

Abacus Primary School



Newsletter 542 4/10/24



Thank you to everyone who came along and supported our Fun Walk this morning, what a lovely sight to see so many family members walking along with the classes. Thank you to FAPS for organising and to Miss Dooley and our Sports Ambassadors for all their efforts behind the scenes in making this event run so smoothly. **All sponsor forms need to be returned by Friday 11th October 2024.**



FAPS will be holding a Christmas photo shoot again this year on Saturday 30th November 2024 between 10am and 3pm...more details to follow



The Christmas card templates finally arrived. Some children have brought these home, please ensure all designs are completed and returned to school by the morning of the **9th October 2024** so that the next stage in their creation can be completed. **NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED**



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

**THIS SCHOOL IS
NUT FREE**



THANK YOU
for keeping our school safe!



WEDNESDAY 9TH OCTOBER

2024



On Wednesday 9th October 2024 from 3.15pm to 4.15pm we invite parents of children in Years 1 to 6 to come into classrooms and look through the children's work in their books.

Monday 7th October 2024

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Calling all SEND parents and carers - Your school needs your voice!

Help make your school more inclusive for *all* children

Your school has signed up to a pilot project aimed at increasing inclusivity in school and building relationships and communication with parents/carers. The name of this project is Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS).

You may remember a survey being sent out about this project recently. We would now like to gather your views in person through a parent/carer '*cuppa and chat*' event that will be run by a representative from Essex Family Forum (EFF). The event will be very informal and a real opportunity for you to share your views on what is working within your school and what you would like to see improved. You can find out about the work EFF do here www.essexfamilyforum.org.

The group is open to all parents/carers of children at the school who have EHCP's are supported by One Planning, or who have children that may have currently unrecognised/undiagnosed SEND. Come along for a chat, to support one another and an opportunity to work with your school and to improve the outcomes for your child.

Date: 07 October 2024

Time: 9am

Location: Abacus Primary School



Department
for Education



We may all be different but we have the same smile

Well done to our Good Practice Seekers who were part of a meeting on Tuesday with the Multi Schools council.

They discussed a number of things including Mental Health awareness, the role of the School SENCo and deciding a tag line for the Mascot.



KS1 Gym Trail

On the 26th September 2024, 8 children from KS1 took part in a gym trail event at Wickford Primary school along with children from 2 other schools.

The children took part in 15 different activities that focused on developing their movement and coordination skills. They all had lots of fun representing their school.



Girls 1st Football Festival

On the 1st October 2024, our 5/6 Girl's Football Team played in their 1st football tournament with 5 other Wickford Schools as part of the School Games Programme.

With only 4 weeks training the girls all played really well, as for some this was their first time playing football. They were unfortunate not to win any of their games but there was an improvement in each match as they learned how to play in their positions and were not deterred by the rain.

They will now continue with their training to prepare for the second round in March 2025.

Thank you to former pupils Cameron and Gracie who came along and refereed as without them the games wouldn't have been played. Thank you also to the parents for their support in transporting the children and cheering them on and to Wickford Town FC for coaching the girls and providing the venue.



Boy's Football Tournament



On the 3rd October 2024, our 5/6 Boy's Football Team played in their 1st football tournament with 5 other Wickford Schools as part of the School Games Programme.

In contrast to the girl's tournament earlier in the week, the boys were lucky to have the sun out for the occasion.

The boys had some very close games and finished in 5th place overall. This is the first of 3 rounds and the points will now go forward to the future tournaments. The boys had lots of chances in their games and will now be focusing their training on how to progress this further.

Thank you to the family members for their support in transporting the children and cheering them on and to Wickford Town FC for coaching the boys and providing the venue.



TEAM CAPTAIN



I have been so impressed by the standard of applications I have received from children who would like to take on the role of House Captain. I'd love to receive some more applications from children in Green and Blue Team, applications need to be received by next **Friday 11th October 2024.**

LET'S CELEBRATE!

Starring
MAE BURNS

SNOW WHITE

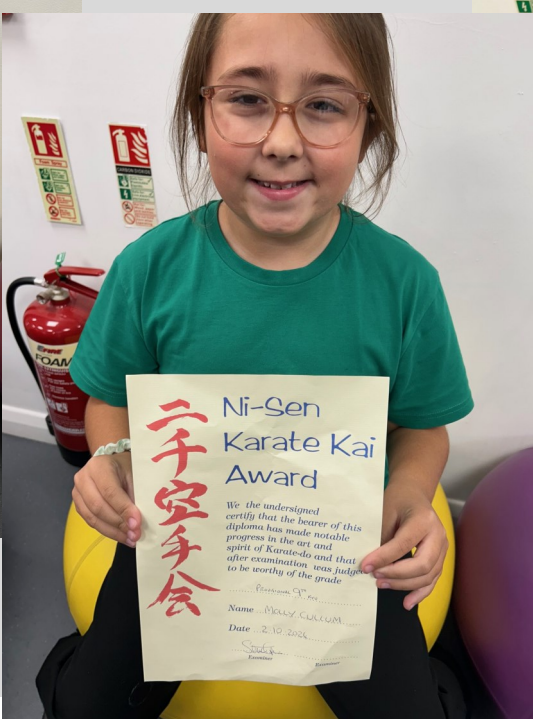
A Wickedly Fun Family Pantomime

**4 DECEMBER 2024 -
5 JANUARY 2025**

Thameside Theatre, Orsett Road, Grays, RM17 5DX
Box Office: 0345 300 5264 | thurrock.gov.uk/theatre

Well done to Mae who will be performing at the Thameside Theatre during the Christmas period in the Pantomime of Snow White.

Well done to Kacey, George and Mollie for their achievements in Majorettes, football and Karate.





On Thursday 10th October 2024,

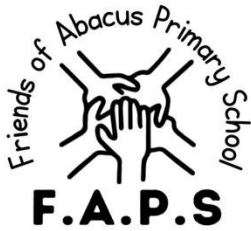
We will be taking part in Mental Health Day. Mrs Smith, our PSHE leader, is busy planning activities for the children. As this event is sponsored by the Young Minds charity, children are invited to wear yellow. This can just be their school T-shirt or yellow PE T-shirt. Cut and copy the link for more information on this charity and why they organise this event: <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/support-us/fundraising/helloyellow/>

[support-us/fundraising/helloyellow/](https://www.youngminds.org.uk/support-us/fundraising/helloyellow/)

Wednesday 9th October 2024

On Wednesday 9th October at 9am we invite Year 4 parents to come in for a meeting to talk about the residential which will take place in May 2025. The meeting will take place in the large hall and should be no longer than 20-30 minutes.





THE SOUTHEND SORCERERS SOCIETY



SCAN FOR TICKETS



**SATURDAY
OCTOBER 19TH
7PM- 9:30PM**

doors open
at 6:15pm **£8PP**

SUITABLE FOR SCHOOL AGE +

OR VISIT

www.pta-events.co.uk/faps-abacus

Back by popular demand, The Southend Sorcerer's Society will be performing an evening of magic for us - the first half will be close-up table magic, with some stage magic in the second half, after the short interval. This is family event, so school-aged children are more than welcome.

Join us in the School's Large Hall - doors open at 6.15pm. Please arrive in advance of the show start time of 7pm. The evening will end at 9.30pm.

Tables will be set up for groups of 8-10, so you may be asked to sit with other families. Please bring your own drinks and nibbles.

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

Tickets cost £8 and are available from www.pta-events.co.uk/faps-abacus - when completing the booking, you'll be asked for each ticket holder's name, but this is optional, so please feel free to skip to the payment page.

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



NEW INTAKE SCHOOL TOURS

Our school is holding tours for prospective parents on the following dates:

TUESDAY 5TH NOVEMBER 2024

THURSDAY 28TH NOVEMBER 2024

WEDNESDAY 8TH JANUARY 2025

We are holding 3 sessions on each of the November dates: 9.30am, 10.45am & 1.30pm and

2 sessions on the January date: 9.30am & 1.30pm

The tours will last for approximately 45 minutes and begin with a presentation sharing key information about our school, followed by a tour led by our “experts” in Year 6.

Please contact our school office on 01268 571018 to book a tour.

Tours are by appointment only

We look forward to meeting you all!

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about IN-GAME CHAT

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Video games are continuing to grow in popularity – including, of course, among children and young people – and the emergence of gaming communities has been accelerated by the inclusion of chat functionality across many different titles. While in-game chat isn't inherently a bad thing, it can create some concerns about online safety and the people that children might be interacting with.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF CHAT

There are a number of ways that gamers commonly chat with one another online. As the name would suggest, in-game chat happens within the game itself. There's also party chat: a group voice conversation that console users can have with anyone on the same platform. This tends to be more commonly used by players who already know each other. Finally, many gamers – especially on PC – will chat via a third-party app such as Discord.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Whether it's text- or voice-based, in-game chat is frequently open to all players to use. Many games default to making it an opt-in function, but some don't: meaning a child could start seeing messages within the game from people they're playing with, regardless of whether they know those individuals or not. While most strangers won't necessarily have ill intent, there are some who may behave inappropriately when chatting to a child – intentionally or otherwise.

DANGER OF GROOMING

It's been reported that some young gamers have encountered older players online who pretend to be a lower age to manipulate children, sending gifts in exchange for chatting and sending photos. Just as on any messaging platform, it's good to advise young people to avoid speaking to strangers; emphasise that they shouldn't accept gifts from anyone online that they don't know.

BULLYING AND ABUSE

While some in-game chat can turn toxic because of how a match plays out, others turn that way because of people who engage in trolling – in essence, behaving in an offensive and abusive way simply to cause pain or get a rise out of whoever they're talking to. These 'trolls' often lean on racial slurs, anti-LGBT sentiment and other hateful rhetoric; they normally feel most confident preying on younger, more impressionable gamers.

POTENTIAL FOR PRIVATE CHAT

If a player would like a re-match with a stranger after meeting them in the game, they can send a friend request, or use the party chat together in the future. For the most part, this is harmless – but it might lead to messages being exchanged in private. This could then escalate to the sharing of private information, and potentially attempts to manipulate or scam younger players.

COMPETITIVE ATMOSPHERE

Certain games are very competitive, and players can sometimes get upset if they feel a teammate is underperforming, an opponent won unfairly, or they're just a bad loser. This can lead to unpleasant messages that stray away from playful 'trash talk' and wander into the territory of bullying. Some players have been known to get incredibly abusive in situations like this, and the impact of this on a young gamer's emotional wellbeing could be severe.

Advice for Parents & Educators

LOCK-DOWN IN-GAME CHAT

In-game chat can often be disabled in the game's settings. This allows children to play without risk of contact from strangers – but it will need to be done in each individual game. Text chat appears in the corner of the screen in many titles, so it's normally easy to take a quick glance and see what's being said. With voice chat, explain to children what behaviour is inappropriate, so they can spot the dangers themselves.

REPORT POTENTIAL OFFENDERS

Most games offer a robust means of reporting other players, so you can flag an account as potentially harmful. This normally leads to the account not being matched with yours in the future and, if that person's conduct breaks any of the game's rules, they may be banned from playing entirely. This is done within the game itself, so each title has a slightly different process, but these tend to be designed for simplicity.

CONSIDER OTHER CHAT OPTIONS

If a child wants to play with people they know, consider using party chat or a third-party service like Discord. This allows everyone involved to chat on a private server and even enjoy each other's company while playing different games. It's also far more secure, as anyone looking to join will need to request and be granted access – normally by whoever is hosting the chat.

COMMUNICATION IS KEY

Make sure children understand the differences between being competitive and being abusive. Talk about what constitutes unusual or inappropriate behaviour from strangers online. Be clear that if anything ever concerns or worries them, they should tell a trusted adult as soon as possible. Empower children to identify the risks of in-game chat for themselves and reassure them they won't get in trouble for seeking help if anything goes wrong.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Editor in Chief of GGRcon and has been working in the games media industry for five years. He's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his work has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at nationalcollege.com/guides/in-game-chat