

28th February 2025



Abacus

NEWSLETTER

ESF Abacus Kindergarten



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents,

It has been lovely to see so many K1 parents coming to school this week to share their children's learning. We hope that it has given you insight into how they are doing in the classroom and what they are learning. We are looking forward to some follow-up discussions during your parent conferences next week.

Next week, we will have some students in some of the classes from KGV Y12 who are on work experience, so if your child talks about someone new in the class, it may be one of these.

I trust you will have a lovely weekend and we will see you next week.



Frances Hurley

Important Dates

Week of 3rd March	Parent teacher conferences- details emailed by class teams
Tuesday 4th March	Feedback and innovation zoom times available- see below
Thursday 6th March	Feedback and innovation zoom times available- see below
10th March	K2E HK Forest Adventures Trip- see Gateway eNotice
11th March	K2B HK Forest Adventures Trip- see Gateway eNotice
20th March	K1E HK Forest Adventures Trip- information coming soon
21st March	K1B HK Forest Adventures Trip
31st March	Vision screenings available- please see below
3rd April	Staff Meeting School Closes for Easter until 22nd April



Parent Teacher Conferences

The teachers are looking forward to meeting you over the next week or so for this term's conferences. These are an opportunity to find out more about your child's learning, strengths and goals at school. You will also be able to share your insights into how your child learns best and their next steps.

Please check the time that you have booked and where possible change your Zoom sign on name to your child's so the teachers know who to let in the call from the waiting room.

All classes run as normal next week as we cover the teachers' with a familiar supply teacher and Ms Anita helps out too.

For parents of the children in the English classes, please note that Zhang Lao Shi will run parent teacher conferences at the beginning of Term 3. Meanwhile, if you do have any specific questions about your child's learning in Mandarin that are not answered by the Moodle posts or learning journey please email her directly.



FEEDBACK AND INNOVATION ZOOM



We understand that some families have more opportunities to talk with Frances and Emily regularly than others, as not everyone can drop off or pick up their children from school. We are always happy to discuss and answer any questions about learning at Abacus, so please feel free to call or email us.

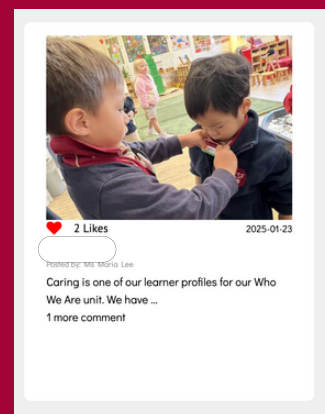
Next week, Frances and Emily will offer dedicated time on Zoom or in person for parents who would like to provide feedback or suggest ways to improve our practices at school.

Please use this link to schedule a time that works for you.

Frances- <https://calendar.app.google/8hhzBh5VMuBehLoi8>
Emily- <https://calendar.app.google/DYif1z7Ej1UAc9b58>

Have you checked the Moodle today?

You should all receive notifications when one of your child's teaching team posts on your child's ePortfolio or the Moodle as we call it at Abacus. The posts are a combination of group and individual updates about your child's learning. Teachers will also be notified if you comment on a post or like it which is a useful way of sharing that you are accessing the information and to add your insights into what is being seen in school.



You can also upload your own pictures and comments to share information about your child with the teachers. Just click "Add".



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THE POWER OF EARLY INTERVENTION

A reminder that this leaflet will provide you with essential information about how we support your child's unique learning journey at Abacus. By understanding our approach to personalised programs and early intervention, you can better navigate your child's developmental needs and discover how we can work together to empower their growth. We encourage you to read on to learn about the resources and support available to help your child thrive.

Early Intervention- information for parents



OUR AIMS AT ABACUS
At Abacus, we prioritise building strong relationships with child strengths. This helps us create personalised programmes tailor instead of weaknesses—areas where children are still developing expressively and stretches as construction zones, needing more. When assessing children's stretches, we consider their developing affect participation in our learning community. We value each diversity it brings.
Our teachers adapt learning experiences daily to meet individuals.

The importance of therapy

We offer screenings for various areas of development, including speech and occupational therapy to help identify children's learning stretches. These screenings are a private arrangement between families and parents. Teachers may recommend screenings if they notice challenges. Screenings provide valuable insights into your child's progress and how we can support their learning. If therapy is suggested, it's important to consider the recommendations. Early therapy can help create new neural pathways and teach vital skills. Delaying therapy may mean missing opportunities for growth.

Common questions from parents

My child speaks confidently at home. Why consider speech therapy?

If your child is a confident speaker at home, speech and language therapy can still be beneficial. It addresses various aspects of communication, including enhancing vocabulary, sentence structure, and understanding of complex language.

It helps with social communication and improves children's listening skills. It is also important to note that while you may understand everything that your child says that might not be the case at school. When we are familiar with someone's way of articulating or joining words together, we often fill in the gaps almost subconsciously. It is important that your child can communicate confidently at school to share their understanding and curiosities.

Why is occupational therapy recommended if my child excels in activities like swimming and building with Lego?

OT can help young children develop: Fine Motor Skills: Enhancing hand-eye coordination and dexterity which are an important part of early literacy. Sensory Processing: Supporting children in understanding and responding to sensory information, which can improve focus and behaviour. Self-Regulation: Teaching strategies to manage emotions and behaviours in different environments. Social Skills: Managing interactions with peers and improving communication skills. Daily Living Skills: Assisting with routines like dressing, eating, and personal hygiene.

For the team at Abacus the development of self-regulation and sensory processing skills is often a driver for the suggestion of occupational therapy. We recognise that things often look different at home but that because the demands placed on your child as a learner at school can be very different.



VISION SCREENINGS

Vision screenings will be run out of Abacus on 31st March. Please click on the image below to read the details and use the link to schedule your child a time if you choose to.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/vision-screening-at-esf-abacus-on-monday-31st-march-2025-registration-1243203608459?aff=oddtcreator>

Your child will be accompanied to the screening by a familiar member of the Abacus teaching team.



ESF EXPLORE UPDATES

6th January to 6 April, 2025

Kickstart Your New Year by enhancing skills and discovering new passions! From sports to languages, arts, playgroups, and STEM, our experienced educators are dedicated to fostering your child's language, physical, cognitive, and artistic growth, ensuring they gain the confidence and adaptability to face future challenges with ease. Enrol Now!

Check out the complete programme listings- <https://www.esfexplore.org.hk/events/term-2/>

OUR PUBLIC CALENDAR LINKS

If you would like to add our public Google calendar to your devices, the link is here.

Google Calendar Link:

https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=abacus.esf.org.hk_gkql7pdhhjpin03pg7cieg8ihg%40group.calendar.google.com&ctz=Asia%2FHong_Kong

Calendar ID: [abacus.esf.org.hk_gkql7pdhhjpin03pg7cieg8ihg@group.calendar.google.com](https://calendar.google.com/calendar/ical/abacus.esf.org.hk_gkql7pdhhjpin03pg7cieg8ihg%40group.calendar.google.com/public/basic.ics)

iCal link:

https://calendar.google.com/calendar/ical/abacus.esf.org.hk_gkql7pdhhjpin03pg7cieg8ihg%40group.calendar.google.com/public/basic.ics



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