

Abacus Primary School

Newsletter 540

20/9/24



Thank you to all the parents and family members who have attended our welcome meetings so far this year. Our final meeting will take place on Thursday 10th October 2024 at 4pm via Zoom for our Foundation families. A link will be sent out nearer the time to all parents.

The presentations from the welcome meetings are all on our website and can be found in the News section on our website. We are really excited that we will be sharing classes curriculum experiences through Padlet this year. There will be weekly updates to keep you up to date with your children's learning. Log-in details were shared at the



welcome meetings and passwords will be texted out very soon. Please ensure that these details are not shared with anyone outside of our school community.



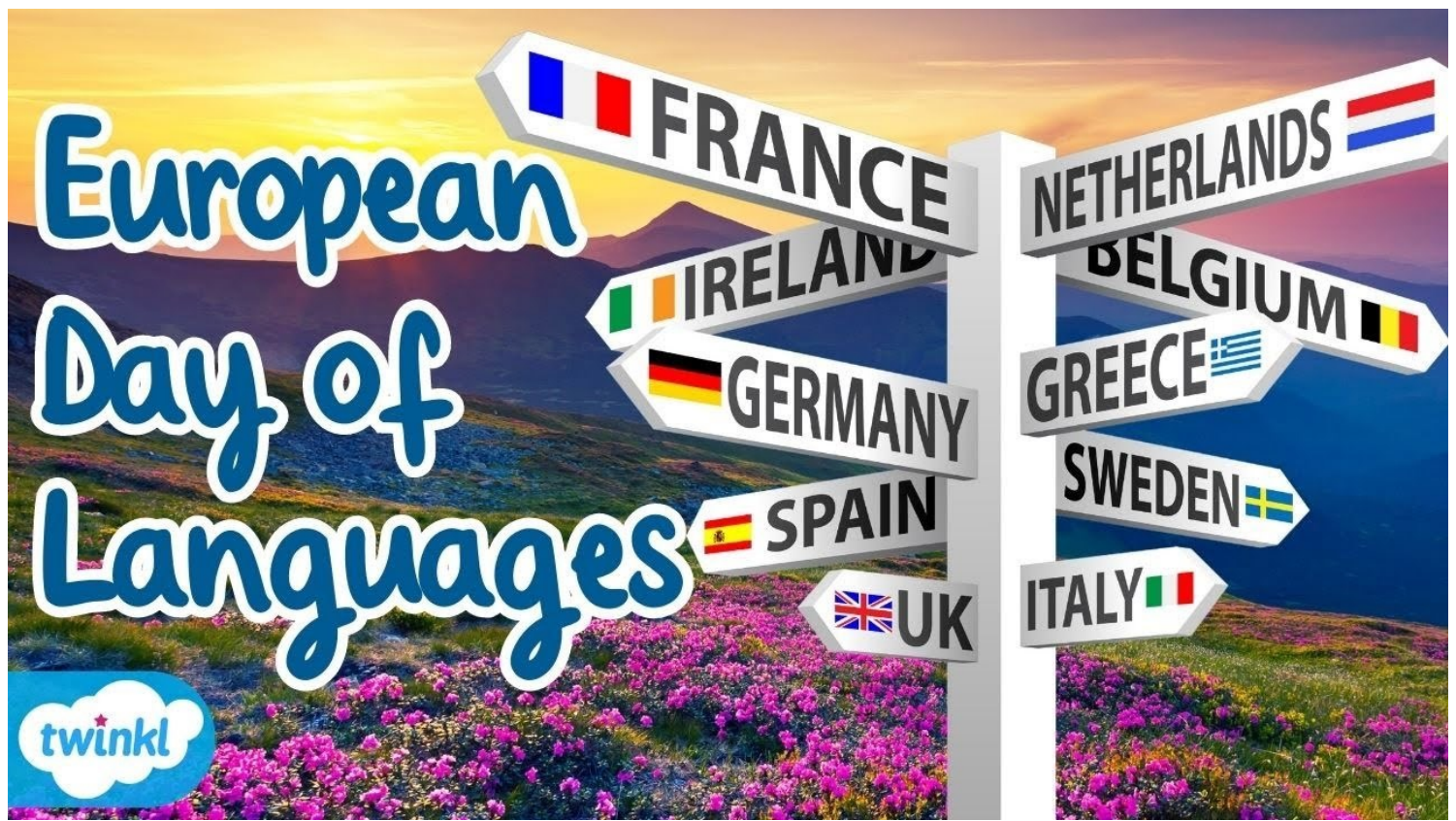
Please can we remind parents that we are a **nut free school to ensure all children are safe.** This includes food which contain nuts including pesto, chocolate spread and Cherry Bakewells.

Please can you ensure that you are checking ingredients of items in lunch boxes. This allergy is very serious.



Next week, we will be on **WEEK 3** of our school menu, which you can view on our website.

WEEK 3



Thursday 26th September 2024

Mrs Craske, our MFL leader, is busy planning activities for the children to take part in as part of the European Day of Languages. On Thursday 26th September 2024, we invite children to come to school in the colours of a European Flag (not football kits) This could be jeans and a white t-shirt to represent Greece or red, white and blue with a beret to represent France. The outfits can be as simple or creative as you like. We ask that children are able to talk about the country they have come dressed as and a house point will be awarded to anyone who can also share a fact about their country. If children do not wish to take part, then they will wear school uniform as usual.

We would also love for any children who speak an additional language or who originated from a different country to bring an item in to share with their class or teach their class some key phrases in a different language. I am sure the children will have a great time and we can't wait to share some photos with you on our newsletter next week.

LET'S CELEBRATE!



Well done to Kayla, Jorgie and Kieran for their achievements in gymnastic and football.

Physical Education

Please see below the days that each year group will be having their PE lessons this term. Children are to wear their PE clothes to school.

- Foundation - Weds
- Year 1 - Thurs & Fri
- Year 2 - Tues & Thurs
- Year 3 - Mon & Thurs
- Year 4 - Tues & Thurs
- Year 5 - Mon & Weds
- Year 6 - Tues & Fri



Could your child be entitled to a

FREE school meal?



Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)
- Children who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get free school meals.
- Your child may also get free school meals if you get any of these benefits and your child is both: younger than the compulsory age for starting school in full-time education.

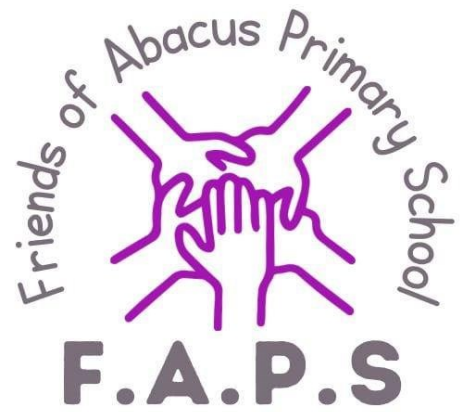
If you have any questions, please come to the school office .



Christmas Cards

During w/c 23/09/24, your children will have the opportunity to design their own Christmas Card!

These masterpieces will be created at school, and packs with the original design and an order form will be available from w/c 14th October.



Any orders MUST be made by 25th October for the school to benefit from the commission the print company pay.

Orders will then be arriving at school by the middle of November, to give plenty of time to send out to family and friends.

We hope the children will enjoy participating in this activity!



Fun Walk – 4th October 2024

This year, Abacus will be taking part in the John Baron 2km Fun Walk.

This is a sponsored event and the Fun Walk Trust will match fund what we raise from a bonus pot, through the support of local businesses.

Sponsor forms will be coming home next week and will also be uploaded to our website.

Each year group will be taking part throughout the day on 4th October by walking around the school block – Salcott Crescent, Mersea Crescent and Tresco Way.

Families are invited to join their children at their specific time, if they are able to (times TBC nearer the day.)

This will be a non-uniform day, and participants are asked to dress in bright colours.

Sponsor forms and money **MUST** be returned to school in the FAPS postbox in reception by 11th October at the latest, in order for us to apply for the bonus pot.

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!

**you scan,
we donate
££s TO
SCHOOLS.**



Asda Rewards Cashpot for Schools

[Cashpot for Schools Terms & Conditions](#) [Asda Rewards terms & Conditions](#)

1

Download and sign up to the Asda Rewards app

Opt into the Cashpot for Schools campaign and select a specific primary school or select 'Schools in Need'.

2

Shop in store across Asda and George, or online at Asda.com

Asda will donate a percentage of your shop to your chosen school each time you shop and scan.

3

Asda does the rest

The money raised will be donated through Parentkind to schools to spend on what they need most. This won't affect your own Cashpot earn.

Once opted in and selected a school, we will add £1 to your chosen schools Cashpot to help get them started.

Each school will get an additional £50 added to their Cashpot, after at least one customer has shopped and scanned their Rewards app.



Registering your school

A school, PTA or parent council can register on behalf of their school.

To register, they must sign up with our charity partner, Parentkind, via their [website](#). There is a free option for those unable to sign up for the yearly membership. If a school isn't registered by 30th November, the money earned will be transferred to the Schools in Need Cashpot, where it will be distributed to schools in disadvantaged areas.

**CASHPOT
FOR
SCHOOLS**



You may have seen Joe Wicks advertising the new Asda school scheme. You select Abacus Primary School on the Asda Rewards App and scan it every time you shop, Asda will then donate 0.5% of the value of your shop to our school.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about FINAL FANTASY XIV

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI
16

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

The video game Final Fantasy XIV launched in 2010, and, despite being critically panned, it saw an overhaul that has made it one of the biggest success stories in gaming. Its huge world, epic story and versatile combat system have continued to draw in new players, but there's a lot that trusted adults need to be aware of – not least the cost of paying monthly to play.

ALWAYS ONLINE

Final Fantasy XIV is an MMORPG, which stands for Massively Multiplayer Online Role-Playing Game. Much like World of Warcraft, players create a character in a chosen class and level up by completing quests to gain power and items. The game requires a constant internet connection, whether you're playing on PC, Mac, PlayStation or Xbox, and there's no option to play offline.

REGULAR EXPANSIONS

As with similar titles in the genre, players can purchase expansions to unlock additional content for the game. Those without the expansions will be locked out of certain new quests and activities, meaning that young people who play regularly will potentially have the next release earmarked on their calendar, ready to buy it as soon as possible.

IN-GAME PURCHASES & SUBSCRIPTION FEE

Users need to pay £8.99 per month to play Final Fantasy XIV, but there is a free trial. If someone stops paying, they'll lose access to their character (although they'll be able to pick up the payments again and resume where they left off). If a player forgets to cancel their payments, however, those subscription fees will continue rolling on automatically.

VOICE & TEXT CHAT

Final Fantasy XIV lets players send chat messages in-game or speak to each other over voice chat. On the one hand, that provides plenty of choice for how those enjoying the game can interact with their fellow fans. On the other hand, however, it's easier than in many games to receive unprompted messages from a stranger, with whom you constantly share your play space.

VIOLENCE

While Final Fantasy XIV has a fairly light tone throughout some of its quests, many involve killing enemies and sometimes even wild animals. The violence isn't especially strong – more comparable to a cartoon or anime style – but the act alone may make some children feel uncomfortable, if they're not yet able to separate fictional harm from the real kind.

POTENTIAL FOR ADDICTION

As with World of Warcraft, there's an element of addiction to Final Fantasy XIV. The gameplay loop can be quite engrossing, as minutes turn into hours and hours into days while playing alone or with friends. This can potentially lead to missing real-life events, a lack of interest in any activities not related to the game and procrastination around responsibilities like schoolwork.

Advice for Parents & Educators

MANAGE PLAYTIME

Playtime limits are a great way to counter the addictive qualities of games like Final Fantasy XIV. They allow you discuss why it's still important to enjoy things outside of gaming while still letting a child enjoy playing online with their friends when it makes sense to do so. It's all well and good to have fun with a game, so long as they're able to step away and reconnect with the real world.

MAKE USE OF THE FREE TRIAL

The Final Fantasy XIV free trial is a generous one, with no limits on how long someone can play until their character hits level 70. That's easily dozens of hours for a child to go through the game, complete quests, and see if they enjoy it before purchasing expansions or subscribing to a membership. They may well move on to something else before you need to spend so much as a penny.

PLAY TOGETHER

The free trial makes it extremely easy to jump into Final Fantasy XIV and play alongside a child, provided they're old enough. Not only does that help you ensure that settings are adjusted for their privacy and safety, but it may also end up becoming a bonding experience for you both and any other family members that want to try it out.

REMEMBER, IT'S A PEGI 16

Despite its often-relaxing nature, Final Fantasy XIV carries a PEGI 16 rating for violence and drugs (although the latter is due to a character smoking a pipe on occasion). There's minimal blood, but characters can attack enemies (and other players) with weapons and spells. Take a look at some gameplay videos to see if the content is appropriate for a younger player.

Meet Our Expert

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



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/final-fantasy-14>