

Abacus Primary School



Newsletter 399

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WELCOME BACK

It has been so great to have the children back in school this week. Monday morning on the playground was a wonderful sight to observe, with huge smiles, children running up the path and excitement all round— long may this continue! We've had a fantastic first week and we are so proud of the children for all their efforts

since returning...our school feels complete again.

On Monday, I met each year group on Zoom to talk through the restrictions that we still need to have in place and of course to see the children and welcome them back.

I shared a poem written by Lincoln, an 11 year old boy from the United Kingdom, which was part of a Save the Children international project:



Save the
Children

**"When it is safe, I'll hold my arms wide,
And shout to the world we can all go outside!
Don't give up hope the end is in sight,
If we all stick together, we'll all win this fight!"**

From a project launched from Save the Children international
Sharing dreams, hopes and fears: Children's poems of life in lockdown

The last two lines of the poem are very pertinent at the moment- **Don't give up hope the end is in sight, if we all stick together, we'll all win this fight.**

Thank you for all your help and support this week in preparing the children for their return to school and helping us to follow the restrictions in place.



I am delighted to announce that Mrs Borley gave birth to a beautiful, healthy baby girl on Sunday. Welcome Charlotte (Lottie) Nicola Borley and Congratulations to Mr & Mrs Borley, Evie and Eloise.



**Next week, we will be on Week 2 of
our new menu (displayed on Page 6)**



Only one parent / adult
allowed to accompany
child to setting

Be socially safe™

Please remember that only one adult family member should be entering the school site at drop off and pick up times.

All adults should be wearing a mask/ face covering when entering our school site.

Adults who are exempt from wearing a mask must ensure they have their lanyard clearly on view.



VOCABULARY PARADE



Thank you for all your efforts, support and creativity with costumes for the Vocabulary Parade on Thursday....everyone looked tremendous.

The children have enjoyed seeing each others outfits on a virtual parade throughout the day.



Wellbeing

Mrs Tolley has visited all classes this week to introduce them to Tapping, which is also known as EFT (Emotional Freedom Technique). EFT can be used to calm the body by simply tapping on our energy hot spots (with hands or fingertips) located on the body or face. Along with mindful breathing, tapping allows the body to shift negative sensations or physical pain and bring balance back to our central nervous system.

There are some videos on our website demonstrating the technique– you can find these on our Wellbeing page:

<https://www.abacusprimaryschool.co.uk/wellbeing>



Class emails

Now that all the children have returned to school, class emails will no longer be open. Class teachers do not have time to check these alongside full time teaching. Home/school communication is still important to us so please remember to use the school text system or leave a message with the school office –01268 571018.

Wednesday 17th March 2021



On Wednesday 17th March, it is St Patrick's Day. We are inviting children in St Patrick's Team (Green Team) to wear something green to school on Wednesday. **Many thanks**

RED NOSE DAY

To celebrate Red Nose Day we will be offering the children the opportunity to come to school in non school uniform on

NEXT WEEK

Friday 19th March 2021.

All donations will be paid on ParentPay.

Abacus School Marathon



The registration for this is now closed and medals have been ordered. Thank you to all the children and staff who have registered for our first marathon in March. We have 85 people registered— good luck to you all.



Crafty Katie
After School
CRAFT CLUB

Excited to be returning to Abacus for some creative fun

Crafts to include Mother's Day gifts and Easter!

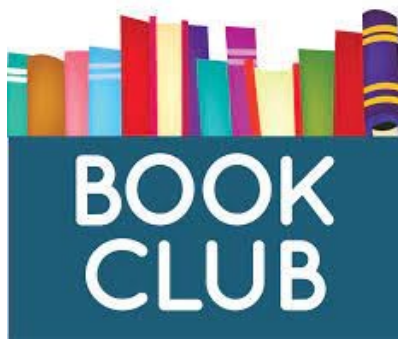
Club runs straight from class and finishes at 4.30pm
Limited spaces due to reduced club sizes so please book asap

Tuesdays - 3 week block = £15 starts Tues 9th March
Wednesdays - 3 week block = £15 starts Weds 10th March

Sibling discounts available



To Book- text or call Katie on 07929 044959



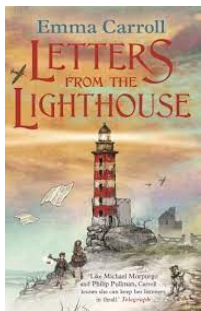
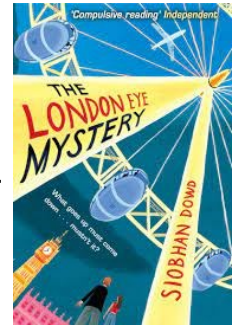
Our Year 5/6 Book Club meets half termly and had 12 members at their last meeting, which took place online. They are currently reading "Rooftoppers" by Katherine Rundell

Below are some reviews from book club members:

Book 1- The London Eye Mystery by Siobhan Dowd

I really enjoyed the book as I am a fan of mystery and the plot was incredible. However, the book wasn't really my kind of book. 8/10 (Keira— YR6)

My feelings about the book are that it was ok and I liked that it was adventurous. 5/10 (Holly—YR6)



Book 2 - Letters From The Lighthouse by Emma Carroll

This book was probably my favourite book so far. I really love historic fiction and every time I read a page, I wanted to read more but when I finished, I wish I hadn't read it so fast. (Keira –YR6)

If you'd like more information about Book club, please speak to Miss Mitchell, our English leader.



Times Table Rock Stars

12/3/21

Silver Class 1st: Keira N 2 nd : Mcrae K 3rd: George R	Purple Class 1st: Miley M 2nd: Dollie Mae W 3rd: Alfie G	Gold Class 1st: Annie K 2nd: 3rd:
White Class 1st: Ethan L 2nd: Charlotte N 3rd: Emmi P	Black Class 1st: Erin E 2nd: Chloe L 3rd: Michelle H	Green Class 1st: Lena V 2nd: Annabella D 3rd: Adriana K
Lilac Class 1st: Bobbee B 2nd: Henry J 3rd: Darcey 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.	



Our New Menu

Abacus Primary School Menu – With Effect From 8th March 2021

WEEK 1	RED BAND	GREEN BAND	PURPLE BAND	DESSERT INCLUDED
MONDAY	Pepperoni Pizza Salad	Cheese & Tomato Pizza* Salad	Ham Sandwich * Salad	Toffee Frozen Yoghurt Pot or Fruit
TUESDAY	Beef Burger in a Bun * Salad	Spicy Bean Burger in a Bun Salad	Tuna & Cucumber Wrap* Salad	Iced Sponge or Fruit
WEDNESDAY	Chicken Korma & Rice *Naan Bread Salad	Macaroni Cheese Garlic Bread Salad	Bacon, Lettuce & Tomato Sandwich* Salad	Strawberry Mousse or Fruit
THURSDAY	Meatballs in Tomato Sauce & Pasta Salad	Tomato & Basil Pasta* Salad	Dairylea Roll* Salad	Ice Lolly or Fruit
FRIDAY	Jumbo Fish Finger & Chips*	Vegetable Nuggets Chips	Cheese Roll *	Cookie or Fruit
WEEK 2	RED BAND	GREEN BAND	PURPLE BAND	DESSERT INCLUDED
MONDAY	Ham & Pineapple Pizza Salad	Cheese & Tomato Pizza* Salad	Tuna & Cucumber Wrap * Salad	Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt
TUESDAY	Chicken Nugget Wrap* Salad	Vegetable Nugget Wrap Salad	Tomato Pasta Pot * Salad	Flapjack or Fruit
WEDNESDAY	Pasta Bolognaise* Garlic Bread Salad	Tomato & Sweetcorn Pasta* Garlic Bread Salad	Egg Mayonnaise & Crispy Bacon Baguette* Salad	Cupcake or Fruit
THURSDAY	Sausage Baguette* Salad	Vegetarian Sausage Baguette Salad	Cheese Roll *	Ice Cream Tub or Fruit
FRIDAY	Jumbo Fish Finger & Chips *	Vegetable Samosa & Chips	Ham Sandwich * Salad	Cookie or Fruit
WEEK 3	RED BAND	GREEN BAND	PURPLE BAND	DESSERT INCLUDED
MONDAY	Meat Feast Pizza Salad	Cheese & Tomato Pizza* Salad	Tuna Baguette * Salad	Fruit or Yoghurt
TUESDAY	Fish Burger in a Roll* Salad	Vegetable Bean Burger in a Roll Salad	Tomato Pasta Pot* Salad	Raspberry Ripple Mousse or Fruit
WEDNESDAY	Chicken Pasta Bake* Salad	Pasta Bake* Salad	Ham Sandwich * Salad	Ice Lolly or Fruit
THURSDAY	Sausage Baguette* Salad	Vegetable Sausage Baguette Salad	Tuna & Cucumber Wrap* Salad	Chocolate Crispy Cake or Fruit
FRIDAY	Fish Fingers & Chips*	Quorn Nuggets & Chips	Cheese Roll *	Cookie or Fruit

*Gluten Free Options



Spotlight on our Curriculum



This week we have enjoyed being in our classes, renewing friendships, exploring the classroom and having a catch up. We are enjoying learning about the number 10 and using the part-whole method to show different ways of doing this.



This week, Year 1 has enjoyed being back together again. There have been lots of smiles and chatter with some work of course. In Maths we recapped some adding, subtracting and measuring skills. In English, we wrote a letter to Mrs Blakeley to let her know what we have enjoyed learning about this term and during lockdown. Our teachers were so impressed with our writing, they put our work up on our Writing Walls.



In Y2 this week we have had a fantastic time settling in and spending time as a class again! We have enjoyed practising rolling a ball in PE, choosing our new reading books from the library and starting our new unit on 2D and 3D shapes in Maths.



In Art, we have been exploring mixing different tones by adding white or black paint. In English, we wrote and illustrated alphabet poems around a theme after reading the poem 'The A-Z of Amazing'. In Maths, we have been measuring and calculating the perimeter of 2d shapes. We have used our knowledge of shape, mental addition and length.



This week in Year 4 we have really enjoyed all being back in class. We have started to look at Fractions in Maths and have started a new book in English called "The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane" by Kate DiCamillo. In Science we have been carrying out experiments to do with sound, we have been using tuning forks and water! We have also had a fantastic Vocabulary Day, we dressed up as some interesting words. Also, this week we have written a poem that will be sent into space!



We have had a busy first week back! In Maths, we have moved on to measuring and drawing angles and we enjoyed holding a mini debate about deforestation in English. In Art, we have been learning about the artist L.S. Lowry and focussing on perspective. On Thursday, we celebrated Vocabulary Day by dressing up and creating our own poem which will be sent in to space and then returned to us! We also joined a live talk given by 'Incredible Oceans' where we learnt about the impact of plastic in the ocean. It has been so lovely to see everyone in real life and we are looking forward to next week!



What Parents & Carers Need to Know About

SIGNAL

12+
App Store
Rating

Signal is a multimedia messaging service (previously known as TextSecure) which provides secure chats between users. It is encrypted, so any intercepted communication cannot be read by attackers. Users can send one-to-one messages or set up group chats. The service is free, has no adverts and doesn't track users' location like many other messaging platforms. The app experienced a popularity boom in early 2020 as large numbers of users left WhatsApp over perceived privacy issues.

Disappearing Messages

Messages on Signal can be set to disappear from both the sender and the recipient's device at a specified time after they are first opened – potentially as little as five seconds. So it is difficult to monitor the app and see what your child is talking about. Should someone behave inappropriately towards them, unless they record evidence instantly there is no way to prove what has happened – making it difficult to take the proper action.

Risk of Screenshots

Because messages can be set to disappear on Signal, some young people assume that nobody else will ever see them and let their guard down as a result. But a recipient could still capture a screenshot of your child's message before it vanishes from their device. This screenshot – which might be of something inappropriate or deeply personal – can then be shared with others or even made public on the internet.

False Sense of Security

The feeling of total privacy and security within the app can make young people feel like they are invulnerable – and possibly that they could get away with behaving in ways they normally wouldn't. This behaviour could range from the harmful (such as participating in cyber bullying or sharing age-inappropriate images or videos) to the extremely dangerous: perhaps chatting to strangers, who might potentially be predators.

Vulnerability to Hackers

Like virtually any piece of software, Signal has been shown to have flaws in its security. One hacker was able to make a call to a target device using the app and could then listen in on the victim through their phone – without needing them to even answer the call. Afterwards, the hacked user was completely unaware that the eavesdropping had taken place.

Advice for Parents & Carers

Gather Any Evidence Quickly

If your children are old enough to use Signal, they will likely already know how to take a quick screenshot on their phone. It's best to confirm this with them, however, because if they've sent something inappropriate or offensive, they will only have a very short opportunity to screenshot it as evidence of misconduct before the message disappears. Once they've captured the screenshot, they should then come to you or another trusted adult.

Talk about Online Bullying

Before your child downloads Signal, have an open discussion about the potential risks of this app and others like it. Ensure your child is aware of the possibility of bullying or hurtful messages on such platforms. They should understand that the app makes them feel safe but does not help with investigating incidents – and that it may be difficult to prove someone has done something to upset them.

Think before Sending

The messages a young person sends on Signal don't last forever, but the effects of those messages very well might – for your child and for others. You could suggest to your child that, if they're unsure whether to send a particular message, they should ask themselves if they would be comfortable showing the content to you. And if they wouldn't, should they really be sending it at all?

Stay Updated

It's wise to make sure your child knows how to keep their software up to date by downloading the latest version. Developers will often release software updates that (as well as occasionally adding new features or improving functionality, etc.) help to fix any security flaws and stop hackers from exploiting possible weak points in the app.

Consider Online Reputation

Talk to your child about the implications if a message they sent was made public without their consent, reminding them that once an image (for example) is out there, there's no way to control what happens to it or erase every single copy. It's a good way to get young people to start considering how their digital footprint might have repercussions on their future prospects.

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.



NOS
National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

Go to help.nationalonlinesafety.com for more advice.



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