

Abacus Primary School

Newsletter 417

10/9/21



We're really excited that our reading book vending machine was delivered this week. Thank you to everyone who took part in our Easter reading challenge, which helped us fund this resource. Our Reading Ambassadors helped Miss Mitchell to add a selection of books to the machine. We can't wait to start handing out golden tokens.

It was so exciting to welcome Blue and Pink class children and families to our school. We hope they've had a wonderful first day. They all looked so smart in their uniforms and it was great to see so many smiley faces as they arrived this morning—parents and children!

Welcome to Abacus!



Next week we are on Week 2 of our
new menu

WEEK 2

Teachers would like to invite you to a Welcome meeting on the dates/times below. These will take place on Zoom and links will be sent out the day before your meeting.

Following the meeting, presentations will be posted on our website...we will text the link out to you.

The meetings will be no longer than 15 to 20 minutes and will cover important information around your child's education this year. We look forward to seeing you all online.



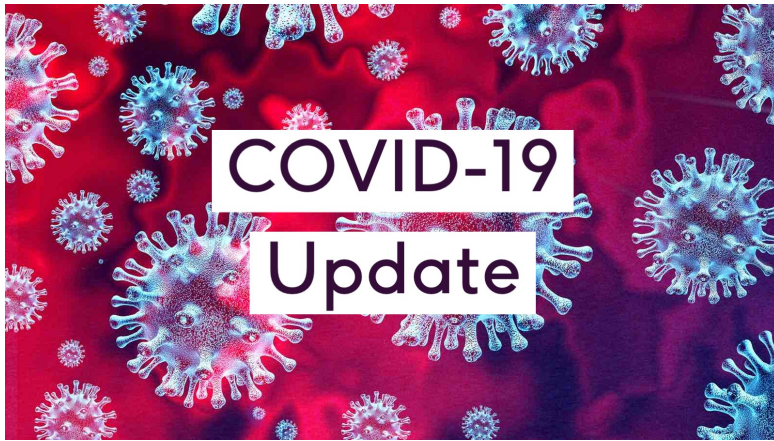
<u>Year group</u>	<u>Date / time</u>
Foundation	Wednesday 29/9/21 at 9.30am
Year One	Thursday 23/9/21 at 9.30am
Year Two	Tuesday 22/9/21 at 9.30am
Year Three	Tuesday 21/9/21 at 10.30am
Year Four	Tuesday 21/9/21 at 9.30am
Year Five	Monday 20/9/21 at 10.30am
Year Six	Monday 20/9/21 at 9.30am



Let's **Celebrate!**

Well done to Lewis Boarer
for being awarded the Man
of the Match trophy.





Following changes to the government guidance over the summer Please see the updated advice for schools from the “Schools COVID 19 Operational Guide” below.

Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:

- they are fully vaccinated
- they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

- Face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas.
- If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test and the pupil can return to school, as long as the individual doesn't have COVID-19 symptoms.

We appreciate that some of these changes may feel worrying for some families, if you would like talk through any of these changes, please contact the school office and I will get back to you as soon as I can.

Mrs Blakeley

e-Safety

for parents and carers

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 game 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 and Carers Need to Know About...

ROCKET LEAGUE

Age Restriction
PEGI 3

Rocket League is a free-to-play multiplayer vehicle football game. It was developed by Psyonix, now part of the Epic Games family (which also includes Fortnite and Gears of War). Rocket League is essentially a football game where, instead of running, the players drive rocket-powered cars. The game was a surprise hit that took the world by storm when it first released in 2015. Rocket League is available for the Xbox One, Xbox Series X, PlayStation 4 & PlayStation 5, Nintendo Switch, Windows PC, MacOS and Linux.

Fiercely Competitive Community

Competitive gaming isn't necessarily bad. However, playing purely to win (as opposed to simply having fun) can result in aggressive behaviour among some players if they're not successful in the game. Certain people can become hostile or 'toxic' towards other players. Continually seeing this behaviour can cause children to think it is acceptable and lead to anger issues while playing.

Grinding and Increased Screen-time

Features like the Rocket Pass and the ranking system can make Rocket League a grinding-focused game. This means players need to spend a lot of time on the game to progress through levels and collect rewards. Grinding encourages regular long gaming sessions for players seeking to climb the rankings (meaning increased screen time) but it doesn't always result in making much headway.

Unsuitable Online Interactions

A video game's age rating cannot take player-generated elements into account. Rocket League is rated PEGI 3, but its online features mean that appropriateness can't be guaranteed. Audio and text chat, player usernames, player-to-player trades and other user-created content may not be suitable for young players. The game is moderated, but catching everything can be difficult.

18+

Scams and Bad Trades

Player-to-player trading is common in Rocket League. The game has lots of cosmetic items to collect, and some can be very valuable. Players can trade items among themselves, but younger gamers are not always the best judges of what constitutes a fair deal. This can lead to them being swindled in trades – or to children signing up to illegitimate trading websites, where they then get scammed.

In-App Purchasing

Free-to-play games (so called because they don't cost anything to download) like this depend on players making in-game purchases to turn a profit. Rocket League's in-game currency, called credits, are used to buy items in the game. Credits can be earned by playing the game or can be bought with real money – which could prove expensive if a child lets their love of the game and desire to progress get the better of them.

Advice For Parents & Carers

Use Parental Controls

Psyonix has added some safety measures into the game. The text and voice chat can be disabled, for example, limiting contact from strangers. However, it's not currently possible to block contact from other players about trades. It's a good idea, then, to talk with your child about the possibility of scams and bad trades either before they download the game or early in their Rocket League 'career'.

Stay Aware of Spending

Free-to-play games can become money sinks without children realising. For peace of mind, make sure you don't have any payment methods attached to your child's gaming account to avoid accidental purchases. Rocket League credits can be earned through gameplay or bought with real money: encourage your child to use their earned credits first before they ask you to top them up.

Monitor Gaming Time

It's impractical to sit and watch your child every time they play Rocket League. Keeping an eye on their gaming hours is crucial, however: it's easy to lose track of time while playing (even for adults), so 'one more game' can soon turn into ten more games. Helping your child to balance their gaming time with their homework, chores and other activities is a life lesson in time management.

Encourage Regular Breaks

Sitting in the same position all day while gaming isn't healthy, but it is an easy habit to fall into. A short break every hour or half hour is important. It allows players to rest their eyes, brains, hands and arms. Learning the value of an occasional break from any activity is good practice for the future. Encouraging your child to hydrate regularly can also help to lower any rising competitive tempers!

Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books. With experience in esports and content creation, Clare has seen the benefits and drawbacks of all aspects of gaming.



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SOURCES: <https://support.rocketleague.com/hc/en-us/articles/360015613074>, <https://support.rocketleague.com/hc/en-us/articles/360053542814-Parental-Controls>, <https://support.rocketleague.com/hc/en-us/articles/360039997693-How-can-I-protect-my-child-from-online-interactions>, <https://theglobalgaming.com/rocket-league/credit-system-free/>



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Our Curriculum



Early Years Foundation Stage

After a lovely 5 days of home visits, the first day has arrived. We have loved welcoming our new children into Foundation and they are already settling in well.

Year 1

Who would think that it was only our first full week in Year 1. We have been so busy! We finished our work around the book *What we'll build* by Oliver Jeffers. Wrote a class poem and talked about what we want to be when we grow up, practised our number writing and phonic sounds. To finish the week off we also had our first PE lesson all about balancing techniques. Ask us to show you how to balance properly.

Year 2

In Y2 this week we have been enjoying our first full week back! We have jumped straight in to word classes in GPS & have started to think about sentence types. Ask us to tell you the difference between a noun, verb and adjective. In English we have written & performed some monster poems & started to learn the story of *Not Now Bernard*. In Maths, we have been learning about the number system, counting in 1s and 10s to 100 and also been looking at the greater than/less than/equal to symbols, using these to compare numbers within 50. We have started to learn about our new topic - Rule Britannia! Ask us what facts we can remember about The Great Fire of London!

Year 3

We've had a great week of going back in time to the Stone Age period. Ask your child what people achieved during Stone Age time. Can they tell you any of these achievements or any other facts about life during the Stone Age period? We have been learning features of a fable in English and started imitating 'The Hare and the Tortoise.' In maths, we have been representing numbers to 1000 and revising place value. We have drawn our first portrait of the year in art.

Year 4

In Science, we have started learning about sound. We went on a sound hunt to explore the sounds around our school and discovered the sources for these noises. What sources of sound can you hear at home? In English, we enjoyed the story *Rainbow Bird* and created descriptive writing about the characters. In Art, we created self-portrait sketches in our sketch books. We thought about proportion and adding texture.

Year 5

This week in Year 5, we have been getting our teeth stuck into Kensuke's Kingdom. Can your children tell you what a haiku and tanka is? In Science we have been carrying out lots of experiments about forces. What do you know about air resistance? In P.E, we have started to play Hockey and we really enjoyed that. In PSHE we have begun a unit looking at 'What makes up a person's identity?' and this has started a lot of sensible and mature discussions.

Year 6

Year 6 have had a fantastic first full week back at school! We have enjoyed linking our learning about place value in maths to house prices and football player's weekly wages - we were shocked by some of them! We have started reading 'Who let the Gods out?' in English which we are finding very funny and links perfectly to our History unit which involves learning all about Ancient Greece.