

# Abacus Primary School

## Newsletter 401

### 26/3/21



As we come to the end of the Spring term it's wonderful to finish this term with a full school. Thank you all for your ongoing support in what is still a challenging time for so many. We continue to be proud of the children, their enthusiasm for learning and acceptance of the current changes in school, but they're ready for a break now! I'd also like to thank all the staff here at Abacus, who continue to go above and beyond and try their best– Thank you.

After the Easter break and up until the May half term break, class teachers will be contacting you to make an appointment for parents evening. Due to the current restrictions these will be taking place on Zoom and will provide an opportunity to celebrate your children's achievements and also discuss any areas for development and ways that you can support at home.



I appreciate that this is a different way of carrying out parents evenings, but we are getting good at trying new ways of working now and we have heard very positive feedback from parents and staff following their secondary children's parents evenings. We have used Zoom very successfully throughout the whole pandemic and lockdown closure periods to support parent meetings and SEN annual reviews, so we are confident that they will work just as successfully for these meetings.



We'd like to take this opportunity of wishing you all a wonderful Easter break with your children and we look forward to seeing you all back on Monday 12th April 2021.

Let's hope that the weather reports are correct and we can enjoy some warmer, brighter weather.



**After Easter, we will be on Week 1 of our new menu**





Thank you for all your  
Donations, as a school we raised:

**£312.50**

Here are the winners of the Sports Ambassador's Red Nose  
Challenge:

Foundation: Pink Class, Year 1: Orange Class, Year 2: Tur-  
quoise Class, Year 3: Green Class, Year 4: Black Class and  
Years 5/6: Gold Class



26/3/21

<b>Silver Class</b> 1st: Keira N 2nd: Mcrae K 3rd:	<b>Purple Class</b> 1st: Dollie-Mae W 2nd: Chloe S 3rd: Neev V	<b>Gold Class</b> 1st: Ava T 2nd: Peyton R 3rd:
<b>White Class</b> 1st: Ethan L 2nd: Charlotte N 3rd: Harley B	<b>Black Class</b> 1st: Erin E 2nd: Chloe L 3rd: Grace S	<b>Green Class</b> 1st: Jack P 2nd: Adriana K 3rd:
<b>Lilac Class</b> 1st: Henry J 2nd: Darcey S 3rd: Bobbee B	Well done to everyone. The top child in each class will be entered into a draw which will be drawn at the end of term.	



Our Reading Ambassadors met this week to feed back on "The Book of the Month" project. All children reported that their classes were excited to receive their new book each month and that children were chosen to read it in lots of different ways, for example by having read the most words, for achieving 100% on a quiz or by names being chosen out of a hat.

We also agreed to promote the Easter Bingo Challenge in our classes to raise money for our new book vending machine!



# Rainbows



Come along to our friendly and relaxed virtual peer support group for families of children with SEND or whom are currently awaiting for SEND diagnosis.

Throughout the session you can share experiences, gain support, ideas and information from practitioners and external service with variety of SEND knowledge

Support offered for parents of children of all ages.

## When:

**Starting Friday 16<sup>th</sup> April  
1:00pm -2:00pm**

## To Book:

Please contact **0300 247 0013** to book a place and receive login details for the session.

Please could you provide us with your email address to enable us to send you the invites.

Services commissioned by:



# CHALLENGE 101

www.teambedsandluton.co.uk  
April 2021

This time last year Sir Captain Tom Moore began his challenge to walk 100 lengths of his garden before his 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

Not only did he achieve this but he captured people's hearts across the world and raised more than £32 million for the NHS.

## NOW ITS YOUR TURN!

Sir Captain Tom Moore would have celebrated his 101<sup>st</sup> birthday on the 30<sup>th</sup> April. To honour his memory, we invite you to take part in our 101 Challenge.

## HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

You can choose any of the challenges below or even create your own!

### COMMUNITY CHALLENGES

Collect 101 pieces of litter  
Carry out 101 Good Deeds  
Make 101 people smile

### PHYSICAL CHALLENGES

101 Exercises such as star jumps  
101 km walk, run or cycle  
101 of a skill such as keepy uppies

### CREATIVE CHALLENGES

Build something with 101 Lego Bricks  
Write a poem or story with 101 words  
Write a '101 themed' sea shanty.

Show us your challenges  
@BedsSchoolGames  
#Challenge101

## GOOD LUCK!

We Need Your Help



**JUST A REMINDER**

You should all have received a Reading Bingo challenge and sponsor form this week—more are available from the

office if needed. We would love to be able to purchase a Reading Book Vending Machine to enhance our reading rewards across the school. Sponsor forms and money need to be returned to school **by Friday 16th April 2021.**

# Reading Bingo Challenge

Read to a pet or stuffed animal	Read on your bed	Read to a family member	Read a new book
Read for 20 minutes	Read a prize-winning book	Read a book with a red cover	Read a graphic novel
Read a poem	Read about a historical event	Read the first book of a series	Read a fairy-tale
Listen to an audio story	Read a book that is also a movie/TV series	Read a non-fiction book	Read in bed
Read a recipe	Re-read a book you enjoy	Read outside	FREE CHOICE!



# Young Artists' Summer Show

<https://youngartists.royalacademy.org.uk/>



**The Mighty Yaris**  
Daniel, Year 2



**Portrait in Cool Colours**  
Gwif, Year 1



**Phew! We Can Still Get Trains in Lockdown!**

July, Year 6



**Elements**  
Oscar, Year 6



**Mrs Obi**  
Jemima, Year 6

You will be interested to know that the Royal Academy of Arts is inviting children to submit work for their Young Artists' Summer Show 2021.

It is a free exhibition for young artists. The art work you can see on this page were all prize winning entries from 2020 - think you can top this? Of course you can! Grab your pen, pencil, brush, cardboard, glue or whatever takes your fancy - throw in a ton of imagination and bring that beauty in your mind out into the world. I can't wait to see what you create!

Parents/guardians can submit their children's artwork directly to the Royal Academy **by 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021**. You will need to click on this link

<https://youngartists.royalacademy.org.uk/submissions/1> to register, using the 'Parent/Guardian' option.

You may submit **up to 3 artworks** and/or images plus some information about the piece such as title, size, and a little text about the artwork and why you made it. Any medium, or a combination of media, may be used: drawing, painting, sculpture, photography, installation and video. There is no theme, so work can be on any subject.

The work needs to be photographed in order to be submitted. These photographs are viewed and judged by a panel of artists and art professionals. When the judges make their selections, they choose which artworks will be shown online and which will be displayed at the Royal Academy.

Everyone who submits artworks will hear from the Royal Academy by the end of May.

Terms and Conditions of entry and guidance on how to photograph your work can be found here <https://youngartists.royalacademy.org.uk/get-involved>.

Good luck!

Please also do share your wonderful artwork on our Abacus Primary School Virtual Art Gallery

[https://padlet.com/abacus\\_primary\\_school/eawq4vpysrzmflw](https://padlet.com/abacus_primary_school/eawq4vpysrzmflw).





# Spotlight on our Curriculum



It is Easter this week in Foundation with Easter Maths, Easter cards and a very egg-citing Easter egg hunt in the playground! We are very proud of how hard the children have been working since they returned to school and wish you all a lovely and well deserved Easter break!



It might be the last week of term, but we are still working hard and learning lots in Year 1. In English we focused on adjectives and verbs and in Maths we learnt about doubling and grouping. Science was fun too as we went on a hunt for wild plants to practise using our observation and recording skills.



In Year 2 this week we have been continuing to learn about the properties of 3D shapes including the faces, edges and vertices. We reflected on the past year on Tuesday which marked the anniversary of the first lockdown and wrote a recount/memories of our year. We have also been sewing eggs as part of DT.



In Science, we have been exploring magnets and the force friction. We worked scientifically to set up investigations and recorded our findings in a table. In Computing, we have been learning how to use Scratch, coding software, to create a scene with moving sprites based around space. In Geography, we learnt about the water cycle and the key vocabulary used at each stage.



This week in Year 4 we have been continuing with our Book 'The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane. In Maths, we are continuing to look at fractions. We are finishing our Science unit on Sound this week and ending it by looking at pitch through making panpipes. We have also come to the end of our topic on Wickford. We have learnt some really interesting information about Wickford and have been able to learn about different sources and their reliability. Our map skills have really grown this term by looking at historical and up to date maps of the local area. Our Wickford topic has also allowed us to investigate the changes that have occurred within Wickford across the years. Did you know that Wickford is noted in the Domesday Book! We have been working really hard at home and at school and are looking forward to a lovely Easter Holiday.



This week we have finished our moving toys which look fantastic - we are very proud of what we have achieved! In Art, we created our own pieces inspired by L.S. Lowry and the matchstick people designs. In English, we wrote our own speeches about things we feel passionate about and delivered them to the rest of the class. On Thursday, we had an RE day where we heard 'witness accounts' from people in the Easter story and debated the motion: Jesus is God. Well done to everyone in Year 5/6 for all their hard work over the past few weeks. Enjoy a relaxing break!





9+

## Intimidating Interactions

## Online Bullying

### Questionable Connections

### Violent or Scary Themes

**Sexual Content**

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### Junior Accounts

Junior users can't send or receive audio and private messages, or create their own room. Anybody under 13 is required to have a junior account, and those accounts are linked to (and moderated by) a parent or guardian account. To create one, start a new game of Rec Room, go to "Create an Account" and follow the instructions. Be sure to explain the restrictions to your children before letting them play.

### Block and Report

To help moderate problem users, select the player (click the right thumbstick on PS4, press 'T' on PC, point in VR, etc). The 'Comfort and Moderation' screen presents options including block, unblock, vote/kick and report. Players you block will not be allowed in the same room as you. The Rec Room website's code of conduct can help you decide whether a player has violated the terms and should be reported.

### Tailor the Experience

In the settings (within the "Watch Menu"), you can tweak individual parts of the Rec Room experience. Everything from muting other players' audio, muting your mic and tweaking voice pitch, through to selecting how close other players can get to you can be found here. This is ideal for people who prefer to avoid social interactions or simply want to enjoy the game without worrying about other players.

### Disable Payment Methods

Rec Room is free to download and play, but there are in-game purchases – items like cosmetics and costumes – that users pay for with real money. If you have a card attached to any platform accounts (like a PlayStation or Steam account), be aware that children might therefore incur costs on these without meaning to. It's safest to unlink any payment methods before you download the game.

## Get Involved

As it's such a popular game, there are lots of content creators on YouTube and Twitch whose output focuses on Rec Room. Most of this content is tailored to a younger audience. Talking to your child about their favourite creators – and watching their videos together – is good way of opening a dialogue about your child's experiences in Rec Room and understanding which aspects of the game they enjoy.

## Meet Our Expert

Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for several years as a writer, editor and presenter. He is the gaming editor of two of the biggest gaming news sites in the world, UNILAD Gaming and GAMINGbible. Starting gaming from a young age with his siblings, he has a passion for understanding how games and tech work, but more importantly, how to make them safe and fun.



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Safety®**  
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[illegible]