

Play & Learn Outdoors


able
canopies
& outdoor projects

Issue 2.6

March 2022

Fun Ideas to Expand a Safe Learning Environment for Your School

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WELCOME TO THE MARCH EDITION OF PLAY & LEARN OUTDOORS

There's so much sadness and destruction going on in the world right now that we wondered whether we should put our newsletter on hold. However, we felt in some ways that makes it more important to share some positivity, along with fun ideas for better days ahead.

So, this month's newsletter features a whole host of fundraising ideas including events you can hold outside,

small ongoing fundraisers and bigger affairs.

When you get a chance, take a break, sit back, relax with your favorite drink and have a flick through. Hopefully you'll be able to take some ideas back to the classroom.

If you enjoy reading P&LO, why not leave a copy in your staff room for your colleagues to enjoy too? If they would like to receive their own copies, drop us

an email:

marketing@ablecanopies.co.uk
and we'll add them to the list.

Enjoy the warmer spring weather ahead with your pupils by taking lessons outside and utilising nature to add variety to your lesson plans. We'll be back in the summer for more ideas and inspiration.

Best Wishes

Tracy Meakins

Managing Director

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We're updating our website and would love your feedback

We're currently in the process and creating a shiny new website here at Able Canopies and because we're such a customer focused business, we wanted to include you in the design process. We'd love to know which parts of our existing website you love and which parts you don't love. What can we add to make your life easier and what would you be sad to see go?

We'd appreciate all your feedback, both positive as well as constructive criticism because it will help us create a website that is better for you to use, and to make your experience with us even better.

Please send your ideas and feedback to Christine: marketing@ablecanopies.co.uk



FOUR WAYS TO MOVE HISTORY CLASSES OUTSIDE

History is one subject that is often held inside the classroom however, there are ways that you can move your subject matter into the outdoors. From utilising your canopy, to taking a walk in the local area, here are some ideas to help you move your history classes outside.



Re-enactments

Re-enactments carried out under the school canopy or on the school playground can be a good way to get children to be more interactive with their history classes. Re-enactments also teach other skills like acting and can help with self-confidence, so your pupils may learn a lot more than you would think.

Re-enactments can include or exclude the use of costumes and there are many resources online that can help you create the perfect event.

Take a Walk

While world events are very important, local history should also be a focus. There's probably lots of history that you can explore on a local walk that can intrigue your pupils in the events that have happened around them. On the coastlines, for instance, you can often find Martello forts or further inland, you many other buildings or landscapes changed by historic events.

Visits

Sometimes there is nothing better than to visit a bit of history that is further away. Whether you're going to visit your local castle or a stately home, these little trips can be great fun for children, and they are also a great opportunity for children to see history up close.

There are numerous visits that you can arrange including museums and free options in your local area.

History Groups

There are numerous history groups that can visit your school and set up outside to show the children how our ancestors would have lived. There are many historical subjects for you to choose from, resulting in interesting and engaging lessons. With some groups, they may even involve your pupils so for example, they become participants in the Battle of Hastings or characters on a Viking raid.

History groups can be more expensive than other options, but they can also be fun and are worth the additional expense.

Conclusion

History is one of the more interesting subjects that children can study. But lots of lessons are kept inside. The above ideas are great for moving those lessons into the outdoors which is a great way to engage your students and help them learn.

NOW THAT'S WHAT YOU CALL A TRANSFORMATION



A primary school in Suffolk had an old wooden canopy (purchased elsewhere) that was no longer fit for purpose and therefore required a replacement. Having installed a Codale Conic Tensile Fabric Canopy for them in November 2021, we returned in January 2022, to replace their old canopy with a shiny new one – perfect for the new year.

The Suffolk school is a two-form entry primary school which means there are around 60 pupils in each year group who are taught in two classes. They are a large primary school in a busy town and are dedicated to providing nothing but the best facilities for their pupils and staff.

The replacement canopy we installed in January was a Coniston Wall Mounted Canopy which is our most popular canopy, not only with schools, but with all sectors. The Coniston has become so popular because it has so many design options that, no matter what your shade and shelter requirements are, the Coniston is sure to cover them. The Coniston can wrap around buildings including both internal and external corners, and if you have any obstructions or irregular building shapes, the Coniston can be manufactured to fit around them too.

The Coniston however, at this fantastic school in Suffolk was a nice simple design that



accommodates the existing drainage downpipe near the centre back of the canopy.

The photos above and to the right show the transformation from the old timber canopy to the new aluminium Coniston canopy that features a 10 year guarantee.



FIVE OUTDOOR LESSONS TO INSPIRE

...and help you take learning outside this spring

History – Toys from the past

Encourage the children to spend time outside with games or toys from the past. You can teach the children about the differences in how children spent their time at different times in history.

It will also allow you to teach the children lots of new playground games to inspire them at breaktime!

PE – Animal Yoga

On the field, have a session of animal yoga. Encourage the children to observe nature around them and recreate the movements. They could be birds flying, caterpillars crawling, bees hovering.

You could also teach the children particular yoga poses that are named after animals. Such as the cat - cow, butterfly and downward dog, poses.

Geography – Map drawing

Take the children out around your local area and ask them to work in teams on producing a map. Discuss safety beforehand and teach them techniques for creating maps.

If it is a challenge to take a field trip. Spend some time recreating a path with some features along it from your forest school area, such as wood stumps, plant pots etc. and develop map drawing skills on a smaller scale instead.

Art – Playground Art

If you have chosen to study a particular artist this term, encourage the children to emanate the style in chalk on the playground floor. This will allow them to explore the patterns and style used by the artist, informally.



Science – Fossils

Set up an area for the children to be archaeologists! Bury some replica fossils and then get them to dig them up. Use a mixture of sand and soil and allow it to dry first to make the soil a little harder to dig. Encourage them to use brushes to carefully brush away the soil.

An option would be to use plaster of Paris 'fossils' as they would be more delicate. The children could experience the excitement of finding fossils and the care required to carefully excavate them.

A CANOPY COMPANY WITH HIGH STAFF RETENTION

At Able Canopies, we are extremely proud of our high staff retention levels which in turn benefits you, our customers.

I am pleased to write that over 93% of our staff here at Able Canopies have worked for the company for over 7 years, and to break that down further, 60% of all our staff have worked here for over 10 years. With all these years under our belt, we really are the canopy experts.

We are a fantastic team that works extremely hard together to deliver high customer service levels and the very best shade and shelter solution products across the UK. Our clients include those in the education, leisure, retail, hospitality, MOD and healthcare sectors with many of which coming back to us time and time again.

When you contact us, you will be able to feel how content our staff are within their role which will result in you receiving the best customer service you could ask for.

Here's a list of some benefits that you will receive when choosing a canopy company that has high staff retention levels:

Benefits to you:

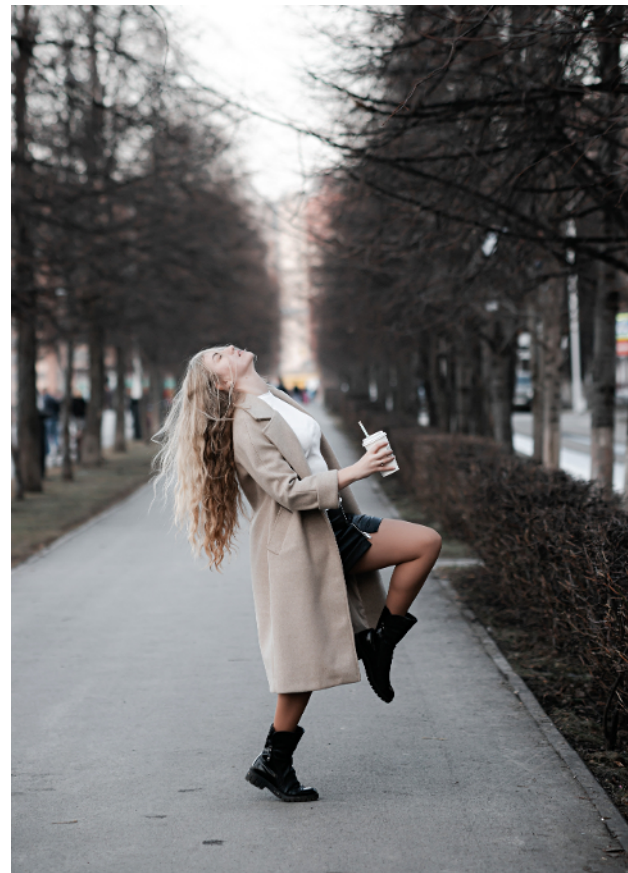
Experienced & Knowledgeable Staff – Because our staff have worked here for many years, their experience and knowledge are unmatched, enabling them

to serve you efficiently and to a high standard. You won't be passed from pillar to post, you will be assigned a dedicated Sales Advisor who will work with you the whole way through your project.

We'll be Familiar with One Another – Because our staff continue their employment with us for many years, the chances are that if you are a returning customer, you will be looked after by the same team time and time again. This means that we can build a fantastic working relationship with one another, building trust and respect.

A Happy Atmosphere – One of the reasons our staff stay is because they are happy within their jobs and feel valued. That in turn means that when you talk to us on the phone, you will pick up on the positive and happy atmosphere and talking to us will be a pleasant experience. I don't know about you, but I think a good mood is definitely contagious.

Lower Chance of Errors – Because our staff are happy, they are more engaged and enthusiastic about their jobs resulting in a much lower risk of errors. This benefits you because the majority of the time our jobs will go ahead with no problems



long the way, making your experience with us smooth and efficient. On the rare occurrence that something does go wrong, we'll go out of our way to solve it quickly and efficiently.

We Have More Time for You – Because we don't have to spend extra time training new staff, we can pass that extra time onto you, allowing us to serve you in the way you deserve to be served. Our staff can spend more time working on your projects, offering you advice if required, getting to know what you need from us and going that extra mile such as helping you with your planning permission applications if required.

OUTDOOR SPRING FUNDRAISING



It's time to start thinking about ideas for Spring Fundraising. When the weather is improving, it's a great idea to host events outside. If you're worried about the sudden changes in the weather, such as Spring showers, make sure you plan for the activities to be partially under your canopy. This way, you're covered, whatever the weather.

So here are 10 quick ideas for Spring school fundraising.

1. Easter Egg Hunt

Decorate some cardboard eggs

and hide them all over the playing field. When the children have found an egg they can come and exchange it for a chocolate one! Or score a point for the house/team.

2. Spring Disco

Let everyone get their dancing shoes on and set up a dancing stage outside! You could even make a stage and set up some karaoke for more fun.

3. Sports Competition

Have a sports competition such as an afternoon of rounders, cricket or netball. Charge a

donation for entry and offer prizes for the winning teams!

4. Colour Run

Colour runs have become very popular in recent years. They are a great way for children to exercise and have fun. They can also be a good way to get sponsorship for entrants.

5. Outdoor Performance

Practise a play and sell tickets to family and friends. You can increase the generated funds by selling refreshments.

6. Hold a Bake Sale

Ask everyone to donate some cakes and set up a stall for the week. If you plan it for Thursday and Friday, you might catch those keen to purchase homemade cakes for guests on the weekend!

7. Hold a Tea Party

Sell tickets to parents and their families to visit the children's pop-up cafe! The children can learn to make scones and cakes and serve the guests. You can include entertainment such as live music to create a lively and

exciting atmosphere.

8. Plant sale

You could grow some plants from seeds and when they're looking a good size, the children can sell them to raise money for classroom supplies.

9. Outdoor Quiz

Ask families to bring a rug and some picnic food and host a quiz. You could sell tickets and offer a great prize for the winning team to encourage more ticket sales. You can also ask local companies to support

this with prizes or sponsorship.

10. Talent Show

Ask the children to work either on their own or in groups to produce a talent show. Sell tickets to families.

Conclusion

Above and overleaf are 10 ideas that can help you raise funds this spring. However, planning these can take time and you might need to start the process now or save the ideas for next year to ensure that any fundraising gets the best results.

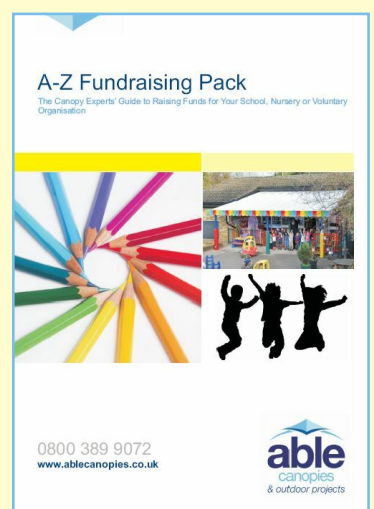


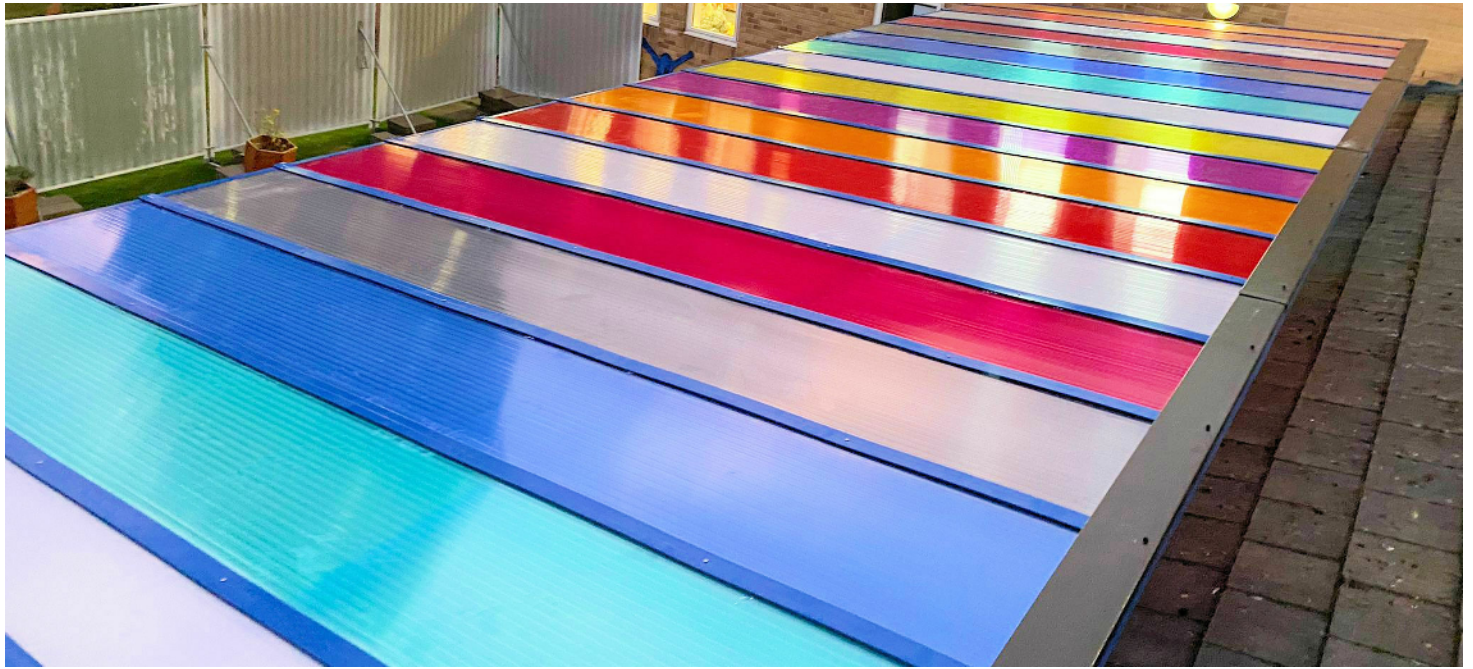
FREE DOWNLOAD - FUNDRAISING PACK

We have put together an A-Z Fundraising Pack which is full of fundraising ideas from A right through to Z. This pack also contains helpful tips, testimonials of successful fundraising stories and a handy checklist for your fundraising event.

Organising events is definitely a more sociable and fun way to raise those much needed funds. Getting the staff, pupils and parents involved is a great way to bring the community together and make friendships and provides your school or nursery with a good, friendly reputation.

To download your free copy of the A-Z Fundraising Pack, along with our other free guides and brochures, visit: www.ablecanopies.co.uk/guides





A BRIGHT AND COLOURFUL ADDITION FOR PRIORY HURWORTH HOUSE SCHOOL

Project Details:

End User: Priory Hurworth House School, Darlington

Product Installed: 11m x 4m Grange Junior Free Standing Canopy

The staff at Priory Hurworth House School have brightened up their outdoor setting with a brand-new canopy featuring a multi-coloured polycarbonate roof and we think it looks fantastic!

We worked on this job with Richmond Contract Projects Ltd. who were refurbishing the school's courtyard which leads onto the school's playing field. The school which is in Darlington in County Durham, provides specialist education for boys and girls with SEMH difficulties and autism. They are registered to provide education to up to 67 students aged between 5 and 19

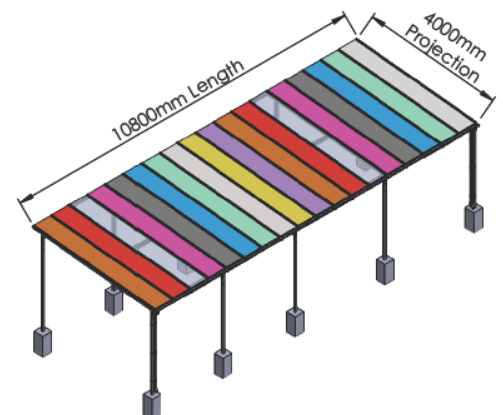
years, so the new canopy will provide a wealth of opportunities for their pupils, expanding their outdoor learning and play provisions.

The canopy that met their design requirements was the Grange Junior Free Standing Canopy with coloured polycarbonate roof panels. They originally asked for emerald green and opal panels however, because they were keen on a bright and colourful canopy, we put forward the suggestion of a multi-coloured roof. We therefore created a technical drawing (as shown to the right) to visualise what the coloured canopy roof panels would look like, and sent them some samples of the coloured polycarbonate panels in the post to help them come to a decision.

As you can see in the photo above, they opted for the multi-coloured roof panels in the

end which works really well with the Gentian Blue (RAL 5010) steel frame.

The finished canopy does the intended job of adding a splash of colour to their outside area whilst providing them with a covered 44 sqm area that provides full weather protection all year-round. The canopy blocks up to 98% of UV rays when its sunny and keeps them dry and sheltered from the rain and snow.



WE'VE GOT NEWPORT SCHOOLS COVERED

Over the years we have installed many canopies in South Wales including in Cardiff, Swansea and Pembrokeshire. And in the last couple of years we have installed a number of canopies in Newport for Newport Norse, a property and facilities management company who work in partnership with Newport City Council.

In fact, earlier this week we completed the installation of a 11.6m x 5m Coniston Free Standing Canopy at Monnow Primary School in Newport. And last month, we installed three Coniston Free Standing Canopies at Lliswerry Primary School which is also in Newport. This included a 11.2m x 3m canopy outside their LRB (Learning Resource Base) classroom, a 11m x 4m in their KS2 courtyard and a 9m x 6m canopy in their main playground. These three school canopies provide Lliswerry Primary School with over 400 square metres of shade and shelter that their pupils and staff can be fit from in all weathers.

School Canopies provide a wealth of benefits to the school, they enable the teacher to make plans in advance to take lessons outside without having a backup plan in case it rains. Canopies are not just there for protection from the rain, our canopies also provide high UV protection from the sun, helping to protect the school's pupils and staff from harmful UV rays which can be damaging to the skin.



Our previous installations for Newport Norse also include a Devoke Junior Free Standing Canopy at Ringland Primary School in August 2020, then we returned to site in August 2021 to install a Coniston Free Standing Canopy. We also installed a Coniston Free Standing Canopy at Langstone Primary School in February 2021.

The Headteacher from Langstone Primary School has this to say about their experience with us:

"Excellent service – worked diligently long days to complete ahead of schedule. Very accommodating. Faultless – Thank you!"

If your school or nursery is in need of cover from the weather our canopies could be the

perfect shade and shelter structure for your project. Give us a call on **0800 389 9072** or email us at: **sales@ablecanopies.co.uk**



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Don't miss out, make a note of these dates in your diary pronto!

There seems to be an awareness day or week for most things these days and it's easy to miss the ones that might be useful and provide the opportunity for a different teaching and learning experience.

We have collected some of the upcoming dates here from the big and obvious through to the smaller and less well known, there is plenty going on this time of year.



APRIL 2022



2nd

International Children's Book Day

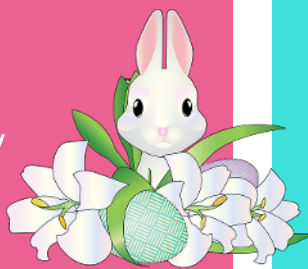


15th

Good Friday

18th

Easter Monday



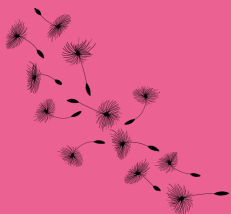
22nd

Earth Day



29th

World Wish Day

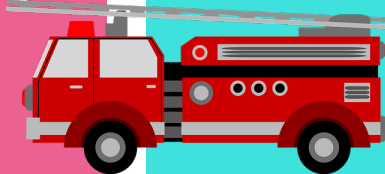


MAY 2022



1st

World Laughter Day



4th

International Firefighter's Day

12th

International Nurses Day



15th

World Baking Day



22nd

International Being You Day



FUNDRAISING

With tight budgets and a lack of time, thinking of new ways to raise money can be tough, so we've put our thinking caps on for you. Visit our blog for a wide selection of ideas to get your creative juices flowing: www.ablecanopies.co.uk/blog/

Grow Cash

Not literally of course, but now is the time to start sowing many vegetable and flower seeds. You can involve your pupils with the sowing of the seeds and caring for them, then once they're ready, you could sell the vegetables and plants to raise cash for your school.



Make Cash from Trash

Earth Day is soon approaching on 22nd April so what better day is there to make a stand and pledge to start looking after the planet whilst earning cash for your school?

Terracycle is a fantastic organisation that enables you to collect specific trash that is not commonly recycled kerbside, and send it off them to to be recycled. You then earn cash for the items they receive from you.



Show and Shine

I have many memories of visiting car shows with my Dad as a child that were often held on school or college land. You could rent your playing field out to an organisation, or organise your own event and don't forget to hold some of your own stalls for added income. Either way, you are sure to raise lots of much needed funds.



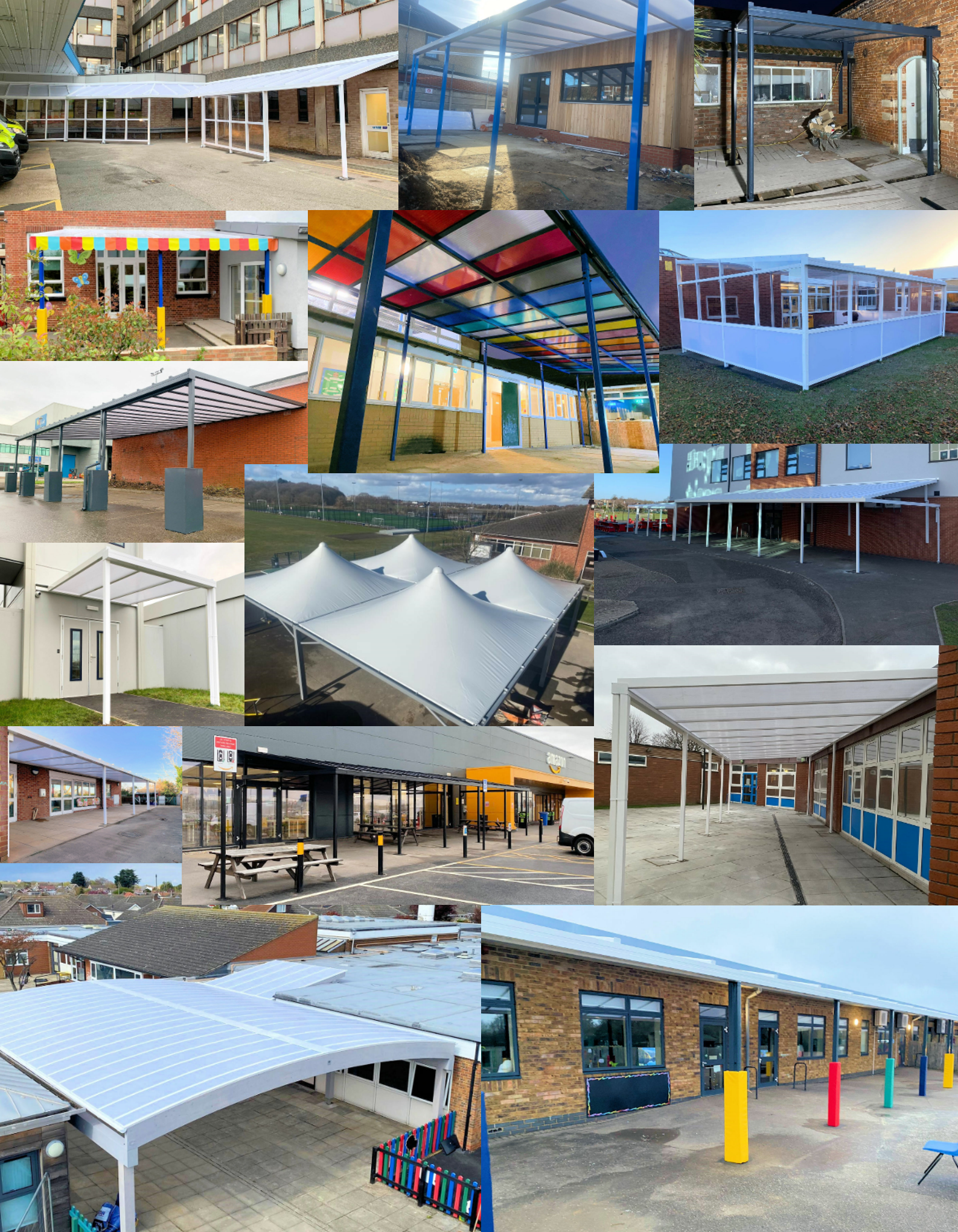
Book Sale

Young children love books and parents love treating their children to books. So, if you ask parents to donate their unwanted books, you could hold a general sale of books everyday at your school which could be set up in your reception area or school hall at the end of each school day. Be sure to regularly request donations and promote the book sale on your school's social media channels and newsletters to keep donations and sales coming in.



Here's a selection of the canopies we have installed 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

"Many thanks for the professional manner of the fitters/ installers on site. They showed great consideration for the staff and pupils, especially our specialist pupil class. We are extremely pleased with the quality of the work."

- Lliswerry Primary School, Newport

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

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

