

Abacus Primary School



Newsletter 422 15/10/21

Year 4 visited Colchester Zoo



Year 4 had a great day on Tuesday when they visited Colchester Zoo. This term their topic is Rainforests and they enjoyed a talk all about Rainforests and learnt about the four layers. They had the opportunity to hold a number of insects and enjoyed completing the different activities as they walked around the zoo including how heavy are different animals. All the staff and children had a great day.

Next week we are on Week 1 of our new menu

We are experiencing some foods being out of stock/delivery issues so we may need to make some changes to our menu throughout the week. We will inform you by text should this be the case.

WEEK 1





I can't tell you how excited I am to welcome Year 2 parents to our Harvest celebration on Tuesday and Wednesday next week. Tickets have been sent home this week. Please ensure that you bring your ticket with you.

The stage went up on Thursday and the excitement amongst the school was infectious with many children saying they remember when we used to use the stage! This is another step closer to 'more normal times'.

I look forward to watching the performances with you.

**Tuesday 19/10/21 at 10am and
Wednesday 20/10/21 at 2pm**

Just a reminder (as stated on the letter) siblings will not be permitted to the performance to allow for all children to be heard throughout the performance.



To develop our community links with Silvana Court each class have written a letter to the residents.

These letters are going to begin a PenPal exchange with a resident attached to each class, we hope this will enthuse the children and provide them with a purpose to write. The letters can be viewed on our website.





We are collecting for our local food bank as part of our Harvest celebrations.

Items they recommend are:

Tinned Meat

Tinned Fish

Tinned Fruit

Long-life Milk

Tea and Coffee

Tinned Mixed or Single Vegetables, Tinned Tomatoes

Pasta Sauce

Jam and Marmalade

We are also grateful to receive donations of shower gel, deodorant, shampoo and feminine hygiene products.

**SCHOOL
UNIFORM**

Please can you ensure that all uniform is named, so that if it is left around the school we can easily return it to children.

We already have a large amount of lost property in our entrance hall, please pop along and see if any of this belongs to your children. This will remain out until next Thursday and then any items left will be donated to the nearly new uniform collection.



Let's Celebrate!



Well done to Harry, Mollie and Archie for their achievements outside of school.

House Points

			
			
244	289	244	233

Well done to St David's house for being top of the leader board this week!

Our Curriculum



Early Years Foundation Stage

This week we found a sad giraffe in our classroom. His name is Gerald and we talked about why he might be sad. Ask us what we did to try and cheer Gerald up. Having collected lots of autumn leaves over the weekend, we used these to make some autumn pictures. In Science we were sound collectors, using our body as percussion. Ask us what different sounds we made.

Year 1

Another busy week in Yr1. We learnt a new meaning to the words whole and parts and have started to use the Part-Whole model in Maths. In English we have learnt two more types of words; nouns and adjectives. Ask us to give you some examples. In Art we finished our castle paintings using different media and in Science we learnt the different parts of a tree. Did you know trees have a crown?

Year 2

In Year 2 we have been polishing off our Harvest performance - we can't wait for you to see it! In English we have been reading and thinking about features of diaries. We learnt about Samuel Pepys and read what he might have written in his diary back in 1666. In GPS we have been adding suffixes to root words to make adverbs using the suffix -ly. Ask us for examples of adverbs and see if we can tell you how the adverb changes the way the verb is performed. In Maths we have been adding and subtracting multiples of ten to 2-digit numbers. We had an exciting afternoon of food tasting, where we learnt about where food comes from and some of us even found some new fruits and vegetables that we liked!

Year 3

Year 3 have been learning more about Christianity this week in R.E. We have learned about a baptism service and the story of Jesus being baptised. Can your child tell you why this was believed to be a significant time in Jesus' life? We also looked at features of a church. We have created some amazing pieces of cave art by creating a textured cave wall. Can your child tell you how we did this? In Maths, we have been learning how to add/subtract 10s and 100s to/from a 3 digit number including missing number problems.

Year 4

We enjoyed our trip to Colchester Zoo this week as we got to see some rainforest animals up close. We wrote recounts about our trip using paragraphs to organise our writing. In Maths, we have been looking at exchanging within written addition calculations. In Science, we made cup-phones and investigated how sound travels through a medium. What happened when we spoke into the cup?

Year 5

In Year 5 this week we have been learning about persuasive writing by looking at going into space as an animal. Do you think this is the right thing to do? Should we send dogs and monkeys into space? We have also looked at the effect plastic is having on our earth. Can you do something to reduce your plastic usage? In Maths we have been looking at addition and subtraction and in Geography comparing the UK with North America. Did you know there is a Wickford in the USA? In French we are learning the names of the planets in French. Why not ask your child if they can remember any of their names?

Year 6

In DT this week we have been learning about balanced diets, food labels and did some taste testing of Greek food! Some of us were a little nervous to try the food (especially the olives!) but everyone had a good go. The houmous, flatbread and feta stuffed peppers went down especially well! Ask us about the foods we would like to try again. We then planned our own Greek recipes to cook next week. In English, we have been writing biographies about Hercules and in Maths we have been focussing on division.

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 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

HOOP



App Store Rating

13+

Hoop is a social networking app that syncs with Snapchat to help users build their community of friends. It works along similar principles to Tinder: swiping left or right will reject or accept potential contacts, making new connections in the process. When two users accept each other, they can then communicate via Snapchat. There is no chat function on Hoop itself: video and audio calls, messaging and image sharing all take place through Snapchat. When a user adds a new Hoop contact, they are essentially sharing their personal information from Snapchat.

No Age Verification

18+

The app groups ages 17–13 together and age children's profiles – and Hoop warns users that +18 years separately, so adults do not see them; they must input their real date of birth. However, there is no age verification system, meaning that an individual with intentions of grooming could sign up pretending to be a child, so that they could be connected with younger users.

In-app Purchases

Hoop offers in-app purchases that allow users to buy 'diamonds': the digital currency required to connect with others. Users can earn diamonds by watching videos, sharing links or contact lists, adding friends and completing surveys; alternatively, diamonds can be bought in packs, with costs ranging from 99p to 28.99£, which potentially could prove to be very expensive if a child has a payment method linked to their device.

Visible Location

Hoop gives users the option to share their Snap Story on their Hoop profile. Snap Stories are visible for 24 hours and, by default, show the user's exact location on the Snap Map. This means that not only will a young person's friends be able to see this information but all Hoop users too – including, potentially, individuals who may have sinister motives for pinpointing a child's whereabouts.

Grooming Risk

If a stranger uses Hoop to connect with your child on Snapchat, it means they would have access to your child's personal information, location, photos, videos and stories shared with their friends on Snapchat (unless your child has changed their privacy settings). Messages in Snapchat are automatically deleted after they're read, making it impossible for parents to monitor conversations.

Potential Compulsive Use

Users are rewarded with diamonds for hitting certain targets. To reach these milestones, young people may be inclined to add as many friends as possible – including strangers. Users are also assigned a level that is displayed on their Hoop profile; to achieve a higher level, users must add more connections – which provides an incentive for children to spend even more time on the app.

Possible Data Collection

One of the reasons Hoop has remained free to use is that it hosts video adverts and user surveys, which reward users with diamonds for taking part. This practice strongly suggests that the app collects personal information from the user, based on the adverts they watch and their responses to surveys, and then shares their data with third-party organisations.

Advice for Parents & Carers

Learn How to Report and Block

If your child sees or is sent something that makes them feel uncomfortable, Hoop has a reporting and blocking function. When reporting a user, you are asked to provide a reason why you are reporting them (for example, nudity or sexual content, hate speech, or using a fake age or gender). You then get a notification that the other user has been reported or blocked.

Limit Spending Power

If your child's device is linked to a bank card, a PayPal account or another form of payment, ensure that you have either removed this connection or adjusted the security settings, so that you get notifications of any attempts to make in-app purchases. Make sure that you have set a password which has to be entered for a purchase to go ahead.

Avoid Over-Sharing

Talk to your child about what they share online and who they share it with. Make them aware that once something is online, then anyone can see it. Talk to them about what might not be safe to post online (for example, things which could give away their home address or that of their school, explicit photos or their current location). Make sure that they don't share something they will regret later.

Be Wary of Strangers

Talk to your child about the dangers of connecting with strangers online. Encourage them not to engage in private messaging with people they don't know – particularly on Snapchat, as automatically disappearing messages makes the app difficult for trusted adults to monitor. Ask them to think about why they are adding all these connections and whether they genuinely need hundreds of 'friends' on Snapchat.

Adjust Privacy Settings

Check the privacy settings in place on your child's Snapchat account to make sure that only their friends or a custom group can see their stories, Snap Map and any images that they post. You may wish to seriously consider going into the settings and enabling 'ghost mode' to turn off the location services, so your child's whereabouts won't be publicly visible to other users.

Encourage Safe Communication

With the amount of time that young people spend communicating with others online, it's vital to ensure that these connections are positive and healthy ones. Regularly check which apps your child is using; if there are any new ones, talk to your child about what these apps are and how they work. If you are unsure about a new app, you could download it to try yourself and see if it is suitable.

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.



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