

Abacus Primary School

Newsletter 402

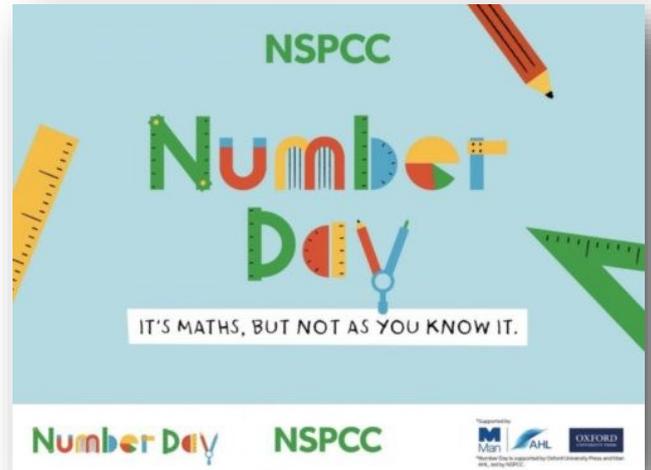
16/4/21



We hope that you all had a lovely Easter break. We are looking forward to the Summer term and hopeful that we are going to be able to plan lots of lovely learning opportunities across the school. New topics have now started in classes– have a look on our curriculum page to see the learning that has already taken place in school this week. Well done to everyone who took part in our “Marathon in March” event, we will be handing out medals next week– please make sure you have sent your evidence in so that

you are not missed.

Mrs Lee (Science leader), Miss Lee (ICT leader) and Miss Hodkin (Maths leader) are busy planning for a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) week which will take place 3rd-7th May 2021, this coincides with the NSPCC Number day on Friday 7th May 2021. This year we widening the dressing up opportunities and we are inviting children to come to school dressed as a Scientist, Mathematician, Engineer or someone influential in the world of Technology. We will still be collecting donations for the NSPCC on this day.



Today, families of children starting school in September 2021 find out their school places. We are really looking forward to more families joining our school community and will be contacting families very soon with information about our induction arrangements.



Next week we will be on Week 2 of our new menu

SCHOOL UNIFORMS

Please can I remind everyone that now shops have reopened and the children have been back to school for a month, we do expect our uniform policy to be followed. This includes no extreme hairstyles. I am aware that some of our Year 6 children's families are holding off buying new footwear until they start Year 7, but other than this exception everyone should be following the policy. For P.E. days children should be coming to school dressed in their P.E. kit and not non school uniform. This should include a coloured, plain T-shirt. We really appreciate your support with this matter.



READING CHALLENGE



Thank you to everyone who took part in our Easter reading bingo challenge and for your kind and generous fundraising donations.

We are very excited to be using this money to buy a reading book vending machine to add to our reading rewards.

Please don't worry if you have not had time to send your donation in yet, this has been extended for another week. We will let you know our total next week.

Thank you for your support with this.

Silver Class 1st: Ellie-Mae P 2nd: Keira N 3rd: Mcrae K	Purple Class 1st: Alfie F 2nd: Neev V 3rd:	Gold Class 1st: George P 2nd: 3rd:
White Class 1st: Ethan L 2nd: Charlotte N 3rd:	Black Class 1st: Erin E 2nd: Chloe L 3rd: Grace S	Green Class 1st: Annabella D 2nd: Hannah F 3rd: Adriana K
Lilac Class 1st: Darcey S 2nd: Henry J 3rd: Bobbee B	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.	



Friday 23rd April 2021 (Next Friday) is St George's day. We invite children in St George's house to come to school on Friday wearing something red. This can be as part of their school uniform or with other non school uniform items.

Just a friendly reminder...

To ensure the safety of everyone, please remember to keep your distance at the class doors when dropping off and collecting the children. Also, to limit the amount of people entering the building, children should be arriving with everything they need for the school day ie: coats, hats/gloves, water bottles, snacks etc. If there are essential circumstances where you need enter the school reception, please remember to wear a mask.

Young Artists' Summer Show

<https://youngartists.royalacademy.org.uk/>



The Mighty Yaris
Daniel, Year 2



Portrait in Cool Colours
Safi, Year 1



Phew! We Can Still Get Trains in Lockdown!

July, Year 6



Elements
Oscar, Year 6



Mrs Obi
Jemima, Year 6

You will be interested to know that the Royal Academy of Arts is inviting children to submit work for their Young Artists' Summer Show 2021.

It is a free exhibition for young artists. The art work you can see on this page were all prize winning entries from 2020 - think you can top this? Of course you can! Grab your pen, pencil, brush, cardboard, glue or whatever takes your fancy - throw in a ton of imagination and bring that beauty in your mind out into the world. I can't wait to see what you create!

Parents/guardians can submit their children's artwork directly to the Royal Academy **by 26th April 2021**. You will need to click on this link

<https://youngartists.royalacademy.org.uk/submissions/1> to register, using the 'Parent/Guardian' option.

You may submit **up to 3 artworks** and/or images plus some information about the piece such as title, size, and a little text about the artwork and why you made it. Any medium, or a combination of media, may be used: drawing, painting, sculpture, photography, installation and video. There is no theme, so work can be on any subject.

The work needs to be photographed in order to be submitted. These photographs are viewed and judged by a panel of artists and art professionals. When the judges make their selections, they choose which artworks will be shown online and which will be displayed at the Royal Academy.

Everyone who submits artworks will hear from the Royal Academy by the end of May.

Terms and Conditions of entry and guidance on how to photograph your work can be found here

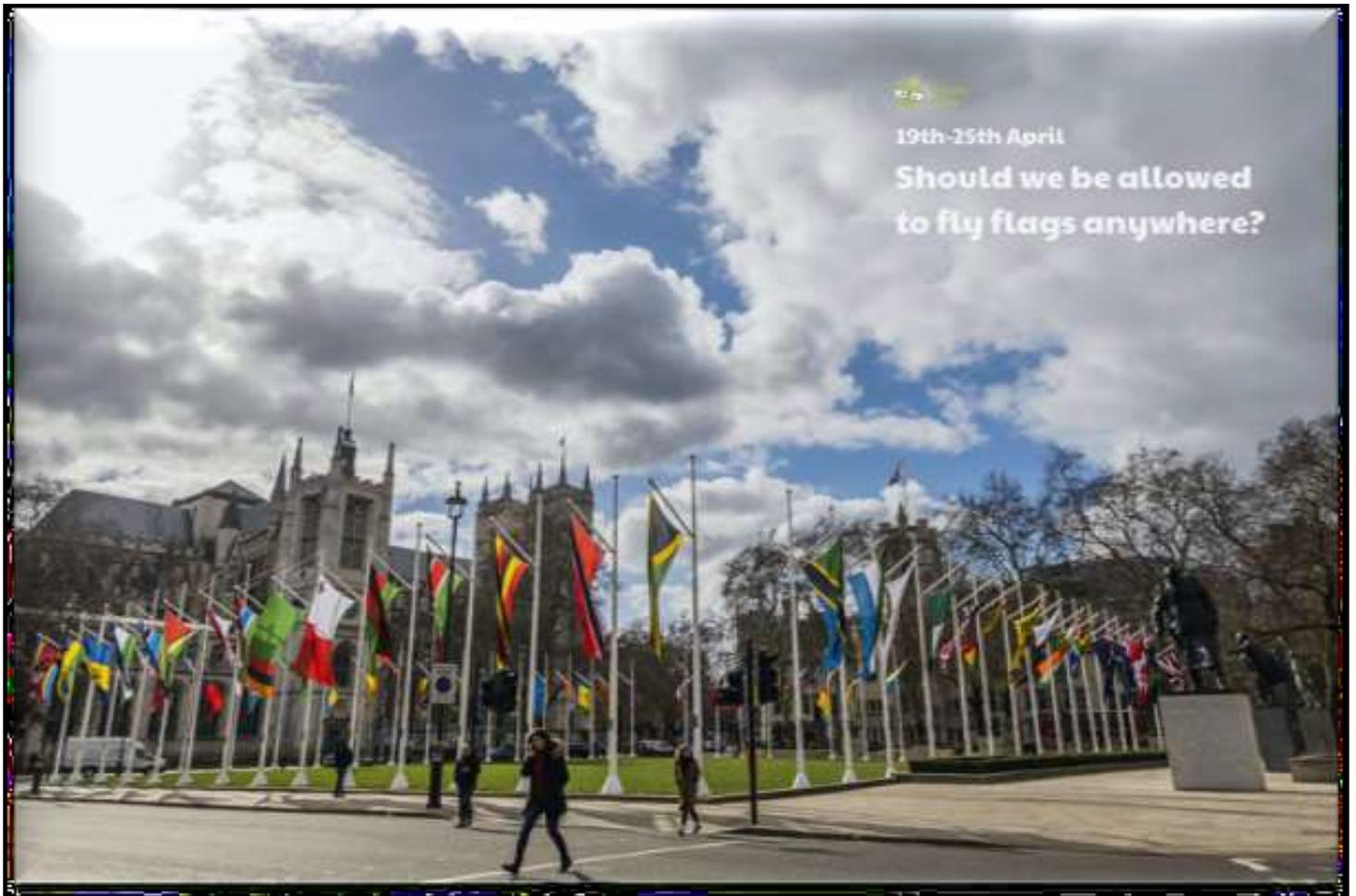
<https://youngartists.royalacademy.org.uk/get-involved>.

Good luck!

Please also do share your wonderful artwork on our Abacus Primary School Virtual Art Gallery

https://padlet.com/abacus_primary_school/eawq4vpysrzmflw.

HOME LEARNING



The Union Jack will be flown on UK Government buildings every day of the year under plans to celebrate the United Kingdom's heritage and pride. Ministers are set to issue new guidance this week to get the world-famous flag displayed all year round – not just on designated days. Under current guidance, the flag is only required to be flown on all UK Government buildings in England, Wales and Scotland on special days, such as the Queen's birthday.

Things to talk about at home...

Aside from being used for countries, do you know any other organisations that use a flag? Are you part of one?

How many different countries do you think you could identify?

Why do you think flags are considered very important to some people?



Spotlight on our Curriculum

 <p>Foundation Stage</p>	<p>It has been lovely to be back at school with lots of smiling faces. We have started our new topic, "From Fossil to Farm" and introduced to the story of Harry and the Bucketful of Dinosaurs. We have been making patterns in Maths, enjoying sharing the different equipment you can make patterns with, showing what we can see.</p>
 <p>Year 1</p>	<p>What a busy first week back, launching our new topic for the term "Superheroes!" We have all been super excited, doing Super Maths, Super English, Super Science and of course Super Topic!! Our first Superheroes we have learnt about are Mega Boy and Mega dog, we are loving our new Topic!</p>
 <p>Year 2</p>	<p>This week Year 2 began an exciting topic about Pirates. We have written about the parts of a ship and talked about Pirates from the past. In Geography we have learned about the human and physical parts of our world and we have discussed how to be healthy in PSHE.</p>
 <p>Year 3</p>	<p>We started our History topic of the ancient Egyptians. We thought about what we already know about this period in history and located modern Egypt on a world map. In PSHE, we thought about what communities we belong to and how we feel about belonging to these communities. In English, we enjoyed the story 'The Egyptian Cinderella' as a hook to our writing.</p>
 <p>year 4</p>	<p>This week in Year 4 we have started our new unit on The Romans. We are starting our English by looking at Roman gladiators and in History we are looking at the spread of the Roman Empire. We were lucky enough to have a zoom meeting this week with some Hindu leaders which was very interesting. In Maths, we are continuing to develop our fractions knowledge. In Science, we are beginning to look at Electricity. We have lots of fantastic activities planned this half term and cannot wait to get started.</p>
 <p>Years 5/6</p>	<p>Well done to 5/6 for a great first week back. This week we have been learning all about the properties of materials in Science and have carried out investigations to test different hypotheses. We have been focussing on developing suspense in English, using the short film 'Alma' as inspiration for our spooky stories. In Maths, we have been recapping our fractions learning and we particularly enjoyed the doughnut challenge. Perhaps you could have a go at home: How can you cut a doughnut into eight equal pieces with only three cuts of the knife? Good luck!</p>

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



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

Age Rating

13+

SNAPCHAT

Snapchat is a photo- and video-sharing app which also allows users to chat with friends via text or audio. Users can share images and videos with specific friends, or through a 'story' (documenting the previous 24 hours) visible to their entire friend list. Snapchat usage rose during the pandemic, with many young people utilising it to connect with their peers. The app continues to develop features to engage an even larger audience and emulate current trends, rivalling platforms such as TikTok and Instagram.



Connecting with Strangers

Even if your child only connects on the app with people they know, they may still receive friend requests from strangers. Snapchat's links with apps such as Wink and Hoop have increased this possibility. Accepting a request means that children are then disclosing personal information through the Story, SnapMap and Spotlight features. This could allow strangers to gain their trust for sinister purposes.

Inappropriate Content

Some videos and posts on Snapchat are not suitable for children. The hashtags used to organise content are determined by the poster, so an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's Discover function lets users swipe through snippets of news stories and trending articles that often include adult content. There is currently no way to turn off this feature.

Damage to Confidence

Snapchat's signature filters and lenses are a popular way for users to enhance their 'selfie game'. Although many are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beautify' filters on photos can set unrealistic body-image expectations and create feelings of inadequacy. Continually comparing themselves unfavourably against other Snapchat users could threaten a child's confidence or sense of self-worth.

Compulsion and Excessive Use

Many users spend vast amounts of time trying to become a SnapStar. Snapchat is offering a share of \$1 million, and the chance of online fame, to users who create and share the best videos. Children are therefore becoming obsessed with producing appealing content. The Spotlight feature's endless scroll of videos makes it easy for children to pass hours watching content, slowly getting addicted to the app.

Sexting

Sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature makes it easy for young people (teens in particular) to share explicit images on impulse. While these pictures do disappear – and the sender is notified if it has been screenshotted first – users have found alternative methods to save images, such as taking pictures with a separate device.



Advice for Parents & Carers

Turn off Quick Add

The Quick Add feature helps people find each other on the app. This function works based on mutual friends or whether someone's number is in your child's contacts list. Explain to your child that this feature could potentially make their profile visible to strangers. We recommend that your child turns off Quick Add, which can be done in the settings (accessed via the cog icon).

Choose Good Connections

Snapchat has recently announced that it is rolling out a new safety feature: users will receive notifications reminding them of the importance of maintaining connections with people they actually know well, as opposed to strangers. This Friend Check up encourages users to delete connections with users they rarely communicate with to maintain their online safety and privacy.

Talk about Sexting

It may feel like an awkward conversation (and one that young people can be reluctant to have) but it is important to talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting. Discuss the legal implications of sending, receiving or sharing explicit images, as well as the possible emotional impact. Emphasise that your child should never feel pressured into sexting – and that if they receive unwanted explicit images, they should tell a trusted adult straight away.

Keep Profiles Private

Profiles are private by default, but children may want to make them public to gain more followers. You may wish to customise the settings so that your child's Stories can only be viewed by people they know well in real life. In SnapMaps, enabling 'Ghost Mode' (again via settings) prevents your child's location being seen; it also nullifies SnapMap 'status', which visibly displays a user's exact location for as long as they stay there.

Be Ready to Block and Report

If a stranger does connect with your child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending explicit images to them, your child can select the three dots on that person's profile and choose report or block. There are options to state why they are reporting that user (annoying or malicious messages, spam, or masquerading as someone else, for example).

Chat about Content

Talk to your child about what is and isn't wise to share on Snapchat (e.g. don't post explicit images or videos, or display identifiable details like their school uniform). Remind them that once something is online, the creator loses control over where it might end up, and who with. Additionally, Snapchat's 'Spotlight' feature has a #challenge like TikTok's: it's vital that your child understands the potentially harmful consequences of taking part in these challenges.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

Source: State of Mind: Social media and young people's mental health (UK) | Hoop - Children's Commissioners Report (https://www.hoopreport.com/) | Snap - US (https://www.snap.com/) | Snapchat - Parent Review (https://www.independent.co.uk/https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-56111111) | Snapchat - Parent Review (https://www.independent.co.uk/https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-56111111) | Snapchat - Parent Review (https://www.independent.co.uk/https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-56111111)



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