

# NEWSLETTER

## ESF Abacus Kindergarten



### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents,

Emily and I will be at an ESF Leadership conference on Thursday and Friday this week so we are sending the newsletter out early.

Miss Josie will be the nominated person in charge whilst we are away. But we will be available by phone and email and able to return in the case of emergency.

We are aware that there are two potential typhoons on the way so we are sending the link for the weather arrangements to you again. We do follow EDB direction and have no say in whether face to face learning is suspended.

#### Weather Procedures

Finally I am excited to let you know that Ms Joey (K2 E EA) is expecting a baby early next year. She will be taking two terms off school to spend time with the new baby. We will be advertising for a maternity cover EA shortly and will keep you informed.

Kind Regards,

*Frances Hurley*

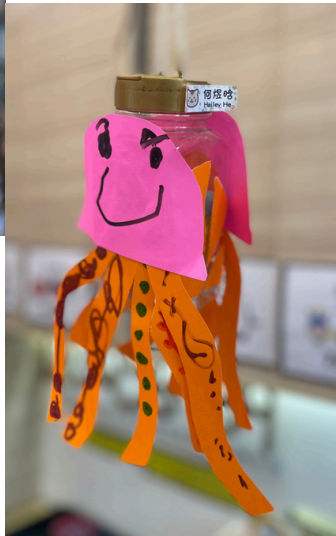


### Important Dates

22-26 Sep	K1 Parent Conferences
1 Oct	National Day Holiday
2 Oct	Mid Autumn Festival- lantern parade
3 Oct	CHANGE OF DATE- K2 Beach Trip
6-12 Oct	Half Term Holiday
13&14 Oct 13th Oct	Teacher Training School Closed Flu Vaccinations
20-24 Oct	K2 Parent Conferences
24 Oct	K1 Park trip- details coming soon.
29 Oct	Chung Yeung Festival Holiday
14 Nov	Sport's Day

Our public calendar link:

[https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=abacus.esf.org.hk\\_gkq17pdhhjpino3pg7cieg8ihg%40group.calendar.google.com&ctz=Asia%2FHong\\_Kong](https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=abacus.esf.org.hk_gkq17pdhhjpino3pg7cieg8ihg%40group.calendar.google.com&ctz=Asia%2FHong_Kong)



## Mid-Autumn Festival



We will be celebrating the Mid-Autumn festival on 2nd October now due to moving the beach trip because of poor weather next week. We will celebrate with a lantern parade for children around our playground. We invite parents to get creative with their children and make a homemade lantern from recycled materials. This is a great way to teach the children about recycling as well as spending some quality time being creative with your child. You can send the lanterns on any day in the week leading up to the 2nd Oct, and we will keep them in school until after the parade. Children can also dress up in traditional Chinese clothes or wear bright colours on this day. Here are some of the amazing lanterns made of recycled materials that have already come in.



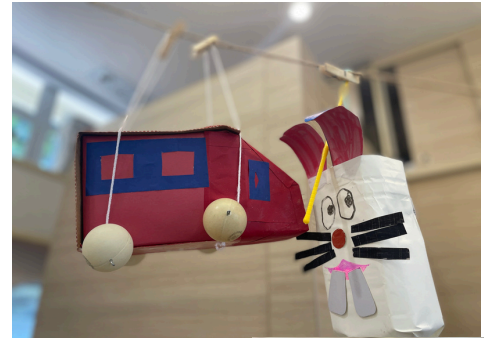
### Beach Trip - Date Change

We have been looking at the weather for the next two weeks and with two typhoons approaching it is looking very unlikely that the K2 Beach Trip will be able to go ahead on 26<sup>th</sup> September. In order to give working parents time to book time off we have decided to change the date early. The new date for the K2 beach trip will be.

### Friday 3rd October

This means that the Lantern Festival parade and dress up day will be moved to Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October for all children.

If you have any questions, please give us a call on 27195712 or email [kinder@abacus.edu.hk](mailto:kinder@abacus.edu.hk)



Tel: 27195712



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## Early Intervention

At Abacus, we strongly believe in the power of early intervention to help all children reach their full potential. During the upcoming K1 and K2 parent-teacher conferences, your child's teaching team may recommend screenings for speech, occupational therapy, hearing, or vision. We are fortunate to have a speech therapist and an occupational therapist on-site, which makes arranging these services easy at any point in the year.

Please read the linked information about the importance of early intervention and consider whether it could benefit your child.

In the FAQ section, we address the implications of your child receiving therapy and reassure you that this will never affect your child's placement in an ESF Primary school. In fact, the Year 1 teams are always pleased to hear that steps have been taken to support a child during these critical early years of brain development.



### THE IMPORTANCE OF EARLY INTERVENTION

ESF Abacus Kindergarten



#### OUR AIMS AT ABACUS

At Abacus, we prioritise building strong relationships with children to understand their interests and strengths. This helps us create personalised programmes tailored to their needs. We focus on "stretches" instead of weaknesses—areas where children are still developing. Think of stretches as smooth expressways and stretches as construction zones, needing more attention but showing growth potential. When assessing children's stretches, we consider their developmental appropriateness and how they affect participation in our learning community. We value each child's unique learning pace and the diversity it brings.

Our teachers adapt learning experiences daily to meet individual needs. Some support methods include:

- Modified resources
- Tools for better focus
- Flexible seating arrangements
- Small group support
- Visual aids and schedules

## Therapy services

At Abacus, we have three different types of therapy with early intervention sessions happening weekly. The Hong Kong government-run Watchdog service visits our school twice a week. Linsey Irvine from Sensory Tots provides occupational therapy twice a week, and June Charlton from Speech and Language Therapy and Consultancy Services visits once a week. Children who attend these therapy sessions benefit from a comfortable and familiar environment and conversations between teachers and therapists are prioritised. Click on the images for more information.

### Abacus Occupational Therapy Screenings

Dear Abacus Parents,

Sensory Tots Occupational Therapy Screening for K1 & K2 students

As part of a collaborative project between Abacus and Sensory Tots, Linsey Irvine is offering a screening service for K1 & K2 students. The aim of this service is to identify any students who would benefit from a full Occupational Therapy assessment and support.

Occupational therapy is a health profession that uses activities with specific goals to help people from all ages prevent, reduce or overcome effects of disabilities. The fundamental purpose of occupational therapy is the development and maintenance of a person's capacity, throughout life, to perform those tasks and roles essential to productive living, including self-care, daily living, leisure and work (Singapore Association of Occupational Therapy).

In summary:

- The Screen is to investigate a child's occupational performance in relation to school assessing gross and fine motor skills, pre-writing skills, sensory processing skills, play and attention
- It will take place when needed at Abacus Kindergarten
- Each child is seen by Linsey on their own for approximately 20-30 minutes
- A written summary report will be provided within 15 working days of the screening
- The report will be provided via your child's school bag/home diary
- Your attendance at the screen is not required.
- The fee for this screen is \$650 per child
- Cheques should be made payable to 'Sensory Tots'
- The results of the screen will be shared with Abacus staff
- To ensure your child has a screen appointment, please complete the attached background information & consent form to Linsey at Sensory Tots and return to school.

Please note a screen is not a replacement for a full Occupational Therapy assessment, but a tool to determine the necessity of a full assessment or the need for therapy.

Should you have any questions after receipt of the report you can contact Linsey via e mail or through Emily at Abacus.

Linsey Irvine  
Occupational Therapist

### What does a Speech and Language Therapist do?

Areas we cover	How we can help <small>This will depend on an individual's cognitive, language &amp; ability level</small>
Articulation (Saying Speech Sounds)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ improve clarity of speech</li> <li>✓ master new sounds &amp; use them in conversation</li> <li>✓ repair strategies when they are not understood</li> </ul>
Social Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ making &amp; keeping friends</li> <li>✓ starting conversations</li> <li>✓ sharing &amp; taking turns</li> <li>✓ problem-solving</li> <li>✓ working in a group</li> </ul>



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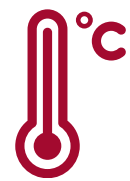


## Medical



### Flu Vaccinations

Thank you for returning all of your forms for the flu vaccinations. We have passed these on to the medical organisation who are providing the vaccinations and are waiting to hear back on timings. We will let you know as soon as we hear anything from them.



### Temperature Checks

You may have noticed that we are now taking the children's temperatures at arrival time. This is an EDB and CHP directive due to the approaching flu season. If a child's temperature is 37.5 degrees Celsius or above they will be asked to sit in the aircon in the admin office for 5 minutes to see if they cool off. Sometimes children arriving from a hot car or bus or who have been playing outside can be a little hot on arrival. If their temperature does not return to normal we will be calling you to pick them up.

We are also advised to remind you to check temperatures at home before sending your children to school please.

There should be no need to send children to school wearing masks, if they are sick enough to wear a mask please keep them at home until they are fully better or at least not contagious.



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