

Abacus Primary School



Newsletter 391 8/1/2021



Firstly, I'd like to wish you all a very Happy New Year. I hope you had a peaceful Christmas break. I am sure we will all agree that the New Year has not started as positively as we would have all hoped.

It was great to see so many parents, children

and smiley faces join our class Zoom sessions on Tuesday and Wednesday, thank you for finding the time to log on and be part of these sessions. We are still here to support all our Abacus families during this challenging time.

I'd like to thank the whole team here at Abacus for their continued commitment and dedication for doing their very best for the children in our school. I'm extremely proud of what we have achieved as a school in a short space of time.

This is a new way of working for everyone, so please do bear with us during this time of transition. We will get better with our video editing and sharing of screens etc.. Thank you so much for your email feedback and comments on Facebook, these have been really appreciated by staff, at this difficult time.

We're so proud of how the children have embraced these new learning opportunities and have been really impressed with the number of children who have been signing in to their lessons and also the online behaviour– well done everyone.

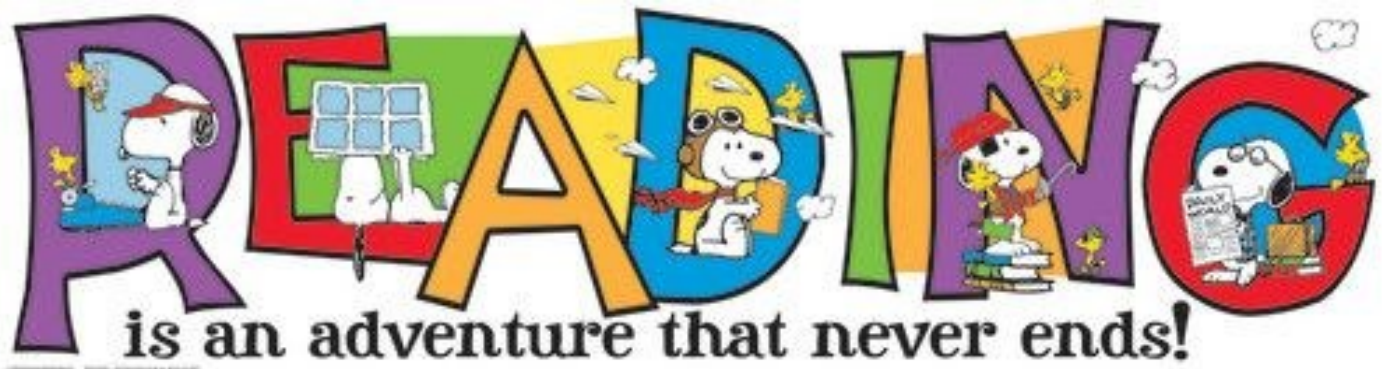


Hopefully you have all been able to find the activities or pre recorded videos on our school website class pages <https://www.abacusprimaryschool.co.uk>

Please note that each Friday, Monday to Thursday's home learning will be removed from the class pages to make things easier to find on the class pages.

Next week, we will be on WEEK 2 of our school menu





A few of you shared your concerns around how children will continue with reading whilst they are not in school.

There are a number of places where children can access books to read online if you find that you are running out of books at home.

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page/>

<https://www.getepic.com/promo> - offers a 30 day free trial for parents

<https://www.freechildrenstories.com/>

<https://www.borrowbox.com/> - allows you to borrow either eaudio or ebooks from your local library

<https://www.freebooksy.com/read/genre/childrens/> - offers free children's books for kindle

The kindle app is free to download and can be accessed on any device. There are many free children's books available on there .

We will continue to update you if we hear of any more resources or places that you can download books.

You may have heard on the news/in the media, that BBC Bitesize have added lots more resources and videos to their website to support with home learning.

Click on the link below to see if there's anything that might be of interest to your children.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

BBC

Bitesize

Welcome back and Happy
New Year to you all!

Special Needs Update



SENCO Surgeries are
still available!

As we are now in full lockdown, sadly we are unable to have any visitors into the school building, which includes access for parents to Mrs Lewis's SENCO Surgery sessions. However, we are keen to stay in contact and support in any way we can, especially at this difficult time. While we are in lockdown, Mrs Lewis will be offering telephone consultations, email consultations or Zoom consultations to families who would like to access this service.

Normally these sessions are available from 2.30 to 3.30 on a Monday afternoon, but as many of you are accessing online story times or lessons at this time, Mrs Lewis can be more flexible with appointment times. Please just contact the school office and request an appointment, leaving your name, your child's name and a preferred telephone contact number, and Mrs Lewis will ring you to discuss an appointment date, time and your preferred format for the meeting.



ACTION CALENDAR: HAPPIER JANUARY 2021



MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY



"Happiness is when what you think, what you say, and what you do are in harmony" - Gandhi

4 Write a list of things you feel grateful for in life and why

5 Look for the good in others and notice their strengths

6 Take five minutes to sit still and just breathe

7 Learn something new and share it with others

1 Find three good things to look forward to this year

2 Make time today to do something kind for yourself

3 Do a kind act for someone else to help to brighten their day

11 Switch off all your tech 2 hours before bedtime

12 Connect with someone near you - share a smile or chat

13 Be gentle with yourself when you make mistakes

14 Take a different route today and see what you notice

15 Eat healthy food which really nourishes you today

16 Get outside and notice five things that are beautiful

17 Contribute positively to a good cause or your community

18 Focus on what's good, even if today feels tough

19 Get back in contact with an old friend you miss

20 Go to bed in good time and give yourself time to recharge

21 Take a small step towards an important goal

22 Try out something new to get out of your comfort zone

23 Plan something fun and invite others to join you

24 Put away digital devices and focus on being in the moment

25 Decide to lift people up rather than put them down

26 Say hello to a neighbour and get to know them better

27 Challenge your negative thoughts and look for the upside

28 Ask other people about things they've enjoyed recently

29 Use one of your personal strengths in a new way

30 Count how many people you can smile at today

31 Write down your hopes or plans for the future

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS



www.actionforhappiness.org

Learn more about this month's theme at www.actionforhappiness.org/happier-january

Happier · Kinder · Together



Times Table Rock Stars

8/1/21

Keep an eye for our draw for last term

Silver Class 1st: Mcrae K 2nd: Keira N 3rd: Ellie-Mae P	Purple Class 1st: Miley M 2nd: Chloe S 3rd:	Gold Class 1st: Freddie W 2nd: Havana J 3rd: George P
White Class 1st: Charlotte N 2nd: Harley B 3rd:	Black Class 1st: Erin E 2nd: Chloe L 3rd: Donovan L	Green Class 1st: Haroon A 2nd: Emily O 3rd: Hannah F
Lilac Class 1st: Henry J 2nd: Darcey S 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 end of term.	

It's really important that we stay connected and continue our lines of communication during these challenging times.

There are a number of ways that you can continue to communicate with us at Abacus...

- **Please use your class email.**
- **Tapestry (Foundation)**
- **School text system**
- **You can give us a call (01268 571018)**
- **Our school Facebook page (this is no longer accepting messages)**



HOME LEARNING



It is thought that thousands of pets were 'panic bought' at the start of the first lockdown. The Battersea Dogs and Cats Home charity have warned that the number of dogs abandoned over the next five years could increase by 27%. The charity, which rehomes animals in London and the surrounding area, surveyed 2,000 dog and cat owners who acquired a new pet during the national lockdown. It found 31% had done so despite not having considered getting a dog or cat before.

Things to talk about at home...

Do you have any pets? If you do, do you enjoy being a pet owner? How do you take care of your pet? Is it a lot of work? If not, would you like to own a pet?

Why do you think lots of people may have bought pets at the start of the lockdown period?

Do you think that there should be age restrictions or other rules on who



Spotlight on our Curriculum



This week we have started our new topic- To infinity and beyond. We have been learning about writing letters and have thought about questions we could ask an astronaut. In Maths we have learnt about more and fewer using different objects from around school and home. We have enjoyed Storytime as a class at the end of the day and saying hello to our friends. A busy first week back!



It has been a strange start to 2021 but we have all carried on as best as we can adults and children alike. We launched our new topic for the term, Paws and Claws with the story The Tiger who came to tea. Imagine having a tiger come to your house? In Maths we have been recapping numbers, finding one more and one less as well as ordering them. It has also been exciting having our live Zoom sessions so that we can be together virtually.



This week in school we have been learning about money and have been counting both notes and coins. In English we have started to look at our poetry and been focusing on descriptive language. We have learnt about the Art work of Romero Britto and had a go at creating our own piece of work in the same style.



In English, we have started looking at the book Flotsam; a story about a washed-up camera. In Science, we looked at the bones in a human skeleton and learnt the names for the bones. In Art, we looked at the colour wheel and identified complementary colours.



This week in Year 4 we have all coped really well with moving to Zoom learning. We have started our new topic, Our UK- Wickford, looking at information about Wickford in GPS and in Geography. We have been working on multiplication in Maths and looking at developing our word choices in writing. In Art we are starting to look at the artist Friedensreich Hundertwasser.



5/6 have had a great first week of remote learning - it has been so lovely to see everyone! This week we have been learning about what it would have been like to do different jobs as a Victorian child through our comprehension lessons. We have been adding and subtracting fractions in Maths and in Geography we have been learning about cities, counties and regions of the UK.



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

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.



National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday



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

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