continent/country, created dances and art work and took part in a celebration assembly at the end of the day. Thank you to Mrs Waugh, our geography leader for planning the activities and the celebration assemblies in the afternoon.



We love doing step-by-step artwork - here are some examples of the New Zealand kiwi bird.



## Panathlon Challenge

On the 20th November 2024, 8 children from KS2 took part in a Panathlon Challenge with other schools from Wickford, Billericay and South Woodham.

They all had a great time trying out 8 different activities which included: basketball skills, bowling and throwing at a target.

We had some very proud children when they came back to school with their participation medals.



## Netball League round 2

On the 21st November 2024, our 5/6 Netball team took part in the second round of the Wickford School's Netball League Tournament which is part of the School Games with 3 other Wickford Schools.

Despite the freezing cold temperatures the team played incredibly well winning all 3 of their games, scoring an amazing 17 goals and only conceding 2.

They have one more tournament in February and are on track to go through to the area final.

Thank you again to the family members who transported the children and cheered them on and to Jo from Flames Netball Club for coaching the team.





# LET'S CELEBRATE!

Well done to Harry, Monet-Thai and Chloe for their achievements in football, musical theatre and swimming.



# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

## EDUCATING CHILDREN ON SPENDING AND SAVING

Evidence shows that children's spending habits begin to form as early as seven years old. With primary schools in England not required to teach financial literacy, many young people are reaching adulthood without knowing the basics of budgeting. This guide explains how to teach young people about money in a practical way, giving them the understanding to become savvy spenders and savers.

### 1 PROVIDE POCKET MONEY

Giving children money – even a small amount – can help them learn to make their own budgeting decisions about how to spend or save it. Research shows that youngsters who receive pocket money are more likely to become adults with strong financial skills and significantly less debt.

### 2 USE A PREPAID CARD

Being able to pay by card is essential these days, with some retailers not accepting cash since the pandemic. Prepaid debit cards are available for children from the age of six, allowing them to get used to spending like they will as adults with no risk of dipping into an overdraft. Learning about money is like learning to swim – you need to get in the pool and have a go!

### 3 PRACTISE BORROWING

Although official borrowing is only available to over 18s, kids need to understand how debt and interest works before they become adults and are exposed to credit cards or 'buy now, pay later' schemes. For a safe means of teaching them about this, parents could offer them extra pocket money but explain that it needs to be paid back by a certain date, plus an extra couple of pounds as interest.

### 4 ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATION

Chatting about money and how much things cost will teach children that finance is a part of everyday life and not some "scary adult thing". Parents can involve them in budgeting for the weekly shop, for example, working together to get everything on the list while keeping the total below a certain number. Letting young ones make spending decisions in a safe space can build up their confidence regarding money.

### 5 DISCUSS THE PRESSURE TO SPEND

Whether it's YouTube ads or a hint of envy at a friend's recent purchase, spending triggers are everywhere. Encourage children to notice how clever shop design (like placing sweets at the checkout) and offers such as 2 for 1 deals entice us to spend more. Challenge them to resist impulse buys by getting them to sleep on it before deciding to spend.

### 6 TELLING 'NEED' FROM 'WANT'

Learning how to prioritise spending is an important life skill: the difference between life's essentials and "nice to haves" is key to budgeting. If children pester you for treats while shopping, it's the perfect time to say "That's a want. We're getting our needs first." You could show how you budget for food, electricity and so on before buying fun things.

### 7 ENCOURAGE SAVING

Getting children saving early can set them up with a useful habit for their adult life. Suggest that they set something aside every time they receive money and help them set a target for how much to put away, so they feel motivated to continue. For example, encouraging them to save for a friend's birthday gift can get children much more invested in what they buy.

### 8 SPARK INTEREST IN INTEREST

Motivate children by telling them about interest: you can describe it as a reward for saving money. Explain how everything they put away will grow over time. As an exciting example, explain that 1p doubled every day for a month would amount to approximately £10 million. Some prepaid cards for young people also offer interest; parents and carers could add a little to supplement what their child saves and show how it works.

### 9 PAYING FOR CHORES

This is a complex debate with no right or wrong answer: it depends on what works for each individual family. However, it can be one of the best ways to teach children that money needs to be earned and helps to create more mindful spenders. If parents aren't keen on paying for everyday chores, they could ask the children to suggest their own ideas for earning a little extra.

### 10 PROTECT CHILDREN FROM SCAMS

Scams are a terrifyingly easy way to lose money, and children are generally more likely to be taken in due to a lack of experience with these financial criminals. As a minimum, make sure they're aware of the most common scams they could be exposed to – by text, email and phone, for instance. Young people should tell a trusted adult about any unexpected messages or call and never give out their personal information.

### Meet Our Expert

GoHenry is a prepaid debit card and financial education app with a mission to make every young person smart with money. Co-founder and CEO Louise Hill is a passionate campaigner for better financial literacy among school children and strongly believes that money management is a crucial life skill.

goHenry

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/spending-and-saving>

@wake\_up\_weds

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FAPS and Moji will be hosting a Christmas Disco on Thursday 12th December full of dancing, games and fun!

3 separate events will be held, as follows:

**Foundation** 2pm-3.15pm – Cost per child £3

Children to come to school that day dressed for the disco. Those not attending will watch a video in their classroom. All children to be collected at 3.15pm, as usual.

**Year 1 & 2** 3.30pm-5pm – Cost per child £5

Children to bring party clothes to change into in the classroom at 3.15pm and be escorted to the party by class teacher/FAPS. Those not attending to be collected from classroom doors at 3.15pm as usual.

**KS2** 5.15pm-6.45pm – Cost per child £5

Children to be collected at 3.15pm to get changed at home and come back for 5.15pm.

Spaces are bookable through our website [www.pta-events.co.uk/faps-abacus](http://www.pta-events.co.uk/faps-abacus).

Please make sure you use your child's full name and current class when booking and that you select the correct event.

Included in the ticket price will be all the entertainment, plus a drink and snack.

We will also have various glow stick items and tuck available to buy – please send your child with no more than £5 cash for this.

**Bookings will be open from today until 6<sup>th</sup> December – please note, we will not be able to add any children in after this date.**

If you have any questions, please contact [faps@abacus.essex.sch.uk](mailto:faps@abacus.essex.sch.uk)

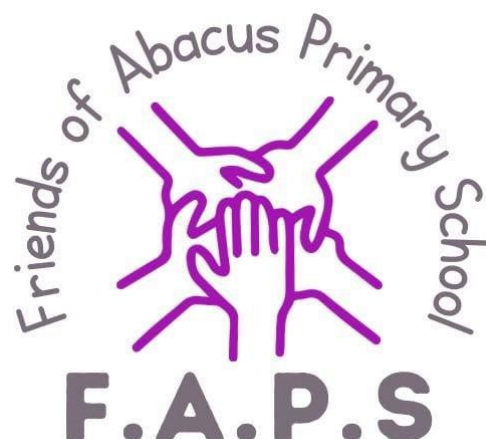
Please see below the link to book for the Abacus Christmas photo shoot with Lou Sutton on 30th November 2024.

<https://tinyurl.com/3hrb383x>

*Lou Sutton Photography*

[www.lousutton.co.uk](http://www.lousutton.co.uk)

01268 661315



# 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



# AUTISM REALITY EXPERIENCE

HELPING TO UNDERSTAND THE MANY SIDES OF THE AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER

BY

training2care

Date the training will take place:

**3rd December 2024**

**.....10am to 1pm.....**

**Please book your slot at the school office**

The Autism Reality **Experience** is an innovative and inspirational training session...

...designed to give participants a virtual experience of living with autism. This is a very practical, hands-on experience that give participants a greater insight into autism and helps us see the world from an autistic person's perspective. Suitable for all professionals, from people working across all sectors, including family members, or informal carers who want to have a better understanding of autism.

