

Abacus Primary School

Newsletter 363

24/04/2020



Welcome back to the beginning of the Summer term. We hope that you all had a healthy Easter break. The school building seems very quiet and empty without you all, but we hope that if we all continue to follow the guidance, it won't be for too much longer. We've all had to adapt to new ways of working and I wanted to say what an amazing job you are all doing supporting your child's wellbeing and learning during this time.

Thank you for your feedback on our home learning opportunities that have been uploaded to our website

www.abacusprimaryschool.co.uk

these will go on at the end of each week, so that they are all ready for the new week.

We know things are difficult right now. Please remember that there are all sorts of lessons and skills you can teach. Whatever learning you're making happen at home, we thank you. We will use all our skills and expertise to support your children when they return to school. What we need right now is for the children to be in the best place for learning when they arrive back at school. Please share your calm, your love, your connection, your humour and your care. These are the greatest gifts you can give to your children right now.

Class	Email	Class	Email
Red Class	redclass@abacus.essex.sch.uk	Black Class	blackclass@abacus.essex.sch.uk
Orange Class	orangeclass@abacus.essex.sch.uk	White Class	whiteclass@abacus.essex.sch.uk
Yellow Class	yellowclass@abacus.essex.sch.uk	Gold Class	goldclass@abacus.essex.sch.uk
Turquoise Class	turquoiseclass@abacus.essex.sch.uk	Silver Class	silverclass@abacus.essex.sch.uk
Green Class	greenclass@abacus.essex.sch.uk	Purple Class	purpleclass@abacus.essex.sch.uk
Lilac Class	lilacclass@abacus.essex.sch.uk		



Abacus Presents...



Abacus Primary School

Hello Everyone

We are all

REALLY

missing you all

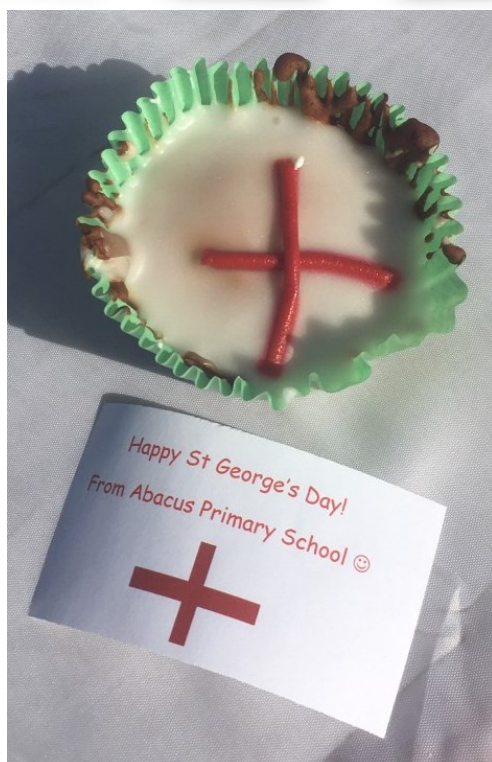
SO.....

We are all really missing you all . Keep an eye on our school website www.abacusprimaryschool.co.uk and our school Facebook page for a special message that we have put together for you.

We are using our Facebook page and website to regularly communicate and upload learning opportunities.



On Thursday we celebrated St George's Day with cake! The children in school baked cakes and decorated them. We set up a table outside our school for members of our school community to come and collect, along with local residents. I think we can all safely say they were a big hit! A huge well done to Keira, our St George's team captain, who sent in a video message to teach us facts about St. George.



A lovely comment sent to our Facebook page: Just wanted to say a big thank you for the yummy cupcake I picked up after my run this morning. Made my day. What a lovely gesture 😊 enjoy your St George's Day.



A message from our Chair of Governors...

Dear Parents

On behalf of the governing body I would like to thank you for the support you have given Mrs Blakeley and her staff during this very challenging time. We have heard about the heartfelt thank you notes, gifts of chocolates and words of encouragement. These acts of kindness mean a great deal.

The class activities on the website, provided and updated by the staff, look like great fun and are hopefully keeping your children engaged in learning at home. The teachers are working hard to keep in touch with pupils striving to keep the children motivated and looking forward to returning to school.

We understand how hard it is for every family to be in lockdown. School holidays can be a challenge keeping children engaged, let alone having to stay at home with very little freedom to go out or to meet friends and extended family. We look forward to reopening the school when the government considers it appropriate to do so. Mrs Blakeley will discuss with the governing body possible scenarios for a staggered return once we have confirmation from the government. Decisions will be made based on what would be manageable for our school site to maintain social distancing.

The governors continue to monitor the School Development Plan with several visits taking place in the spring term. Governors have scrutinised progress records and questioned staff about the progress of groups of pupils, met with subject leaders to discuss provision, looked at pupils' work to gauge standards, met with pupils about their learning and completed H&S audits. On my most recent visit I was impressed with the development of the curriculum. The children's displayed work buzz with creativity in a range of subjects and show that the staff have taken on board the drive across the country to enhance and embed a stimulating curriculum. We have recently had an online governors' meeting with Mrs Blakeley updating us on the current situation and we approved the school budget for 2020/21.

Keep safe and treasure your families.

Jan Myers

Chair of Governors.

Your children's library favourites are now online!

Essex Library Services are bringing our popular rhyme times, story times and crafts online with videos featuring our library stars from across Essex. Families can enjoy sharing stories, join in with actions and sing along to favourite nursery rhymes, and be inspired to build, craft and create. We'll share these children's videos on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) throughout the week. You'll find links to any [rhymetime and story time](#) or any [craft time](#) you may have missed on our website. For more information [read the full story on our website](#).





Be smart on the internet



At National Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one platform of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.



Founded in 2011, Zoom is one of the world's leading video conferencing software providers. It has a number of features, including video and audio conferencing, real-time messaging, screen-sharing and the ability to upload, share and search for content. Users can start their own meetings or they can join meetings set up by others. The app is available to use across PCs, laptops, tablets and mobile phones and is free to download on both the app store and on Android.



What parents need to know about

zoom



ZOOM BOMBING

'Zoom bombing' is the term which has been coined to describe unauthorised people joining zoom meetings uninvited and broadcasting pornographic or inappropriate videos. An attacker can hijack a meeting if they know the meeting ID and it isn't reinforced with a password. Not taking preventative measures or implementing privacy controls could open up the risk of children witnessing sexual or inappropriate content with very little notice.

RISK OF PHISHING

The rise in popularity of Zoom has led to a rise in hacking operations and phishing campaigns. This is when participants are encouraged to click on links to join what they believe to be legitimate Zoom meetings via email, but which are in fact fraudulent. These scams aim to obtain sensitive information such as user login details, passwords and/or credit card information.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

Depending on how the app has been set-up, Zoom can offer very little privacy. In many cases, the meeting hosts can see detailed information about each participant including their full name, phone numbers and maybe even location data. Furthermore, depending on where the camera has been set up or where your child's computer is positioned, private or personal information could be stolen depending on what can be seen in the background.

LIVE RECORDINGS

One of the features of Zoom is the ability to record live meetings. By default, only the host of the meeting can usually record live sessions however other meeting members can also record if the host gives them access. Recordings can be stored on devices or on the cloud and can be downloaded and shared with no restrictions. This means that videos, audio clips and transcripts of recordings involving your children could be widely shared on the internet or between users without your authorisation or consent.

PRIVATE ZOOM MEETINGS

Zoom has a facility to set up breakout rooms, which enables a private meeting within the main Zoom session. The host can choose to split the participants of the original meeting into separate sessions. This gives children the ability to speak privately away from the main group to other users however chats aren't always monitored by the host and if the meeting has been made public, children could be more vulnerable to experiencing negative comments.

'LIVE STREAMING' RISKS

At its very core, Zoom facilitates live streaming. That means it inevitably carries some of the associated risks that live streaming brings. These are likely to be minimal within a controlled environment (for instance when used in a classroom setting for remote learning). However, live streaming means that content isn't always moderated and children who use the app unsupervised or with limited security settings, may be more at risk of exposure to viewing inappropriate material. Other risks can include downloading malicious links, sharing personal information or even potential grooming.

Safety Tips For Parents

REPORT INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Remind your child that if they do see something that makes them feel uncomfortable or upset then they need to talk about it and report it. Parents can report unwanted activity, harassment, and cyberattacks to Zoom directly. To help your child, you could try setting up a checklist before they go online, with an agreed set of rules and what they should do if they see something inappropriate.

USER PRIVATE MEETING IDS & PASSWORDS

It is always better to set up a meeting with a random ID number generated by Zoom than by using a personal number. This means it is harder to guess and less likely to be hacked. It's important to never share meeting IDs with anybody you don't know and always set-up a password function to allow other people to sign-in. This should already be a default setting that is applied on Zoom.

PROTECT YOUR PERSONAL DATA

It's important to discuss with your child that they should not share personal information on Zoom. This includes passwords, their address, phone number, etc. Create your child's account under a false name or pseudonym and always set a custom background to help hide details in your home. Zoom allows you to turn on virtual backgrounds and select your own image to appear behind you.

BEWARE OF PHISHING EMAILS

Every time you or your child gets a Zoom link, it's good practice to ensure it has come from the official platform and is not fraudulent. Signs of a phishing email include an unrecognisable email address, an unofficial domain name or a slightly distorted logo. The email itself might also be poorly written or contain suspicious attachments.

TURN OFF UNNECESSARY FEATURES

If your child is using Zoom, there are a number of features that you can turn off to make the experience safer for them. For instance, disabling the ability to transfer files or engaging in private chats can help to limit the risk of receiving any malicious attachments or receiving any inappropriate messages. In addition, you can turn off the camera if it is not needed or mute the microphone when not in use.

USE THE 'VIRTUAL WAITING ROOM' FEATURE

The waiting room feature on Zoom means that anybody who wants to join a meeting or live session cannot automatically join and must 'wait' for the host to screen them before entering. This is now a default function and adds another layer of security to reduce the likelihood of zoom bombing.

KEEP YOUR VERSION UPDATED

It's important to ensure you are using the latest version of Zoom available and always update it if you get a prompt. These updates are usually to fix security holes and without the update you will be more vulnerable to an attack. Check the official website to see what the latest version is and compare it to your own.

HOST IMPLEMENTED PRIVACY CONTROLS

If your child is part of a larger group meeting, then it's important to make sure that the host is abiding by Zoom's Terms of Service. This includes the fact that they have gained everybody's permission for the session to be recorded. The host should also have set screen sharing to 'host only' and disabled 'file transfer' to help keep the live stream secure.

Meet our expert

Emma Davis is a cyber security expert and former ICT teacher. She delivers cyber awareness training to organisations nationally and has extensive knowledge and experience of managing how children access services and apps online.



#WakeUpWednesday

National Online Safety®



SOURCES: <https://zoom.us/privacy> | <https://zoom.us/> | <https://zoom.us/docs/doc/School%20Administrators%20Guide%20to%20Rolling%20Out%20Zoom.pdf> | <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2020/apr/02/zoom-technology-security-coronavirus-video-conferencing>

www.nationalonlinesafety.com Twitter - @natonlinesafety Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety Instagram - @NationalOnlineSafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 08.04.2020

Myon – access to free books online

Accelerated Reader (the reading programme years 2-6 use) has released limited free access to lots of online books for all year groups.

To access, click on this link <https://readon.myon.co.uk/library/browse.html> then choose a category. To find out the book level, hover over the book cover and click on the blue info button.

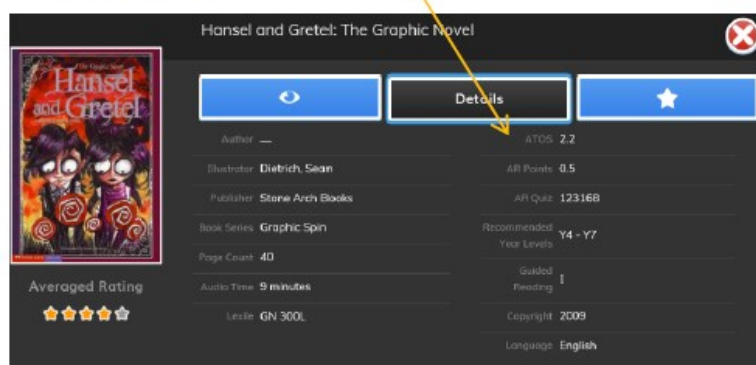


Then click on the middle, blue letter I button.

The ATOS is the book level the children would normally choose

This will give you details about the book.

from their ZPD.

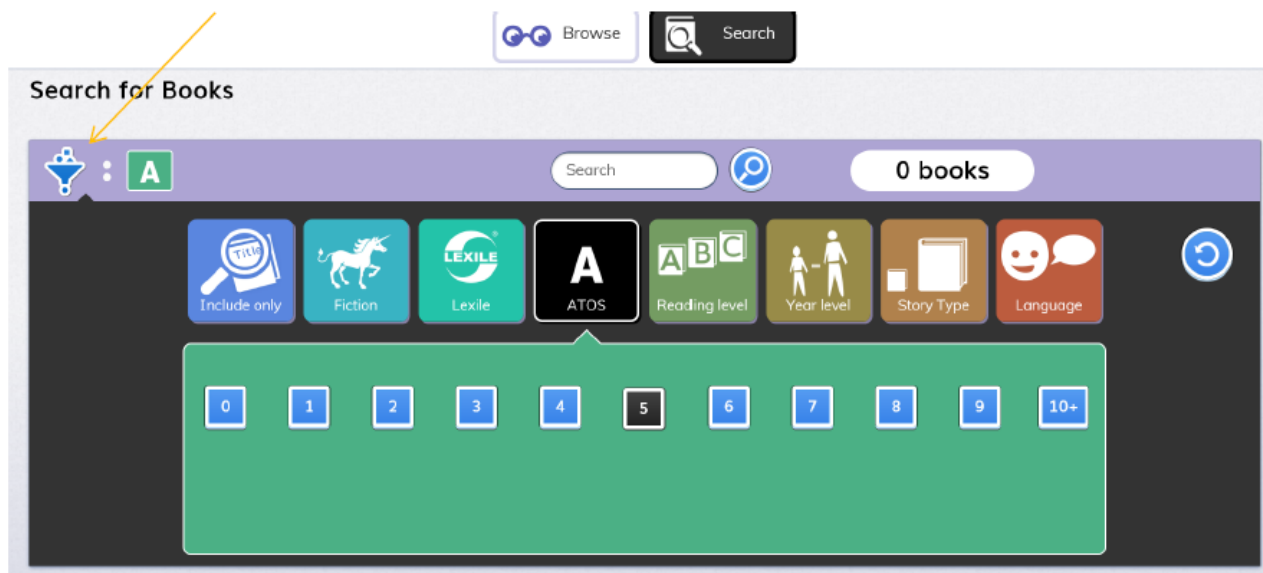


Then close the details and click the green 'Read' button.

There is a dictionary button where children can type in words to find definitions. The books can be read aloud and if you click on 'Settings', you can choose to highlight words or sentences as they are read.



Alternatively, to find particular books click on 'Search' and then this blue button.



From here, you can search using a number of criteria including the ATOS (book level) that Years 2-6 will know from their ZPD range.

This is a brilliant resource and it would be great to make the most of it while it is currently free. Hopefully this will help anyone struggling to find books to read from home.

Enjoy!

Miss Mitchell



Things to talk about at home...

Have you ever played on a video or computer game? If so, what was it? Did you enjoy it? If not, would you like to play on one?

Why do you think video games are as popular as they are?

Do you prefer video games, or real-life games? Talk about why.