

Abacus Primary School



Newsletter 390 18/12/2020



As we come to the end of a very challenging term, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your help and support this term. I've always known what a strong community we have here at Abacus and the last term has definitely highlighted this.

Christmas has been very different in school this year and we are sorry that we have not been able to invite you in to see the children in their Christmas plays. Last Friday each class performed a

song and these have been put together to make a school carol concert, the video is too large for our website, but if you scan the QR code you can view it on You Tube. It will also be uploaded to our school Facebook page.

I hope that you all have a safe and peaceful Christmas break and let's hope that 2021 is a more positive year for us all.

Mrs Borley begins her maternity leave today, we wish her and Mr Borley all the very best for the future.

On behalf of all the staff thank you for all your generous gifts, thoughtful cards and kind wishes, we really do appreciate them.

Lastly, I'd like to thank all the amazing staff here at Abacus for their ongoing commitment to trying their absolute best for all the children across the school. We've all had to adapt to new ways of working, but we've tried our very best to ensure that the children have remained our priority.

SCAN ME



**When we return on Tuesday 5th January 2020 we will
be on WEEK 1 of our School Menu**

Thank you all so much for all your generous donations of biscuits, cakes and chocolates for our Christmas charity. Mrs Lewis and I had the pleasure of delivering these to Silvana Court on Thursday and the staff were overwhelmed.



I am sure these cards and gifts will bring some much needed Christmas joy to all the residents.



Get your flu vaccination here

STAY WELL
THIS WINTER

The immunisation team will be back in school on the afternoon of Tuesday 5th January 2021 to administer any outstanding flu sprays to children who were off school this week due to isolation or bubble closures.

If your child has now had the flu spray or has it during the Christmas break, it is **very important** that you contact the immunisation team before the 5th January 2020 to ensure that a second dose is not administered.

Mid Essex Immunisation Team: 01376 302769



Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 11 December

Thank you for all your Christmas Jumper Day donations for Save the Children, we raised:

£183.00



Well done to the children in our Foundation stage who have completed their first term in School, albeit a little differently to other years, but you should all be proud of the confident individuals that you have become.

Thank you to the whole Foundation team for all their efforts in helping the children to settle in to school.

You can find their Christmas video here:

<https://www.abacusprimaryschool.co.uk/our-school-gallery-2020-2021>

This has also been added to your child's Tapestry account.



Times Table Rock Stars

18/12/20

Silver Class 1st: Keria N 2nd: Ellie Mae P 3rd: Mcrae K	Purple Class 1st: Mia W 2nd: Dollie-Mae W 3rd: Leon M	Gold Class 1st: George P 2nd: Freddie W 3rd: Ava T
White Class 1st: Harley B 2nd: Charlotte N 3rd: Aydin A	Black Class 1st: Erin E 2nd: Chloe L 3rd: Donovan L	Green Class 1st: Haroon A 2nd: Jubril R 3rd: Hannah F
Lilac Class 1st: Darcey S 2nd: Henry J 3rd: Jake S	Well done to everyone. The top child in each class will be entered into a draw which will be drawn at the start of next term.	

The 12 Online Safety Tips of Christmas

FOR CHILDREN WITH NEW DEVICES

Christmas is almost upon us once again, and soon some lucky children will be excitedly tearing the wrapping off a new mobile phone, tablet or games console. For some of them, it will be the first time they've owned a device that connects them to the online world. Even for older children, a new device means new corners of the digital landscape to explore – and, unfortunately, new risks to be aware of.

We've put together our top tips so that you can guide your young ones in enjoying their new digital gifts safely and responsibly throughout the year to come. Merry Christmas!



1. ALWAYS SET A PASSWORD

If your child's new device has a password protection feature, use it! It'll help to keep their private information safe and will deny others access to their device without permission. Your children's passwords should be something memorable to them – but something which other people can't guess (it's also a good idea for parents to write it down in case it gets forgotten!).



2. SET UP 'PARENTAL CONTROLS'

This really is an essential when your child gets a new device, so they're protected from the outset. Most phones, tablets and consoles allow you to customise their settings to determine which games your child can play, how they can communicate (and who with), what content they can access and so on. It will give you peace of mind that they can't inadvertently do something they shouldn't.



3. PAY ATTENTION TO AGE RATINGS

One of the first things children want to do with any new device is play games and explore apps. Before they download anything or install a new console game, check its age rating. Many popular games and apps have content that's not suitable for younger ages. The safest long-term solution is to adjust the device's settings so they can only download and use games and apps appropriate for their age.



4. KEEP NUMBERS AND DEVICES PRIVATE

Make sure your child understands that they should never share their phone number with someone they don't know or accept a friend request from them. They should also appreciate that it's a good idea to mainly keep their device out of sight, never lend it to a stranger, and never put it down somewhere that other people could steal it or take it to use without asking.



5. HAVE 'THE MONEY CONVERSATION'

Before your children start using their new device in earnest, talk to them about in-app purchases and other ways that money might be spent through their device. Once they understand, you might want to agree on a spending limit and reassure them that they can come to you if they're uncertain, or if they have made a purchase by accident.



6. DISCOURAGE DEVICE DEPENDENCY

Of course, children who've just got a new device will naturally want to spend as much time on it as possible. But whether they're zapping bad guys, watching videos or connecting with friends, it's easy for them to get attached very quickly. Gently remind them that having family time, going outdoors and getting some exercise are still fun, too. And the device will be there when they get back.



7. EXPLAIN SECURE WIFI NETWORKS

Your home WiFi is protected by a password that only your family knows, whereas public networks (like those found in coffee shops, for example) can be accessed by anyone. It's important that your child grasps this difference because, if they're using a portable device on an unsecured network, then a hacker could access their personal information without them even knowing.



8. LIMIT SCREEN TIME

Using a device for too long, especially just before bed, can interfere with a child's sleep quality and reduce their concentration and overall enthusiasm. It might be helpful to agree on certain times of day when they don't use their device. Most devices' settings let you specify a screen-time limit, helping your child to stay fresh and focused in order to perform well at school.



9. ONLY PAIR WITH KNOWN BLUETOOTH DEVICES

Your child may want to connect to another device via Bluetooth, so they can listen to music wirelessly or share pictures and videos with nearby friends. But if they use Bluetooth to link with a device that they don't know, they're at risk of a stranger being able to see their personal information or having someone transmit a virus onto their device.



10. TURN LOCATION SETTINGS OFF

It's safest to disable the device's location services (if it's a portable device) so your child doesn't inadvertently make other people aware of where they are. You can usually do this via the device's privacy control settings. Turning location settings off not only means your child's whereabouts can't be tracked by others, it also significantly extends battery life.



11. STAY AWARE OF THE SURROUNDINGS

It's quite common to see adults not looking where they're going while engrossed in their phone. Children are even more easily distracted. In some cases, children have been hit by cars or cyclists because they were staring at their device and lost track of where they were. Remind your child that screens and walking don't mix. If they need to use their device, they should stop in a safe place first.



12. BE THERE IF THEY NEED TO TALK

Even when you've made a device as secure as you can, there's still a possibility of your child seeing something that bothers them, or someone they don't know attempting to contact them. If this happens, listen to their concerns, empathise and reassure them. Once they've explained what happened, you can decide if you should take further action like blocking or reporting another user.



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday



Star of the Week!

Pink Class	Mia R
Blue Class	Stanimir G
Red Class	Thomas M
Orange Class	Jason Junior B
Yellow Class	Jake A
Turquoise Class	Freddie F
Green Class	Haroon A
Lilac Class	Elli-Mai W
Black Class	Fletcher S
White Class	Grace, Charlotte, Harley, Emmi, Declan & Alex
Gold Class	Whole Class
Purple Class	Whole Class
Silver Class	Whole Class



School closes to
day for the Christ-
mas break and we return on
Tuesday 5th January 2021.





CURRICULUM

Spotlight on our Curriculum



This week we have been enjoying our Christmas activities, Christmas dinner and movie day. We have been learning about time and finding out how many things we could do in a minute. It turns out we can do a lot of star jumps! A lovely end to our first term in school.



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas... we have been very creative this week making Christmas decorations, cards, reindeer pictures, hats and of course some Christmas themed English and Maths activities. Our Christmas lunch was yummy too!



Lots of Christmas fun for us this week.....we have been making and writing Christmas cards for the care home residents and we also enjoyed some Christmas crafts including tree decorations and wreaths. We did some exciting Science experiments and enjoyed our Christmas lunch too!



This week, we really enjoyed making Christingles and we learnt that the lit candle on the Christingle represents Jesus being the light of the world. We have been rehearsing a class poem to prepare for our virtual poetry slam. In Maths, we have been looking at the links between the 2, 4 and 8 times tables; we compared them using a Venn diagram. We have also been busy completing Christmas code breaking and Mosaics as well as making Christmas cards. In netball, we practised our shooting skills.



Black Class: This week in Year 4 we have been learning our 6,7 and 9 timetables in our maths lesson. For our DT this week we have made pop up cards which was great fun, we also made some Christmas tree decorations too using lollypop sticks and lots of glitter. We also performed the poem 'Sly Santa Claus' for Year 3 as part of the Christmas poetry slam.

White Class (home learning): In Year 4 this week we have been looking at multiplication and division in Maths. In English, we have been concentrating on reading. We have looked at different Christmas themed texts. According to one of our texts the Christmas tree became popular in the 1850s after Queen Charlotte had one put up in Windsor Castle. We have been comparing Sherwood Forest with the Amazon Rainforest. We have also been making pop-up cards which has been exciting.



This week we have been writing Christmas poems in English and revising our Maths skills with festive games. Lots of children have been working on their Art skills and creating Christmas cards for their family members. A huge well done to everyone for all your hard work this term, especially in such difficult circumstances.