

17th October 2025

ESF
英基

Abacus

NEWSLETTER

ESF Abacus Kindergarten



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents,
Welcome back, we hope you had a restful break. Children seem to be settling back in on to school and many were really excited to be back. They have enjoyed celebrating Diwali today with their friends who celebrate this festival and we will share some pictures later on in the newsletter with you.

Obviously, the main news this week has been the temporary closure and relocation of the Abacus site to enable a refurbishment. We apologise for the inconvenience and the late notice. This has only come about so suddenly due to the insurance on the administrative buildings, which has prompted some future thinking.

Abacus will be returning to the Clearwater Bay area, either to a refurbished Abacus on its current site or a new facility. We are particularly keen to maintain the outdoor space.

Kind Regards,

Frances Hurley



Important Dates

20-24 Oct	K2 Parent Conferences
24 Oct	K1 Family trip- details via App message.
29 Oct	Chung Yeung Festival Holiday
31 Oct	Dress casual day to raise money for HK Community Chest
7 Nov	Last day for Box of Hope donations- see below.
14 Nov	Sport's Day
28 Nov	Hearing screenings- optional, info below.
11 Dec	Last day of term for the children
12 Dec	2 nd dose for flu vacciantions
21 Jan	Whole School Theatre trip to Gruffalo's Child- school closed

Our public calendar link: https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=abacus.esf.org.hk_gkqL7pdhjpino3pg7cieg8ihg%40group.calendar.google.com&ctz=Asia%2FHong_Kong



Just in case you missed the news - Facilities Changes

Just before the holiday, I wrote to you to inform you about some changes we are making at the school as a result of conversations with our insurers. Those changes have all been made, and the school is operating normally. Thank you for your patience and your understanding. We have relocated the libraries into the classrooms and have planned a regular rotation of books for children to share in class and take home. The new pantry can support cooking activities as usual, so very little will change for the children, except for a visit to the physical library space.

I also wanted to give you a further update on the future plans for Abacus. Abacus is in need of an upgrade to the facilities in the near future. This, in conjunction with the removal of the extra structures, necessitates that we begin considering a range of options for the school's future. To facilitate this, we will temporarily close the Abacus site at the end of June 2027 whilst we continue to investigate the range of options.

We appreciate that this is big news - and therefore I want to assure you that there will be no impact on any of our current students. Everyone currently at the school will be able to remain here until they have completed K2 and are ready to move on to the next step in their ESF journey.

To clarify, if your child is currently in K1, they will remain at Abacus for this year and next. The only change will be that we will not recruit any K1 students to join us at the current site in August. If your child is currently in K2, they will see out this year and move on to their chosen primary school.

ESF will be opening a new kindergarten in West Kowloon in August 2026, and this new school will temporarily have a direct transition to Year 1 at Clearwater Bay School. I appreciate that this new location may not be ideal for those of you with younger siblings who had planned on coming to Abacus in the future. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause. If you would like to discuss any of this further with me, please don't hesitate to get in touch. I am available to answer any questions I can. A separate email has been sent to parents who have applied to K1 outlining their options for next year.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Frances



Tel: 27195712



kinder@abacus.edu.hk



Diwali- Festival Of Lights

This week, the children have been learning about the traditions associated with the Indian Festival of Diwali through books, music, and listening to each other's experiences. Diwali is a hope-filled celebration of light over darkness and good over evil. It's a time for family, kind words, and bringing colour and light into our homes.

Today, the children looked so colourful wearing their own clothes as they created rangoli patterns and decorated their own diyas.



Hearing Screenings

We have arranged for Dr. Eed Shen, Leading Audiologist at Ear, Nose & Throat Centre of Hong Kong Limited to come to school on the 28th November to run hearing screenings. If you would like to get your child's hearing checked against developmentally appropriate milestones then follow the link below. The service is optional and all costs are stated in the link. If you choose for your child to participate one of their teaching team will take them for the screening, there is no need for an adult from home to accompany them.

<https://www.eventbrite.hk/e/esf-abacus-hearing-screening-tickets-1649340595119?aff=oddtcreator>



ESF Abacus Hearing Screening

By Dr. Eed Shen (Leading Audiologist) Follow

Hearing screenings are vital in identifying hearing loss in children and preventing problems with communication, learning and development.



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Calendar Change - 23rd Feb Teacher Training Day Cancelled

You will have received an App message from Belinda Greer now to explain that the February 23rd CPD will revert back to be a teaching day for children. This was part of her message.

'We have also made a decision about the ESF-wide CPD day that is scheduled to take place towards the end of February. As you know, we place an incredible amount of importance in making sure that our staff have every opportunity to develop and enhance their skills. This is something that makes ESF stand out not just here in Hong Kong, but globally as well.

However, we recognise that this year has been truly exceptional in terms of the disruption we have faced due to the weather. In the past few months alone, there have been a total of eight days where our ability to conduct face-to-face learning has been disrupted for all or some of our schools. This is double what we saw last year.

So, in order to counter this exceptional situation, we are taking exceptional measures. **The CPD day in February will revert back to being a teaching day - and our schools will be open to students.** Your Principal will be in touch with you shortly to talk about the specifics of how that is going to happen. ' Belinda Greer

We understand some families may have booked holidays now and we apologise for this and your child will not be marked as an unauthorised absence on this day. The calendar has been updated on page one.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Box of Hope

Each year, we participate in the Hong Kong-wide charity campaign, Box of Hope. This is a wonderful opportunity to teach children about the importance of giving and sharing, as the concept of receiving a gift resonates with most of them.

For those unfamiliar with the campaign, families fill a shoebox-sized box with gifts for a child who is less privileged. These boxes are distributed to children in disadvantaged homes in Hong Kong and across Southeast Asia. You can learn more about the campaign [here](#).

Your child will bring home a sticker for the top of their box, which describes its contents and suggests who it would be most suitable for. We encourage your child to get creative and decorate the box as well!

Please ensure that your family's Box of Hope is sent to school by 7th November for collection.

We will also be collecting for the Hong Kong Community Chest on 31 October with a casual dress day.

The teaching teams will use both of these campaigns as examples of actions people can take to show kindness, while continuing to emphasise the importance of kindness in all our interactions at all times.



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