

13th February 2026



Abacus

NEWSLETTER

ESF Abacus Kindergarten



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents,

We have had lots of fun this week with our in school Lunar New Year celebrations. Thank-you to all of the parents who were able to come in to help.

On Thursday the staff at Abacus performed the story of how the Chinese Zodiac animals were ordered. Despite some slightly dubious acting talent the children were spell bound, we have never seen them so quiet as an audience!

Thank you to our Parent Support Group for their feedback, it is really useful to know what our parents are enjoying or struggling with. We are aware that there has been a bit of confusion with the school calendar. There was a syncing error with the ESF app and despite us deleting the CPD on 23rd it still seems to be showing. Apologies for this. There is NO CPD day on 23rd and children will attend school as usual. Wishing everyone a very Happy Lunar New Year and restful break with your family.



Frances Hurley

Important Dates

16-20 Feb	Mid term break
23 rd Feb	First Day Back at School for Children
27 Feb	K2 D Parent Teacher Conferences- sign up details shared via the App.
6 Mar	K2 E Parent Teacher Conferences- sign up nearer the time
17 Mar	K1 E trip to Hong Kong Forest Adventures- see eNotice via Gateway.
20 Mar	K1 D trip to Hong Kong Forest Adventures- see eNotice via Gateway.
24 Mar	K1 Celebration of learning day- parents invited.
25 Mar	K2 Celebration of learning day- parents invited.

Our calendar for the 26-27 School Year
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1cZIJlo0GVqSuy1fzWiUrE61c_XyfTjV7/edit?usp=sharing&oid=118138650578016830148&rtpof=true&sd=true

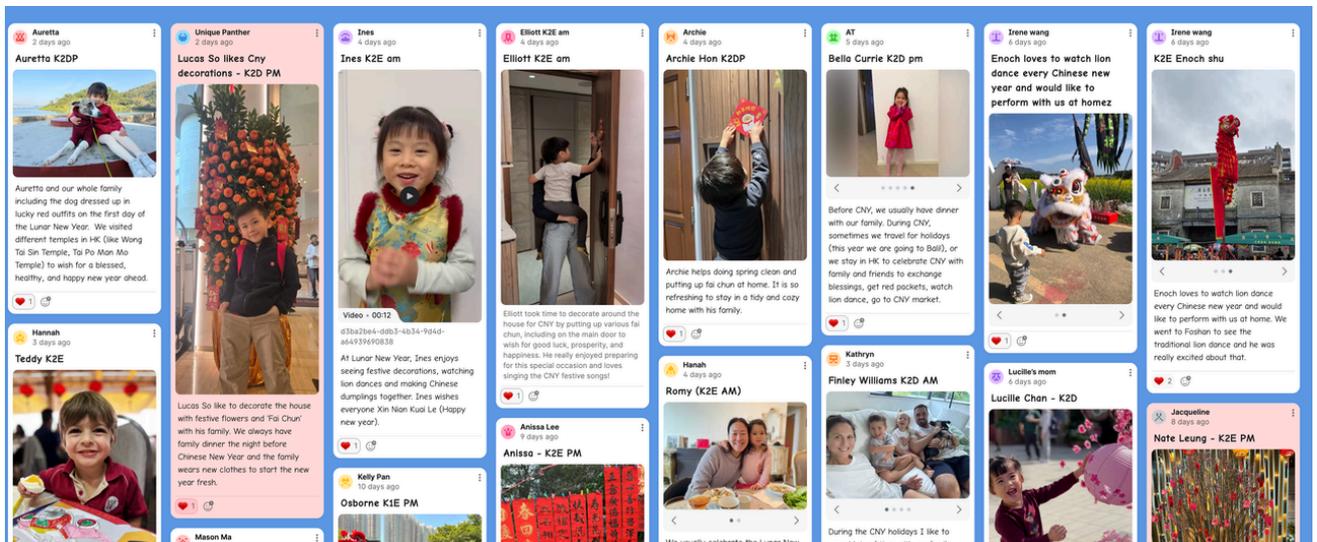


Learning about Lunar New Year

The learning has been rich and fun as the children discovered more about how different families celebrate the Lunar New Year. Thank you so much to everyone who contributed to the Padlet—the children really enjoyed sharing their experiences in class. We also had several parents come in to share their family traditions, which the children loved to hear about.

Minjung, a regular supply EA, taught the children about Seollal, the Korean celebration of Lunar New Year. She wore a beautiful hanbok and explained many of the festival's traditions.

On Thursday, the children took part in a wide range of special learning experiences to deepen their understanding. Among other activities, they made honeyed fruit skewers, did character rubbings and fan-making, and loved taking part in our lion dance around the playground.



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Communication

At the parent support group (PSG) meeting we had some feedback about communication again. We try really hard to offer our communication in a variety of ways to make it accessible for all. Most important announcements are repeated via the ESF app and the Whatsapp announcements. We really encourage you to check these regularly.

The PSG mentioned that some parents wished that the app messages would come as email. This is possible but you have to turn this option on once as a parent and then all ESF app messages will be forwarded to your email.

The instructions to do this are here:

[Video to Show how to auto forward App Messages](#)

Once you have turned this function on once all app messages will be forwarded to your email.

Next year we will be moving to a whole new integrated portfolio and messaging system so please bear with us for the remainder of this year.

In addition to the messages and announcements our newsletters are sent out every two weeks and past issues can be accessed via the News tile in the ESF app.

We hope that you find this information useful, if you have any questions or suggestions please get in touch.



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Reports and Portfolios

As we will be moving to a new reporting and portfolio system next year we would like to gather some information from our parent community about what kind of feedback they would like to hear about their child. As always with a large group of people we usually have a variety of different views on this. Some parents prefer the portfolio posts and want to hear how their child is doing socially and emotionally whilst others are more focussed on how their child is doing academically.

Currently we try and find a balance between these by providing the E-portfolios as colourful snapshots of your child learning in class. In addition the reports provide an overview of the child's learning in that Unit of Inquiry and their progress against our end of year Maths and Language goals. Our parent conferences and shared learning days then compliment these so that hopefully parents get a balanced view of their child's progress and an opportunity to ask questions and feedback from home.

As always we also need to balance the workload for our teachers who have 50 children in their classes to write reports for and 50 parents to meet at each conference. Whilst in an ideal world a weekly update would be wonderful it just isn't viable in this environment if you want the teachers to be focussed on helping your child learn and having energy and enthusiasm in the classroom.

What we would like to do in Term 3 is send a survey out to all parents to find out what the views are on our reporting systems and then have a focus group to help use design the new reporting system for next year. If you are interested in joining you will be able to add your name and email to the survey.

Please note: This reporting survey is not to be confused with the Stakeholder Survey which is an ESF wide survey asking for more general feedback about Abacus. The stakeholder survey will be out just after Lunar New year. More information to follow about this shortly.



Abacus Renovation

We have some good news on the Abacus renovation project. A consultant has now been appointed by ESF centre and will meet with us after Chinese New year holiday. They have been tasked for exploring the permissions needed to renovate, extend or rebuild Abacus and give us a quotation for each option.

We hope that they will have completed this work by the Easter break and we will have a good idea about whether a return to Abacus is feasible by then.

We have everything crossed for a positive outcome and will keep you informed.



Front Garden

We would like to remind families that children must be closely supervised if you stay to play in the front garden after pick-up for a short time. The school cannot accept responsibility for children's safety as they are not on site, so please watch your child carefully to help prevent accidents. We also kindly ask that all rubbish is taken home and not left for us to pick up.

Please also note that the school toilets are cleaned immediately after school and are not available for general use after 4.15 pm. This allows our cleaning team to finish on time. Thank you for your understanding.



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