

Abacus Primary School



Newsletter 529

17/5/24



Well done!



We could not be more proud of each and every member of Year 6 for the positive attitudes they all showed when completing their SAT's tests this week. Thank you to the Year 6 team for all their efforts in preparing the children and making the week so much fun either side of the tests, including a trip to the park today. Also to the office and Mrs Pasqua (Catering Manager) for all the efforts and organisation behind the scenes with the SATS breakfasts.



Next week we are on Week 1 of our revised menu.
Which you can view on our website:

<https://www.abacusprimaryschool.co.uk/school-meals>

LET'S CELEBRATE!



Well
DONE!

Well done to Oliver, Ava,
George, Mason, Annabelle and
Eliza for their achievements
outside of school this week.



Pink



Blue



Red



Orange



Yellow



Turquoise



Lilac

**Dress in bright colours
& donate a prize for
your class hamper**

On

Friday 14th June

Rainbow Raffle

**Be
Creative**

**Prize for
the best
class effort**

**We are asking all children to donate
prizes of their class colour**

Green



Black



White



Teal



Purple



Gold



Silver





Essex County Council

Basildon Council
BASILDON • BILLERICAY • WICKFORD



BOOK ONTO A HALF TERM ACTIVITY CLUB WITH ESSEX ACTIVATE!

Children and young people are invited to book onto fun-filled half term holiday clubs and enjoy free activities run by locally trusted club organisations across Essex, brought to you by Active Essex on behalf of Essex County Council!

IS MY CHILD ELIGIBLE?

Essex ActivAte offer free, club spaces to primary and secondary school aged children who are eligible or receive pupil premium, benefit based free school meals or income-related benefits, also children who may be vulnerable to inactivity or social isolation. Clubs may offer discretionary paid places and paid for places, so there is something for everyone at an Essex ActivAte club!

WHERE WILL THE CLUBS BE RUN?

Clubs will run in Braintree, Basildon, Brentwood, Castle Point, Chelmsford, Colchester, Epping, Harlow, Maldon, Rochford, Tendring and Uttlesford! Due to half term programmes being solely funded by Essex County Council, unfortunately there will not be any clubs running in Thurrock.

WHAT DO THE CLUBS PROVIDE?

Clubs offer different engaging activities such as sports and games, crafts, colouring, dance, baking and more! They also provide nutritious meals and snacks, as well as food education, helping to engage young people and support parents during the half term holidays. Specialist SEND, mental wellbeing and youth clubs will also be available to book onto, offering further support for children.

HOW DO I BOOK ONTO A CLUB?

You will not receive or book on with your HolidayActivities voucher code for half term holiday clubs. To book onto a local club, head over to the Essex ActivAte website, find the area that you live in and book on with the link, email or contact number provided by the club organisation directly.

[Find out more about Essex ActivAte half term holiday clubs and book here.](#)





ASD /ADHD

Parent workshops / support program

To be held at **The MegaCentre, Brook Road, Rayleigh SS6 7UT**
10-12 unless stated in session

Booking essential – please email epunft.Lighthouse.adhd@nhs.net or
epunft.Lighthouse.ASD@nhs.net

- 15/05/24 Week 1** To be attended by all parents wishing to complete the course – handouts and register for the following sessions face to face **10-11**
- 22/05/24 Week 2** What is ASD, what is ADHD – **Face to Face 10-12**
- 29/05/24 Week 3** Zones of regulation – covering how to manage those meltdowns **face to face 10-12**
- 05/06/24 Week 4** Sleep virtual session 10-12 **link to be sent**
- 12/06/24 Week 5** Restrictive feeding in children **Face to face 10-12**
- 19/06/24 Week 6** Sensory issues – Lead by Lighthouse Occupational Therapist **face to face 10-12**
- 26/06/24 Week 7** Practical advice – EHCP, routines, house rules, clear instructions, diet and exercise SN service also present H4L Programme **face to face 10-12**
- 03/07/24 Week 8** Toileting – Lead by the continence team – **virtual session (Link to be sent)**
- 11/07/24 Week 9** Anxiety joint with CAMHS/Jigsaws team **face to face 10-12**
- 17/07/24 Week 10** Preparing for adulthood/ transitions the ready steady **go over 11s**
Only, preparing for school holidays – face to face 10-12
- 24/07/24 Week 11 & week 12** Groups that can support – helpful agencies
Session evaluation / completion - life after diagnosis **face to face 10-12**

Summer Bounce



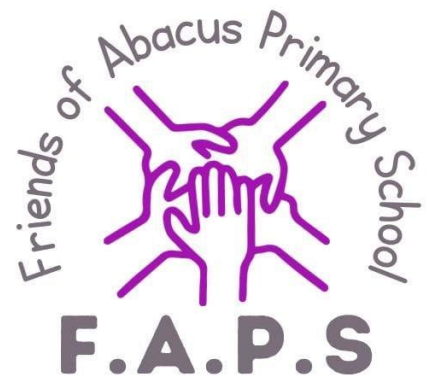
FAPS are busy organising the Summer fete which is taking place on Friday 28th June 2024. If you are happy to have a Temme English board at your home advertising the event please send an email to FAPS@abacus.essex.sch.uk by 31st May 2024.

Don't forget that you can buy Adventure Island wristbands for £15 each Friday after school in the foyer area.



We are very excited that we will soon have our own clothes and shoes recycling bin on site.

In here you can recycle all types of clothing, accessories and household fabrics, including shoes, bags, belts, hats, gloves, bed linen, towels and sleeping bags are accepted.



Our Curriculum



<p>Early Years FOUNDATION Stage</p>	<p>Have you heard of Elmer the elephant? We have been enjoying Elmer stories and we drew our own story map. We have enjoyed recapping lots of tricky words and writing them too. We have enjoyed trying a new sport in PE- it was hurdles. Ask us what we had to do. We had lots of fun in Maths - trying to put the numbers in the right order Ask us what comes before 4 or what comes after 6. We are very confident with this. We held our 'Abacus Has Got Talent' auditions and had a party to celebrate with Mrs Penfold as she said goodbye.</p>
<p>Year 1</p>	<p>This week was all about Sam's Sandwich, a very unusual sandwich indeed. Ask us what was different about Sam's sandwich. We used it to help us write some instructions making sure we used our punctuation correctly. In Maths we started to look at larger two-digit numbers. In Art we used all of the drawing skills learnt this term to create a collaborative piece of artwork. A little messy but fun! In Geography we learnt about the four compass points and had fun trying to think of our own little rhyme to remember them.</p>
<p>Year 2</p>	<p>This week in Turquoise Class we have been practising writing rhetorical questions and exclamation sentences in preparation for our independent persuasive text that we will begin next week. We have shared the book 'Oi, get off our train' to help us. In Spelling we have practised the spelling pattern 'or' which makes an 'er' sound. This can be found in words like; word, work and worm. We have also looked at the 'ar' spelling pattern that makes an 'or' sound such as war, warn and towards. Ask us if we know any others. In Maths we have been looking at unit and non unit fractions and also learning that $\frac{1}{2}$ is the same as $\frac{2}{4}$. In Art we have been exploring texture using paint.</p>
<p>Year 3</p>	<p>Another great week in Year 3! We have used the gue and que spellings to write words ending in the /g/ and /q/ sounds (eg league, antique). We have been studying and planning non-chronological reports based on Gods and learning to use the present perfect tense in GPS. We have worked hard in Maths to solve problems based on time vocabulary (hours, days, months, years), using AM and PM and reading the time to the minute, and planned an experiment in Science to see if different types of drinks affect the way a plant grows. We have also enjoyed learning how to ask for the number of scoops and flavours of ice cream we would like in French. Why not do a little role play at home when serving dessert?</p>
<p>Year 4</p>	<p>English: We have been working on our 'Suspense Tale' - Escape to Pompeii. We have been making sure we include apostrophes for possession. We have been writing our own version of the story. Maths: Money, money, money! We've been estimating amounts, working out written problems and working out the money questions mentally. Science: Looking at food chains, re-capping and progressing the learning from Year 2. We've also had our first round of 'Abacus Has Got Talent'. The votes are in!</p>
<p>Year 5</p>	<p>This week Year 5 are writing a battle scene in English based on our class book 'Anglo Saxon Boy'. The children have thoroughly enjoyed this book. In Maths we have been learning about perimeter and area of rectilinear shapes and relating this to real life examples. In History we are looking at the hierarchy system in Anglo Saxon times and how this is fixed. We have also been busy preparing for our performance next week, which we hope you'll love!</p>
<p>Year 6</p>	<p>Well done to Year 6 for a fantastic week! You really impressed us with your resilience and perseverance when tackling the tests and have made us all very proud! As well as SATs, we have had fun playing some revision games on Blooket and have started a DT project: making cushions for our chairs at school. We have learned how to do running stitch and backstitch as well as how to applique decoration and attach zips. We celebrated the end of the week with a trip to Wickford Memorial Park where we all had a great time. Enjoy a well-deserved rest everybody (staff included)!</p>

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about HELLDIVERS 2



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Within weeks of release, Helldivers 2 had become one of 2024's biggest gaming success stories. The sequel to a top-down shooter from 2015 has smashed sales expectations, owing to its frantic gameplay and tongue-in-cheek humour. However, the game comes with several risks to younger players, as indicated by its 18+ rating.

PEGI 18 RATING



Due to its intense violence and the presence of in-game purchases, Helldivers 2 carries a PEGI 18 rating. While players are generally fighting fantastical enemies like giant bugs and robots, their characters can be killed in various gruesome ways, up to and including dismemberment. It's certainly worth considering whether such a game is appropriate for younger players.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

In Helldivers 2, players can use real money to buy in-game currency, with which they can unlock cosmetics and new weapons. At the time of writing, all the in-game items can be acquired without spending so much as a penny – but excited young players wanting to keep up with their friends may still feel the temptation to purchase new weapons more quickly, rather than laboriously earning the in-game currency through play.

VOICE CHAT AND MESSAGING

Helldivers 2 is always played online with others, who often use voice chat or in-game texts to coordinate, strategise or just joke around. This does mean that children who play without their friends will be put in contact with strangers. Unfortunately, this represents a roll of the dice, as the game can't control how people treat each other online. However, you can easily report other players for abusive behaviour via the game's 'Social' tab.

FRUSTRATION TRIGGER

The thrill of barely scraping through a dangerous mission in one piece is integral to Helldivers 2's appeal. To accentuate this feeling of achievement, the game includes some very difficult levels that could prove to be too hard for some players – even those who are legitimately old enough to play. Losing streaks can be incredibly annoying, so repeatedly failing in missions could easily provoke frustration or anger in younger players.

LACK OF ACCESS



The game is available on PC and PS5, but not (as yet) on other consoles. Some people will naturally be disappointed they can't get involved and might look for similar alternatives to play on their own console – alternatives which may contain similar levels of violence and gore but lack the same balanced approach to user misconduct and in-game purchases as Helldivers 2.

Advice for Parents & Educators

GIVE IT A GO FIRST



Helldivers 2 is a third-person shooter with intentionally humorous elements, but much of its comedy is rooted in satire which may go over the heads of some players. Consider playing the game first yourself – while shooting bugs and robots feels too unrealistic to be upsetting, seeing your character get torn to pieces may be too much for young players.

SET EXPECTATIONS



At the time of writing, Helldivers 2 costs £34.99. It could turn out to be an expensive and wasteful purchase if a player gets irritated and gives up shortly after receiving the game. If a young person tends to become frustrated easily, it's worth considering whether Helldivers 2 is really the game for them.

CONSIDER ALTERNATIVES



If playing on Xbox – where Helldivers 2 isn't available – consider something like Halo: The Master Chief Collection as an alternative. One of its game modes – Firefight – replicates Helldivers' mechanics to some degree. Alternatively, younger players may be better suited to the more light-hearted Deep Rock Galactic, which sees them play as fantasy dwarves in space, involving far less gruesome violence.

KEEP AN EYE ON PAYMENTS



Many titles offer in-game purchases, but Helldivers 2's are comparatively cheap. You'll still need to monitor your payment information (or use a prepaid card on the account), in case your child buys the in-game currency in bulk; on the whole, however, the game's selling methods are far less egregious than most similar titles on the market.

MONITOR COMMUNICATION & ADJUST SETTINGS



Thanks to an in-game "Ping" system (allowing players to highlight important details without speaking), communication isn't as integral to Helldivers 2 as it is in other games. You can turn off the chat options in-game on PC, or on the PS5's own settings, and feel more secure in the knowledge that your child won't be speaking to people they don't know.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Editor in Chief of GGRecon, and has been working in the games media industry for five years. As well as being an avid long-time gamer, he is also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his work has been published on sites including IGN, TechRadar and many more.

