

16th January 2026

ESF
英基

Abacus

NEWSLETTER

ESF Abacus Kindergarten



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents,
Welcome back and a Happy New Year, we hope you all had a lovely holiday. The children have settled back into school and the new term really well.

Teaching teams are adapting to the new spaces created by the removal of our temporary structures and are in the process of developing some exciting new learning spaces.

We are very much looking forward to our theatre trip next Wednesday, and Namita has sent out a reminder to everyone with the number of tickets you have booked. Please don't forget there is no school on Wednesday of next week, even if your child is not attending the trip.

This is going to be a busy term, and we already have a lot of dates earmarked for events. Please add these to your calendars or subscribe to our Google calendar to stay informed.

We look forward to a busy and exciting term ahead.

Frances Hurley



Important Dates

21 Jan	Whole School Theatre trip to Gruffalo's Child- school closed
26 Jan	Vision screening-optional sign up
9 Feb	K1 E Parent Teacher Conferences- sign up coming soon
10 Feb	K1 D Parent Teacher Conferences- sign up coming soon
12 Feb	Lunar New Year Celebrations at school- parent volunteer opportunity
16-20 Feb	Mid term break
27 Feb	K2 D Parent Teacher Conferences- sign up nearer the time
6 Mar	K2 E Parent Teacher Conferences- sign up nearer the time
17 Mar	K1 E trip to Hong Kong Forest Adventures- I child per adult-
20 Mar	K1 D trip to Hong Kong Forest Adventures- I child per adult
24 Mar	K1 Celebration of learning day- parents invited.
25 Mar	K2 Celebration of learning day- parents invited.

Vision Screenings



We have arranged for i-See Vision Care to come to Abacus on 26 January to run vision screenings for any children whose families are interested in checking that everything is okay with their children's eyesight.

The screening will include checks on how clearly your child sees at both distance and near, as well as eye tracking and colour vision.

Results of the screening will be shared with you, and if a follow-up appointment with an optometrist is needed, you will be informed.

Please use the QR code to sign up and read the leaflet for more information.

ON-CAMPUS Vision Screening

by *i-SEE Vision Care*



Monday, January 26th 2026



08:30 - 11:30 , 13:00 - 16:00



ESF Abacus Kindergarten



Children aged 3 or above

REGISTER LINK

Register deadline:
January 21st 2026
Wednesday



A few reminders....

As we settle into the new term, we would like to share a few reminders regarding day-to-day life at Abacus to ensure a smooth start for our students and families.

Pick-up Arrangements

If you are changing your child's usual pick-up routine (e.g., they are not taking the bus or are going home with a friend), please ensure you:

Notify the teaching team and the bus company directly.

Update the "Bus" function on the ESF App to reflect any changes in bus usage.

Security Cards: Any adult picking up your child must present their security card.

Absences

Please use the Absence function on the ESF App to inform us if your child will be away.

As we are required by CHP legislation to report certain illnesses and must notify the EDB of long-term unexplained absences, Namita from our admin team will follow up with you if we don't hear via the App.

Celebrating Birthdays and other special occasions

There is no expectation to send anything to school for your child's birthday. If they would like to celebrate with their friends:

Non-Uniform: Your child may choose to wear their own clothes on their birthday.

Storytime: They are welcome to bring a special book to share with the class.

Treats: If you wish to send food, please provide nut-free mini cupcakes only. We kindly ask that you do not send large cakes that require cutting.

Gifts & Sweets: In line with our sustainability policy and allergy safeguarding, please **do not** send individual gifts, party bags, or sweets for class members.



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Staffing Update- K1 E

Before the holidays, we shared that we had successfully recruited a teacher to cover Ms. Joey's maternity leave. However, we would like to inform the community of a late change to this arrangement for the remainder of the year.

The candidate originally offered the role in December has since accepted a full-time class teacher position elsewhere and declined our offer.

We are now delighted to introduce Darshna Patel, who has officially joined the K1 E team. Darshna is an experienced Early Years educator who was already appointed to join our new West Kowloon campus this coming August. We are very fortunate that she is able to join us a few months earlier than planned.

Please join us in giving Darshna a very warm welcome!



The K1 E team for Term 2 and 3

Abacus Renovation and West Kowloon Update

Over the Christmas break, all of the temporary structures have now been removed from Abacus to make us compliant. The spaces inside have been covered with EPDM flooring and will serve as additional breakout areas for the classrooms. The concrete outside the school where the front office used to be will be removed at Chinese New Year or Easter.

West Kowloon is currently undergoing renovation as the temporary site for Abacus, serving incoming K1 children. We will keep you updated on the progress at this site for those with siblings joining us.

In conjunction with the West Kowloon Kindergarten plans, we are also working hard to try and explore options for Abacus to return to Clearwater Bay as soon as possible. The project team met before the Christmas break and quotations are being sought for the options. One of these would be a complete knock down and rebuild, another is to test the integrity of the current structure with a view to extending and renovating or adding a block and renovating the main block and bathrooms. The final option is to seek a new site in the Clearwater Bay area, which we are really hoping we don't need to do as Abacus is such a beautiful site.

Our next meeting is at the end of January and we will update you as soon as we have more news.



K2 have created an outdoor Science lab in one of the spaces to help them explore some of the big ideas from their latest inquiry.



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Have you checked your child's latest report?

As you will have read in the last newsletter before the holidays, from the end of Friday, 12 December, you were able to access a report on the ESF App (Click Moodle VLE then go to the graduation hat icon) that outlines your child's progress in their inquiry under the theme "Who We Are."

The purpose of this report is to give you further insight into your child's learning and their progress in relation to the year group expectations. This report is intended to complement the updates you have been receiving throughout the term on your child's Moodle, such as the Learning Journeys and individual posts. You will also have gained additional insight into their learning through the Sharing of Learning Day.

In the report, you will notice that certain outcomes are described as beginning, consolidating, meeting, or exceeding expectations. These outcomes reflect end-of-year goals, and the teaching team works closely together to ensure a shared understanding of what each level represents. For example, in the K1 outcome "To understand one-to-one correspondence for numbers up to 5," teachers are looking for how consistently a child demonstrates this understanding when counting during play or in small group activities, particularly when working with more than five objects.

Sometimes, parents may notice that their child performs a skill confidently at home, even if it is not yet reflected in the report. We value this information and will consider why your child may feel more capable in the home environment. It is essential to note that teachers base their judgments on consistent observations over time at school.

At Abacus, we believe strongly in meeting children where they are. Our goal is to personalise learning so that all children are appropriately challenged and supported as they progress.

If you have any questions about the report, please don't hesitate to contact me at emily.jeves@abacus.edu.hk.

ESF Explore

Term 2 Enrolment Now Open at Abacus & other ESF Campuses

Discover expert-led programmes designed for all ages and skill levels.

- 📖 Academic & Skills: Phonics, Kindergarten English and Drama & Communication
- 🎨 Creativity & Emotional Intelligence: Imagination Station and Harmony Heroes
- 🧸 For Younger Siblings: Playgroups
- 🏊 Stay Active: Swimming, Multi-sports and more!

For more information use the link on the image.

*Use promo code ESFAPP10 for 10% off (ESF students only)

The graphic features the ESF Explore logo (with Chinese characters 英基探新) and the title 'Kindergarten Ages 3 - 5 Years'. It lists various activities in two columns: Kindergarten English, Kindergarten Phonics, Drama and Communication, Imagination Station, and Harmony Heroes in the first column; and Basketball, Football, Swimming, Multi-Sports, Tag Rugby, Pickleball, Gymnastics, and Tennis in the second column. The background shows children engaged in activities like swimming and playing with clay.

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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 strengths 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

Calendar links

Our public calendar link for 25-26:

https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=abacus.esf.org.hk_gkqj7pdhhjpino3pg7cieg8ihg%40group.calendar.google.com&ctz=Asia%2FHong_Kong

Our calendar for the 26-27 School Year

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1cZIJl00GVqSuyIfzWiUrE61c_XyftjV7/edit?usp=sharing&oid=118138650578016830148&rtpof=true&sd=true



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