

Abacus Primary School



Newsletter 387 27/11/2020

HM Government **TIER 2 HIGH ALERT** FROM 2 DEC

MEETING FRIENDS AND FAMILY
No mixing of households indoors, apart from support bubbles. Maximum of six outdoors.

BARS, PUBS AND RESTAURANTS
Pubs and bars must close, unless operating as restaurants. Hospitality venues can only serve alcohol with substantial meals. Venues must stop taking orders at 11pm and must close by 11pm.

RETAIL
Open.

WORK AND BUSINESS
Everyone who can work from home should do so.

EDUCATION
Early years settings, schools, colleges and universities open. Childcare, other supervised activities for children, and childcare bubbles permitted.

INDOOR LEISURE
Open.

ACCOMMODATION
Open.

PERSONAL CARE
Open.

OVERNIGHT STAYS
Permitted with household or support bubble.

WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS
15 guests for weddings, civil partnerships, wedding receptions and wakes; 30 for funerals.

ENTERTAINMENT
Open.

PLACES OF WORSHIP
Open, but cannot interact with anyone outside household or support bubble.

TRAVELLING
Reduce the number of journeys you make and walk or cycle if possible. Avoid busy times and routes on public transport. Avoid car sharing with those outside of your household or support bubble. Avoid travelling outside your area, or entering a Tier 3 area, other than where necessary such as for work or education. Further exemptions apply.

EXERCISE
Classes and organised adult sport can take place outdoors, but cannot take place indoors if there is any interaction between people from different households. Organised activities for elite athletes, under-18s and disabled people can continue.

RESIDENTIAL CARE
COVID-secure arrangements such as substantial screens, visiting pods, and window visits. Outdoor/airtight visits only (rollout of rapid testing will enable indoor visits including contact).

LARGE EVENTS
Sport, live performances and business meetings limited to 50% capacity or 2000 people outdoors (whichever is lower) and 50% capacity or 1000 people indoors (whichever is lower).

Find out what support you can get
For example, if you're out of work, need to get food, or want to take care of your mental health.
[gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

If you have any coronavirus symptoms:
A high temperature + A new, continuous cough
A loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste.
Get a test and stay at home

For more information and detailed guidance visit:
[gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

HANDS FACE SPACE

With the news that we are moving to a Tier System, we are waiting for updated guidance from the Local Authority. We will continue to follow guidance from Public Health England and Track & Trace.

To ensure the Health and Safety of our whole school community we all have a duty to follow the rules and restrictions.

Only one family member must enter the school premises at drop off and pick up times (this includes Grandparents and also secondary aged children.)

From 28/9/20 it became a legal requirement to isolate if you are informed to. During an isolation period, daily exercise is not allowed– you should remain in your home at all times.

Please ensure that only members of your support bubble collect / drop children off at school.



Next week we will be on week 1 of our school menu, menu changes for next week are as follows:

Thursday's Red band will now be Pasta Bolognese



With Christmas fast approaching I wanted to share with you some of the plans that we have in place for the children and also some changes to some of our Christmas organisation. We know that things have got to be a little different this year, but we are trying our best to keep the Christmas spirit alive here at Abacus. There will also be a few events, which we are keeping a surprise at the moment.

Christmas lunches: We will be serving Christmas lunches as usual, but over a longer period of 3 days to ensure that the children can stay in their bubbles. A

letter with more details will be available soon. The lunches will take place on:

Foundation and Year 1– Tuesday 15th December 2020

Year 2 and Year 3– Wednesday 16th December 2020

Years 4 ,5 and 6—Thursday 17th December 2020.

Christmas cards: We will not be having a school post box this year. Children can hand out cards in their class. Any cards for children in other classes need to be handed out before or after school.

Christmas Jumper Day-Friday 11th December 2020- We will be taking part in this event again this year for a donation to Save the Children

Christmas
JUMPER DAY



Christmas Movie Day– This will replace party day and be communicated to you by your child's class teacher. Children can bring in individual snacks/treats rather than joint things to share.

Class Christmas Raffles– Each class will be holding a 'Class Christmas Raffle' this year. Tickets will be £2 each and rather than receiving a ticket, class staff will allocate a number. We will then use the a Random Number Generator to pick the numbers in the last week of term. We really appreciate your support with this. These will be available to buy from 1/12/20. Please send money in a named envelope with your children.



Christmas 'Production' Unfortunately we are unable to invite parents/family members in to watch performance this year, but each class will be performing a short piece which will then be put together into a movie and posted on our school website for you all to enjoy. This will be filmed on Christmas Jumper Day (Friday 11th December 2020).



Give safely to
charity this Christmas

Christmas Charity—This year we will be supporting a local care home as our Christmas charity.

The care home is Silvana Court in Wickford .

Children will be making the residents a Christmas card each and we will be sending a DVD of our Christmas performance for the residents to watch.

We are hoping that you can help us to bring the Christmas Magic to them by donating a box of chocolates. The chocolates will be individually wrapped and a gift tag made so that each of the residents receive a gift this Christmas. There are currently 85 residents in the care home. (We have checked and there are no nut allergies amongst the residents.)

There will be a box left in the entrance hall for the donations. We really appreciate all of your support with this and am sure the residents will too.

The manager of the care home has promised to send some video/photos of the residents receiving their gifts, which we will share with you.



Miss Mitchell, our English leader has organised for a Book Fair to be in School from next week—please see the details below. (This is the first time that we have run a fair in this way, so please bear with us if there are a few teething problems.)

On Wednesday 2nd December, our Travelling Books book fair will arrive in school. Due to the current circumstances, the book fair will run a little differently to previous years. Each class bubble will be given time to visit the book fair to look at (but not touch) the books. If there is a book they really like, they can record it on their wish list and bring it home to parents. You can choose to purchase the book (or any others) by paying over the phone. This is the only method of payment we will be accepting. Once paid, you will be given a 'Transaction Code' to record on the order form. Children should then return their order form to school and once staff have checked the transaction code, they will be given the book from the shelf.

Please see a list of books on the School Newsletter page on the website.

Safety first

Our measures for safe Book Fairs this Autumn



Book Fair cases will be deep cleaned before arrival



Delivery drivers will wear masks and gloves



Contactless drop off – drivers will maintain social distancing when delivering and collecting cases



Two week fairs available to allow for quarantine period in school



Children can browse in their class bubbles



All fairs materials will be available as digital downloads



Extra video and online content to support your fair



'Look, don't touch until you buy' cards available for display on Book Fair cases and tick box order forms for children to make their selections for minimal contact with books on the cases

Star of the Week!

Pink Class	Liam D
Blue Class	Florence O
Red Class	Bella T
Orange Class	Ryan T
Yellow Class	Albert L
Turquoise Class	Chase S
Green Class	Hannah F
Lilac Class	Leo H
Black Class	Lenni-Mae L
White Class	Betsy B
Gold Class	Gabriela K
Purple Class	Stanley B & Boris H
Silver Class	Lexie D



For this weeks Give It A Go, why don't you try a family scavenger hunt out and about?

There is a free downloadable hunt here:

<https://happymomhacks.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Nature-Scavenger-Hunt.pdf>





Times Table Rock Stars

27/11/20

Silver Class 1st: Keira N 2nd: Mcrae K 3rd: Niamh O	Purple Class 1st: Mia W 2nd: Miley M 3rd: Dollie-Mae W	Gold Class 1st: Gabriela K 2nd: Peyton R 3rd: Havana J
White Class 1st: Charlotte N 2nd: Harley B 3rd: Grace B	Black Class 1st: Erin E 2nd: Chloe L 3rd: Archie C	Green Class 1st: Jubril R 2nd: Alfie M 3rd: Hannah F
Lilac Class 1st: Darcey S 2nd: Henry J 3rd: Sam M	Well done to everyone. The top child in each class will be entered into a draw to win a prize at the end of the term.	



Thank You!

Thank you so much for all your donations to the local Food Bank. We have now finished collecting and really appreciate all your support with this.



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.

What parents & carers need to know about ...

PLAYSTATION 5

The PlayStation 5 is the next-generation video game console from Sony. It offers improved graphics, sound and much quicker loading times. It also has a new controller with motion- and force-feedback features for a more immersive experience. Parents should note that there are two different versions available that support discs or digital downloads.

Safely setting up your Playstation 5

PlayStation 5 Blu-ray

PlayStation 5 Blu-ray is the larger of the two consoles, although not by a lot. It enables you to play games on disc or by digital download. Although all new games are available digitally, the disc drive is still useful to watch movies from discs as well as play most existing PlayStation 4 games you own. It also enables you to purchase second-hand games on a disc, which is often much cheaper.

Family Settings

Both PlayStation 5 models offer important family controls that should be set up before your family starts using the system. Although this can take a little time, it ensures that children have their own accounts and sets limits on spending, interactions and age ratings. If done correctly, children cannot circumvent these controls that require the parent's password to alter.

Setting Limits on Play Time

You can specify how long, and at which times of day, the console can be used to play without needing a password. Talk to your children and agree how long is appropriate, then set this on their profile, so it's something they understand and accept. You can set different time limits on each of the users on the system.

Managing Spending

You can set a limit on spending via Parental Controls. This means that any additional purchase requires your password. Another alternative is not to put credit card details into your account and instead add credit as they need it using the book token-like cards in-store or online. A nice feature on the PlayStation is setting an amount of pocket money to spend on games each month.

Setting Age Ratings

You can set a limit that stops any older-rated games being played without a password being entered. This is not only a good way to ensure children are playing appropriate content but is a good chance to talk about the games they are playing.

PlayStation 5 Digital

PlayStation 5 Digital is slightly smaller as it doesn't contain a Blu-ray drive. This means the console is cheaper but can only run games you download via an internet connection. Unlike the Xbox Series X and the cheaper Series S, the digital-only PlayStation 5 is just as powerful as its more expensive disc-and-download counterpart.

Downloading the PlayStation App

The PlayStation 5 uses the same PlayStation app as the PlayStation 4. This is a super-easy way to tweak the user settings for your family without having to log on to the console. It's also a good way to keep track of what different people are enjoying on the system. The app can also be used as an easier way to log-on by scanning the QR code.

Creating Guest Account Password

An important step during the PlayStation 5 set-up is specifying the default settings for guest accounts as well as a passcode for your own account. This ensures that all users need to access the system with their own account and related limits and settings.

Managing Online Interactions

Another important area of the Parental Controls is specifying how and who your child can interact with online. Modern consoles enable players to share text, voice, images and video with each other. You can set whether they can do this, and also apply a password before they can add new friends.

Game Subscriptions

In addition to buying individual games digitally or in-store, you can also subscribe to services that offer access to hundreds of games for a monthly fee. PlayStation Plus is needed to play games online with other people and offers a set of games you can immediately download for the new system. PlayStation Now enables you to stream (and download) a wider set of games.

Types of Accounts

Set up Parent Accounts

Setting up a parents' account is important so you can manage the console for your family. After plugging your console in, connect to the internet and wait for updates to finish. Once updated, create a parent user account with an email address you regularly check and password specified.

Set up Child Accounts

Setting up child accounts are important to be able to limit play time, spending and apply age ratings automatically. Separate accounts for each child user can be set up. It's a good idea to specify a password for the guest account so children cannot access this also.

Meet our expert

Andy Robertson is a freelance family technology expert who often works for the BBC. He runs the Family Gamer TV YouTube channel and contributes to a range of national media on the topic of video games and family.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday



Spotlight on our Curriculum

 <p>Foundation Stage</p>	<p>In Foundation this week we have been sequencing the story of Six Dinner Sid. In our topic 'Marvellous Me' we have been thinking about what we like, favourite colour etc and sharing this with our friends. We have enjoyed another P.E. session with Zoe from the William De Ferrers sports partnership and working on our gross motor skills.</p>
 <p>Year 1</p>	<p>What an exciting start to our week, we got to use the laptops to practise our dragging and clicking skills. Then in Science we had to put a skeleton back together which was not as easy as you think. In DT we tried a range of fruit and used our evaluation skills and to finish off we made messy maps of our classroom for Geography. Who says we don't work hard in Year 1!</p>
 <p>Year 2</p>	<p>In Year 2 this week, we have planned and written our hot task diary entries. In Maths, we have been working on subtraction using number lines and the column method. We have also learnt about early European explorers and the contribution that they made to society. We also talked about how some of the things they did were not so nice. We learnt to play Twinkle, Twinkle on a glockenspiel and we have been practising it in order to perform to an audience. Our Science work has been based on animals and their offspring, and we have made advent wreaths in RE/Art.</p>
 <p>Year 3</p>	<p>In History, we have been learning about the Iron Age and the hillforts they lived in. In PSHE, we have been learning about how to be a good friend. Also, we have started learning to say the names of animals in French. In Maths this week, we have been solving problems using the inverse method. We have also been revising 3D shapes and their properties. We have really enjoyed writing a recount about a Bronze Age Boy's adventure.</p>
 <p>year 4</p>	<p>This week we have been looking at different word classes that can make our sentences more interesting. We have been looking at perimeters in Maths. In P.E we are beginning to get ready for our Cross Country Virtual Event. We are continuing to look at the Rainforest and the impact humans have on the rainforest.</p>
 <p>Years 5/6</p>	<p>This week we sorted Liquorice Allsorts in Science (!) to help develop our understanding of classification keys. We learnt about mudskippers in grammar and used this information to add relative clauses into our sentences. In music, we have been using different parts of our bodies to create percussion sounds. Well done to all of the children in 5/6 for working so hard whether at home or school!</p>