

Abacus Primary School

Newsletter 408

28/5/21



As we reach the end of this half term, it's been wonderful to have a whole half term with children in school and some normality returning.

I'd like to personally thank our whole school community for their continued support. I'd also like to thank the whole team here at Abacus—office, kitchen, cleaners, support staff and teachers for their continued efforts and commitment to planning exciting opportunities for our children.

We have all enjoyed the lovely weather over the last couple of days and I never bore of seeing children enjoying the outdoors when the weather allows— let's hope the weather is on our side over the half term break.

We are all looking forward to our last whole school zoom assembly this afternoon, where residents from Silvana Court Residential home will be joining us to celebrate our stars of the week and secret class as well as all joining together in a singalong to 'You are my Sunshine'

Have a wonderful half term. Monday 7th June 2021 is an INSET day where teachers will be report writing and support staff will be attending training with Mrs Lewis looking at assessment and interventions.

Sadly, we said Goodbye and Good Luck to Mrs Bligh today. Mrs Bligh has worked in our school as a Learning Support Assistant for thirteen Years. We thank her for all that she has contributed to our school and wish her every happiness for the future.



After half term we will be on Week 2
of our Summer menu



House Points

			
			
	2238	2134	2048

TIMES TABLES ROCKSTARS

<p>Silver Class 1st: Keira N 2nd: Daniel C 3rd:</p>	<p>Purple Class 1st: Dollie Mae W 2nd: Neev V 3rd: Max G</p>	<p>Gold Class 1st: Peyton R 2nd: Michael B 3rd: George P</p>
<p>White Class 1st: Charlotte N 2nd: Ethan L 3rd: Harley B</p>	<p>Black Class 1st: Erin E 2nd: Chloe L 3rd: Daisy H</p>	<p>Green Class 1st: Annabella D 2nd: Charlotte S 3rd: Isabel R</p>
<p>Lilac Class 1st: Darcey S 2nd: Bobbee B 3rd: Henry J</p>	<p>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.</p>	

Joyful June 2021

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1 Decide to look for what's good every day this month	2 Say positive things in your conversations with others	3 Re-frame a worry and try to find a helpful way to think about it	4 Take a photo of something that brings you joy and share it	5 Think of 3 things you're grateful for and write them down	6 Get out into green space and feel the joy that nature brings	
7 Do something healthy which makes you feel good	8 Find joy in music: sing, play, dance, listen or share	9 Ask a friend what made them happy recently	10 Bring joy to others by doing something kind for them	11 Eat good food that makes you happy and really savour it	12 Write a gratitude letter to thank someone	13 Take a light-hearted approach. Choose to see the funny side
14 Share a happy memory with someone who means a lot to you	15 Look for something to be thankful for where you least expect it	16 Speak to others in a warm and friendly way	17 Take time to notice things that you find beautiful	18 Look for something good in a difficult situation	19 Get outside and find the joy in being active	20 Rediscover and enjoy a fun childhood activity
21 Send a positive note to a friend who needs encouragement	22 Watch something funny and enjoy how it feels to laugh	23 Create a playlist of uplifting songs to listen to	24 Bring to mind a favourite memory you feel grateful for	25 Show your appreciation to people who are helping others	26 Make time to do something playful, just for the fun of it	27 Be kind to you. Do something that brings you joy
28 Notice how positive emotions are contagious between people	29 Share a friendly smile with people you see today	30 Make a list of the joys in your life (and keep adding to it)				

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS **Happier · Kinder · Together**



Let's Celebrate!

A big well done to Mason O'Connor who received his Captain award, on the Ambassador programme, as part of his self defence class.





Crafty Katie Half term fun

All activities taking place at Abacus School
Suitable for boys and girls age 4 to 11yrs

Weds 2nd June – Craft and Fun

Mystical Creatures – Unicorns and Fairies, Mermaids
Dragons and Trolls – A fun themed craft session with all of
our favorite things including a creative story games session.
10am to 3pm - £20. 9am to 3pm -£23

Friday 4th June – Festival of Fun Day

10am to 3pm - £20 9am to 3pm -£23

Inflatables-Craft Zone-Dance Zone-
Crazy Golf-Games Zone- Music and More!
See separate flyer for more details.



To Book- Booking form required for track and trace purposes. Text or
call Katie on 07929 044959 or email to Craftykatie10@gmail.com to
request booking form. Multiples of 8 children allowed per booking
form, up to 2 forms per full group.(Christmas credit notes can be used)

CRAFTY KATIE'S
FESTIVAL OF FUN
FRIDAY 4TH JUNE
CELEBRATING 10YRS OF CRAFTY KATIE ACTIVITIES
10am to 3pm -£20 9am to 3pm - £23
Inflatable fun - craft zone - games zone- crazy golf-
dance zone - music & more
07929 044959 - GROUP BOOKINGS WELCOME
FOR BOOKING FORM EMAIL
CRAFTYKATIE10@GMAIL.COM
VENUE – ABACUS SCHOOL
silva island way - wickford
for ages 4 to 11 years
staff insured and dbs checked
packed lunch required

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There are a number of events that we have added to our school calendar which will be taking place this term. Some events will have to be run slightly differently this year and we will not be able to include parents as much as we would like, but we are trying our best to ensure children do not miss out. Following the success of our outdoor end of year events last year, we have planned these again for later this term— more details will follow.

You can find these events on our website:

<https://www.abacusprimaryschool.co.uk/term-dates>





Spotlight on our Curriculum

	<p>This week we have been busy making tangrams in Maths and we have enjoyed a lovely end to half term with an fun-filled colourful Elmer Day. This was a day to celebrate how wonderful we all are and we all particularly enjoyed our show and tell session.</p>
	<p>It might be the last week of this term but we have been busy as always in Year 1. In English we have learnt some more suffixes and practised using them in our sentences. Our teachers have also been asking us to always read our work back to check it makes sense. In Maths, we learnt to add coins together and finished off the week recapping some halving and doubling skills. In Art, we also learnt to use pastels in different ways... wonder if we could practise at home with crayons instead?</p>
	<p>This week in Year 2 we have written non chronological reports in English. We researched more Pirate facts and used our previous learning to write about Pirate weapons, food, ships and clothing. In Maths we have continued to work on time and Science has involved learning about food chains. We also completed our papier-mâché parrots.</p>
	<p>This is our last week working on telling the time in Maths. Throughout the day, why not ask your child what the time is in the morning, afternoon and evening? Can they convert the time to 24 hour digital time? We have been learning about the Jewish faith (Judaism) and how Passover is celebrated with a meal including a Passover Seder plate. Can your child tell you about the Seder plate and what each food symbolises?</p>
	<p>This week has been an exciting week for Year 4. It has been 'Activity Week'! At the beginning of the week, we created torches. Ask Year 4 pupils about what electrical components they know! They have all become experts. We then moved on to Roman food taste testing and Roman Day. Year 4 had lots to talk about after our virtual tour of Colchester Castle. Perhaps they can share their thoughts with you? To end the week, we had our very own ' Wat Tyler' day. This included, orienteering, team games, wildlife hunting, kite making and fire lighting. I think it is safe to say that Year 4 are looking forward to a rest next week after our busy week, but we have had a fantastic time.</p>
	<p>We are really proud of Year 6 who have taken their SATs tests this week. You have all worked so hard - well done! Year 5 have been doing lots of creative activities linked to 'A Series of Unfortunate Events' including creating stop motion animations, match-box memories and calligrams. We have also written our own versions of the next chapter following the end of the book. In Art, we used observational skills to sketch a reflection of half of an image whilst learning about endangered animals.</p>



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about



TEXTME



TextMe is a free texting and calling service. Users can send texts, voice messages, pictures and videos to any phone number in more than 40 countries. The app is free and available to install on any Apple or Android device. On registration, it assigns a 'new' mobile number to each user, effectively making them anonymous. TextMe is not recommended for children below 13 years old but there is currently no way to determine a user's actual age: children under 13 could easily bypass this age criteria since no verification is required to download the app.

Visible Location

Like many communications apps, TextMe has a feature which allows users to share their location with other people. This function presents a risk if children are not careful about who they share their whereabouts with. It would make it much easier, for instance, for online predators to establish roughly where a child lives and – even more dangerously – discover their current location.

Protection for Predators

Messages and phone calls using TextMe cannot be traced. Indeed, texts and calls made through the app do not even appear on an itemised phone bill. This means that not only can children communicate with other users without their parents knowing, but also if they were to be approached by a predator via the app, it would be difficult for even the authorities to establish the offender's identity.

Exposure to Advertising

Users can earn points on TextMe by watching adverts, completing surveys or playing games within the app. Points can then be exchanged for extra calling minutes or more messaging credits. The desire to accumulate points could result in children spending longer hours on the app and heighten their exposure to advertising content; some of which isn't always age appropriate such as dating websites and dieting products.

Anonymous Users

Users are allocated a 'new' phone number on joining TextMe, separate to any they might already have. This creates a potentially dangerous degree of anonymity, rendering it impossible to know exactly who your child is chatting with. The feature could facilitate online bullying, harassment or sexting, while some people are concerned that it essentially turns any device into a burner phone – often used in illegal activities.

In-App Purchases and Subscriptions

TextMe is free but does also offer a premium subscription service which removes adverts and unlocks extra calling minutes. The subscription renews automatically on expiry, potentially meaning a rolling charge. Additionally, there is a range of bundles available as in-app purchases for increased minutes and extra text credits, which children could easily purchase inadvertently.

Advice for Parents & Carers

Keep Locations Private

Try to help your child understand why using TextMe to share their location might not be safe. Even sending it to a genuine friend from their everyday life could be hazardous if they're in a group chat which also includes people they don't really know. In general, it's important to explain to your child that revealing their whereabouts to someone they have only spoken to online is never a good idea.

Set Spending Limits

Given that TextMe offers numerous options to buy extra minutes and text credits, or take out a premium subscription, it would be wise to set your child a spending limit in advance if you do decide to let them download the app. Alternatively, you could remove any payment methods that are linked to their device, so they cannot make in-app purchases – either deliberately or unintentionally.

Monitor Digital Wellbeing

TextMe actively encourages users to fill in surveys, play games and watch adverts to earn themselves more credit for calling and texting. This can easily result in children spending an unhealthy amount of time on the app. Should you allow your child to download TextMe, you might first want to establish restrictions on how long they can use it for each day.

Discuss Online Dangers

It may be wise to discourage children from downloading anonymous messaging apps given the lack of transparency. However, if you do feel that your child is mature enough to use TextMe, it's safest to talk to them about the possibility of predators contacting them through the service. Make sure they know to tell a trusted adult immediately if a stranger asks for personal details or invites them to meet offline.

Leave, Block and Report

If you discover that a young person is in a group TextMe chat that is making them uncomfortable, or they have been added to a group they do not want to be part of, encourage them to leave. There is an option to block any user who is sending them unwanted messages (swipe on that conversation, tap 'More' and then 'Block'), while any instances of harassment can also be reported via email.

Meet Our Expert

Parven Kaur is a social media expert and digital media consultant who is passionate about improving digital literacy for parents and children. She has extensive experience in the social media arena and is the founder of Kids N Clicks: a web resource that helps parents and children thrive in a digital world.



SOURCES: <http://go-textme/>, <http://www.textmeinc.com/>, https://textme-www-assets.s3.amazonaws.com/docs/privacy-policy/privacy_policy_v27.html, <https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/text-me-second-phone-number/id514485964>, https://textme.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/mobile_site/late, <https://hushed.com/reviews/textme-app-review/>



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