

Play & Learn Outdoors

The logo for 'able canopies & outdoor projects' features a blue stylized canopy icon above the word 'able' in a bold, dark blue font. Below 'able' are the words 'canopies' and '& outdoor projects' in a smaller, lighter blue font.

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Fun Ideas to Expand a Safe Learning Environment for Your School

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HELLO AND WELCOME TO THE JUNE EDITION OF PLAY & LEARN OUTDOORS

As I'm writing this, the sun is shining and it feels like summer has well and truly settled in.

The last few months have been tough for many of us across the world and we're here to try and offer some lighter content and positive vibes only.

You will therefore notice a couple of appearances from our very own superhero Shade Man and he's latest

offer which is exclusive to schools and nurseries.

We have been very busy not only installing canopies since the last edition of P&LO, but also looking at how we can help you implement social distancing as your school welcomes more and more children back. Turn to pages 4 and 5 to find out more.

If you enjoy reading Play and Learn Outdoors, have you considered leaving it in the

staff room for your colleagues to enjoy too? Sharing is caring after all. If there's any subjects you'd like us to cover, please let us know by emailing us: marketing@ablecanopies.co.uk

Best Wishes

Tracy Meakins

Managing Director

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Free Social Distancing Floor Stickers

With every canopy or shelter purchase*



Our very own superhero Shade Man is giving away free outdoor social distancing floor stickers to every school who orders a canopy or shelter from us.

Not only does Shade Man care about helping to keep children safe from the sun when playing and learning outside, he wants to help them stay safe whilst social distancing too. That's why he's designed his very own fun and child friendly social distancing floor stickers that are for outdoor use, and therefore perfect for using under your canopy, so your pupils can queue safely with Shade Man.



***Head to pages 8 & 9 for more information and terms and conditions.**

6 WAYS TO RAISE FUNDS DURING A LOCKDOWN

The current situation has no doubt had a huge impact on your fundraising plans and therefore your funding levels. However, instead of putting your plans on-hold, have you considered changing them? The COVID-19 pandemic has taught a lot of different people to be creative and find alternative ways of achieving their goals.

So, how can you raise funds whilst adhering to social distancing during and after a lockdown? Here's a few ideas to get you started.

1. Run a Silent Auction

It's no surprise that people are spending much more time on the internet including social media so it's a great time to run a silent auction. This can be carried out by creating a Facebook group and asking members to place their bids of the posts of each item. The items you auction off could be items you already have which was planned for use in your spring/summer fair. Or, if you don't have anything to auction off, you can still ask for donations and they can be left at your school at a designated place and time for a contactless drop-off.

2. Set up a Donations Page

Set up a donations page on a fundraising platform such as Virgin Money Giving who unlike Just Giving, do not take a percentage of the funds raised. If you were working towards raising funds for a specific project such as a school canopy, you could set that as your target and ask for donations to help you get there.

3. Take on a challenge

Take the amazing Captain Tom Moore as an inspiration and take on



a challenge to raise funds. If you're still going into school every day, you could run laps around the school field, or how about walking or cycling to school instead of driving. The possibilities are endless and there could be more than one of you that gets involved. Maybe your pupils can get involved too, either from home or at school.

4. Hold a Virtual Quiz

Who knew quizzes would become so popular? Online video chat platforms such as Zoom have enabled friends and families to connect during the lockdown and they are also extremely popular for holding quizzes. So, why not hold one yourself to raise funds for your school? You can offer a prize for the winner/s that can be collected whilst adhering to social distancing.

5. Online Cash Back Websites

With online sales rocketing, now's your chance to sign up to websites that reward you with a percentage of cash when buyers select you as their charity, examples include Amazon Smile, Give as you Live, Top Cash Back and eBay for Charity. Be sure to let everyone know that you are registered on these websites for maximum rewards.

6. Flowers and Vegetable Plants

With everyone at home, we're all looking for ways to keep us busy and reasons to spend as much time outside in our gardens or balconies as possible to get some fresh air. That's why selling flowers and vegetable plants is a great way to keep parents and children busy.

Children love to watch plants grow and if you sell vegetable seedlings, they will learn how their food is grown. You can sell the plants as a contactless drop-off service to doorsteps and ask for payment electronically via bacs or PayPal.

Have you found any other ways to raise funds remotely during the lockdown? We'd love to read your ideas in the comments box below.

Plan Ahead

Now is also a great time to start planning your fundraising efforts for the following school year, so be sure to download our A-Z fundraising pack for over 50 ideas to help you meet your target - visit our website to download.

Disclaimer: We are in no way associated with any companies mentioned in this blog post, nor are they paid promotions. We are mentioning them for your information only, before using them, you should always look into the terms and conditions of each company yourself.



SOCIAL DISTANCING CANOPIES

Expand your teaching space without major building works

Our social distancing canopies are perfect for all commercial settings including schools, nurseries, colleges and universities.

They enable you to expand your useable space into the outdoors to enforce social distancing without greatly compromising the number of pupils you can have in one place at a time. They can also create outdoor classrooms so children can be kept at the required distance while social distancing requirements are in force, which may be well into next year.

The advice we receive is that at the moment, time spent outdoors is deemed safer than time spent indoors when mixing with others so, if you can provide a space outside that still sheltered from the weather, not only are you expanding your teaching or dining space, you are creating a healthier environment for all staff, pupils and visitors.

Why Choose a Permanent Social Distancing Canopy?

It may be much cheaper in the short-term to purchase a temporary structure however, that may need replacing sooner than you think depending on the quality.

A permanent social distancing canopy is an investment which will benefit your school for many years to come. Many of our canopies are supplied with up to 25 year life expectancies and our popular structures such as the Coniston Wall Mounted Canopy is supplied with a 10 year guarantee.

You will find that providing the additional space within your grounds, that is covered with a canopy, will expand your teaching space all year round without the need for costly buildings. Your social distancing canopy can be used well after social distancing requirements are in force, which leaves you with the additional space required to welcome additional pupils back to school.

Extend Your Dining Space with a Canopy



With children gradually being introduced back into schools, Headteachers are looking for ways to extend specific areas such as those where children will gather. One of those places is the school dining hall.

You may think the most obvious option to achieve this would be to extend your school building however, that would be extremely costly, and the timeframe would too slow. A much more cost-effective option that will work perfectly with your time frame is an outdoor dining canopy. This allows you to double, triple or even quadruple (or more) your allocated dining space so you can ensure pupils enjoy their lunches with the required 2 metre distance for social distancing.

Our canopies including the Coniston Wall Mounted Canopy, Welford Dome Free Standing Canopy and Tarnhow Timber Free Standing Dome Canopy are very popular within educational settings and many of the thousands of schools we've installed them at use them for the purpose of extending their dining area into the outdoors.

If you are worried whether a canopy is suitable for the colder months, then worry no more, our canopies can be supplied with side panels to block driving wind and rain and we can also install secure roller shutters onto the canopy to keep your dining furniture safe and secure out of hours. To keep the area underneath well heated and lit when the weather is not so bright and warm, we can add heating and lighting to the canopy.

Hand Sanitation Canopies for Schools, Colleges, Universities and Nurseries



The general public's hygiene has improved significantly since the beginning of the Coronavirus COVID-19 outbreak which can only

be a good thing. However, encouraging, or reminding others to wash their hands is still necessary, particularly in educational environments with children from a young age right up to their teens.

That's where our hand sanitation canopies come in; if you're having outdoor hand washing stations installed to ensure all students, teachers and visitors wash their hands before entering the school building, a canopy will encourage them to do so. When the weather is cold and rainy, students may be inclined to rush washing their hands and therefore not wash them thoroughly however, if your hand sanitation area is covered with a canopy, it will encourage them to spend the full time required to kill any possible germs before entering your school.

The majority of our school canopies and shelters are perfect for covering your hand washing stations depending on the design and installation you require. Because our canopies are available in a choice of

fixings including wall mounted and free standing and a selection of construction materials such as timber, aluminium and steel, are we sure to have the perfect solution for your needs and requirements. Roof options also include polycarbonate, toughened glass, corrugated steel and tensile fabric.

When children are queuing whilst waiting their turn to wash their hands, they will also need some shelter to stop them from getting wet in the rain or feeling to hot in the height of summer. Our canopies, including the extremely popular Coniston Wall Mounted Canopies are available in any length, this ensures that you can invest in a canopy that not only covers the hand sanitation area, but also covers those queuing at a safe distance to keep all pupils dry in the rain and cool in the sun.

Find out more about our hand washing station canopies here or call us on 0800 389 9072, alternatively, you can send us an email: sales@ablecanopies.co.uk

Able Canopies Coronavirus COVID-19 Statement

Following the recent outbreak of the Coronavirus (COVID-19), Able Canopies Ltd. are doing everything we can to ensure the wellbeing and health of our colleagues, customers & suppliers.

We are following Government guidelines and regularly reviewing our operations, ensuring our colleagues and stakeholders are supported and that we minimise any impact on the supply of our goods & services. We are continuing to remain open unless we are advised by the Government not too. We have a Business Continuity Plan in place and have updated this to reflect any changes that could be needed

during this time, to ensure we still provide a service to our customers.

Contacting Us

Able Canopies will work as hard as possible to try and minimise disruption to our customers. We will continue to install our canopies until we are told otherwise by the UK Government and whilst our office staff will be working from home, we are still open and we are here to take your calls and respond to emails regarding your outstanding canopy quotations and general queries.

Please continue to contact us as we are still able to take orders, visit your site and install your canopy.

Virtual Surveys

Whilst we are able to carry out full site surveys whilst adhering to strict

social distancing guidelines, we are also offering virtual surveys. If you would like to opt for a virtual survey, we can discuss your canopy needs over the phone and will ask you to send us photographs of the area with measurements. We will then be able to send you an estimate via email. To use this service, please call us on [0800 389 9072](tel:08003899072) or send an email: sales@ablecanopies.co.uk

Please feel free to contact us to discuss and we will answer any questions we can in regard to your estimate or existing canopy quotation.

We would like to take this chance to wish you, your colleagues, pupils and families good health in these uncertain times and look forward to coming out the other side together.



HOMESCHOOLING: 3 WAYS TO KEEP CHILDREN MOTIVATED

It's no secret that the lockdown has created some problems for teaching. It's a lot harder for many children to study at home due to a lack of resources and their home environment is associated with play more than it is with school work.

Yet the reality is, that home studying whether full or part-time will be the norm for quite a while yet.

Those with low motivation are going to find it harder to complete work and retain knowledge. So, how do you keep motivation up? Here are some suggestions.

1. Use Optional Lesson Outputs

Children need freedom at this time, and you should be giving children a choice of outputs when it comes to demonstrating learning. Some might prefer to create posters, others worksheets and some might prefer an essay. None of these are wrong and if they're demonstrating learning, then they're showing participation in the lesson.

This enables the children to use their creativity, which will yield better learning outcomes.

2. Show Your Face on Camera

YouTube has been around for a long time and some lessons learnt from that platform can be applied to home schooling. One idea is that you should show your face for a significant proportion of the video. This creates an engagement point between you and the students.

Videos should be shot in and around school if possible, in different locations, so pupils see a familiar learning environment. You could film Maths and English classes in your classroom, Science under a school canopy and PE lessons in the hall for instance.

The worst position to be in, is sat on your sofa speaking to children. It creates the wrong image of schoolwork. You should be dressed and in a posture that best reflects you at school.

3. Allow Children to Study on Their Own Schedule

At a time when children are feeling they have no control, this would be a good time to offer them control over their learning schedule. Provide lessons but don't set deadlines or timescales for the lessons to be completed by.

At the same time, don't expect children to do a set amount of work per day. Some days they'll be more productive than others.

Conclusion

The lockdown has impacted everyday life for millions. Homeschooling has become a new norm for children in the UK and beyond and will be for weeks or months ahead. But that doesn't mean it has to be wasted time. Ensure your students are getting the best homeschooling experience to turn today's troubles into a more positive learning experience for children.

HOMESCHOOLING: KEEPING CHILDREN ACTIVE OUTSIDE WHILE TEACHING VIRTUALLY

In the current climate it's hard to imagine how you can keep children active and going outside while they're in lockdown and you're providing lessons virtually. However, with technology and some ingenuity, you can create some interesting lessons outside that encourage your students to do some lessons in their gardens.

There are many benefits to this. First of all, they'll keep up with some fitness which has been a worry for the Government and children's charities. Plus, time outside can be an important part of maintaining a healthy mind. More time outside could help with regulating their sleep and concentration to help them with work.

So, what options are available to teaching children virtually that encourages them to go outside?

1. Counting And Other Maths Skills

Counting is a basic skill that children need to learn, so why not encourage some outdoor counting? Take your camera outside and show yourself counting sticks, flowers or even worms in the ground. Then get the children to do the same in their gardens.

You could also add other maths skills into the mix, such as measuring. You could ask children to measure their gardens (with the help of a tape measure or by using their strides). You could switch it up and ask them to measure different parts of their

garden. For an example, you could show yourself measuring underneath your school canopy or on the playground.

2. Life Cycles

Ask the children to look at the life cycles of the world around them. In the spring and summer there is plenty of nature about, from young trees, blossom, baby birds and more.

You can also demonstrate how to look for certain animals (like caterpillars) by going outside and using your outdoor spaces.

3. P.E.

There has been a lot of hype around indoor physical lessons taught by YouTube stars at the moment;

however, that doesn't have to be the case. You can show children how to do some shuttle runs and other activities outside in the garden.

To challenge students, ask them how many widths of their garden they can do in two minutes and ask them to beat that score after two weeks of practice.

Conclusion

The lockdown has made it challenging for students and teachers alike. It's also an easy time for children to not go outside. That's why you need to encourage it by creating virtual lessons for time outside.



FREE SOCIAL DISTANCING FLOOR STICKERS FOR SCHOOLS

www.ablecanopies.co.uk/stickers

Our fun and child friendly social distancing floor stickers are FREE to all schools that order a canopy or shelter from us.*



Call us now:
0800 389 9072

- Circular design with a diameter of 300mm
- Anti-slip resistance to R12 rating
- Fire resistance to B1 and M1 fire certifications
- Fun and friendly design for children

- For outdoor use on external floor surfaces including tarmac, concrete and soft play safety surfacing
- FREE with a canopy or shelter purchase from Able Canopies Ltd.
- Free Installation if installed at the same time as the canopy*
- Life expectancy of 12 months



How Many Social Distancing Stickers Will I Receive?

The quantity you receive depends on the size of the canopy you order. We will supply enough to enforce social distancing with 2 metre spacings along the length of your canopy. Please see some examples below.



A 12.5m canopy such as the Coniston shown above would receive 7 floor stickers.



A 33.1m canopy such as the Tarnhow Dome shown above would receive 20 floor stickers.



A 10m canopy such as the Welford Dome Junior shown above would receive 6 floor stickers.

*Terms and Conditions

1. The free stickers are only available with a canopy order for a school, nursery or other educational setting.
2. The amount of free social distancing floor stickers you receive, will depend on the size of the canopy you order. For example, a 10m canopy will require 6 social distancing stickers when placed 2 meters apart so we will supply 6 stickers free of charge. A 20 metre canopy will require 11 stickers and you will therefore receive 11 stickers free of charge.
3. If you require more than the complimentary amount for your size canopy, please contact us for a cost.
4. You must state at the time of ordering if you would like to receive the free stickers and if you would like a cost for additional stickers.
5. Due to current demand, we cannot guarantee the stickers will be installed at the time of the canopy. However these come pre-glued and are easily installed (see sticker installation instructions) Please be advised the stickers may not adhere fully to all surfaces and Able Canopies cannot be held responsible for any sticker installation issues.
6. Able Canopies reserve the right to remove this offer at any time.
7. Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer.
8. The offer cannot be exchanged for a cash or voucher alternative.

Disclaimer: Once the stickers have been stuck to your ground surface, we cannot take responsibility for damage to the surface after removal of the sticker or failure of the sticker to the surface. Please ensure the stickers are periodically checked to ensure they are fully stuck down to prevent a trip hazard. If the sticker begins to raise from the surface, you will need a 'heat gun' to re-glue the sticker down. If this continues to lift it could be the surface is not compatible with the sticker and it should be removed. Whilst the stickers are made from a durable material for outdoor use, Able Canopies cannot guarantee the stickers will adhere to all surfaces or the timescale these will remain in place.



FREEBIES GALORE!

Free downloads and more from the canopy experts

Free Wildflower Seeds for Your School

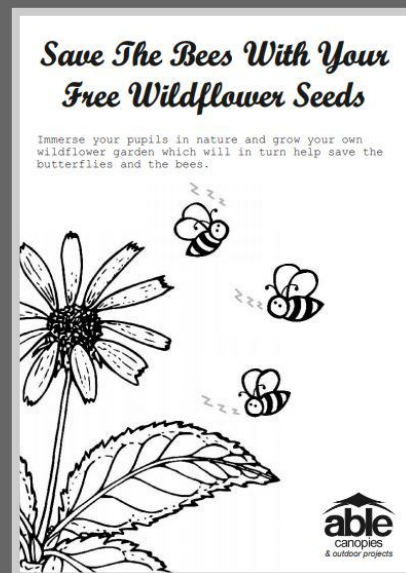
Would you like a free pack of wildflower seeds for your school along with a free growing guide? Send us an email at marketing@ablecanopies.co.uk and we'll pop some in the post.

Your free pack will contain up to 21 different varieties of wildflower seeds that cover one square metre. The flowers you could see bloom are listed in the guide.

Competition

To co-inside with our free seed giveaway, we're also running a competition and you could win a £50 book voucher for your school. To find out more, download the guide here:

www.ablecanopies.co.uk/seeds



Free Sun Safe Activity Pack for Pupils



Hello, I am Shade Man and I am here to help you with sun safety. The good guys at Able Canopies have given me this space to tell you about this year's Sun Safety campaign and to highlight some of the reasons to get involved.

If you are a teacher then we hope this year's campaign will give you ideas and practical help to make being safe in the sun a fun and engaging topic for your pupils.

Our Sun Safety pack, which you can download by visiting www.ablecanopies.co.uk/shademan is full of activities that will not only show the importance of being safe in the sun, but will also provide lively activities for your class to take part in. It is all presented by yours truly, your sun safety super hero, so you know it's going to be fun!



For more free guides and packs for your school, visit: www.ablecanopies.co.uk/guides

Here's a selection of the installations that have kept us busy since the last edition of P&LO



Able Canopies: The Canopy Experts



Canopies & Covered Walkways

Cycle & Waiting Shelters

Shade Sails & Tensile Structures

Awnings & Playground Accessories

External Works: Surfacing, Fencing etc.

Able Canopies are the canopy experts. We provide safe and stylish weather protection that transforms outside spaces.

- Every year we complete hundreds of successful school canopy installations across the UK
- These canopies provide schools with effective shelter & areas for outdoor learning and dining
- We also work with universities and the retail, leisure & hospitality sectors to effectively transform outside space
- Our team of canopy experts work with schools, architects & contractors to ensure on time, on budget, project completion
- To ensure consistent high quality we control the design, manufacture & installation process of our canopies

"And so, on the 6th April, two guys turned up at the school I manage. Reason for: To install a canopy. From day one I immediately felt at ease with Wayne & Mitchell. Two excellent tradesmen. They turned the job around in four days. I myself have been in the building trade for some years, and was totally impressed with the professionalism of not only Wayne & Mitchell, but also your company. Site was left cleaner than when they turned up. Excellent tradesmen, excellent installed product. Many Thanks."

- Chertsey High School, Surrey

If you would like a canopy, shelter or shade sail quotation, contact us today:

Call: 0800 389 9072 | **Email:** sales@ablecanopies.co.uk

