

Play & Learn Outdoors

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

Issue 2.0
October 2020

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WELCOME TO THE AUTUMN EDITION OF PLAY & LEARN OUTDOORS

I was hoping that by the time this edition of Play & Learn Outdoors was published, school life would be a little more back to normal.

It seems that wasn't meant to be however, by flicking through the pages of your favourite school publication, you will be showered with a host of outdoor learning and

fundraising solutions, to ensure the year 2020 doesn't stop you from continuing to offer your pupils the very best learning environment.

If you enjoy reading Play and Learn Outdoors, have you considered leaving it in your staff room for your colleagues to enjoy too? Sharing is caring after all.

If there's any subjects you'd like us to cover, or if you'd like us to feature your school, in the next edition, please let us know by emailing us: marketing@ablecanopies.co.uk

Best Wishes

Tracy Meakins

Managing Director

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Download Your Free Step-by-Step Guide to Buying a School Canopy

Download our latest free guide for schools; the Step-by-Step Guide to Buying a School Canopy.

This fantastic resource will guide you through the canopy buying process and compare the three most popular canopy systems with schools in the UK.

Visit: www.ablecanopies.co.uk/dining

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Step-by-Step Guide to Buying a School Canopy
For alfresco dining, outdoor classrooms and more

able
canopies
& outdoor projects



ENCOURAGE INTEREST IN YOUR PUPILS' LEARNING

Learning for children can sometimes be unwanted. They may prefer to play or engage in activities that they're interested in, instead of sitting at a desk learning how to count or write. At the time, many children will not see the value of these lessons in their life, they can get bored easily and need to move around.

However, that doesn't mean that learning can't be done by integrating it with their own interests. In fact, children can become better learners when important lessons are blended into activities that they enjoy.

Adding Free Flow Into Your School

The idea is that children are given a range of activities from building blocks, art and even exercise areas outside under a school canopy. During this time, children are learning social skills as well as emotions, creativity, and motor skills.

When playing with blocks they'll learn to count and staff can come by and give them an informal mathematics challenge that they can work out.

In addition, children are learning in an environment that is relaxed and less stressful. This is important because it can improve their mental wellbeing. This can be important for helping them learn better through more intense but less lengthy and frequent formal lessons.

The great thing about free flow learning in school is that science experiments can be setup within the area that can teach important lessons. Weather charts, instruments, planting, butterfly gardens outside, forest schools can all be interwoven into a free flow lesson structure that can help children learn and have fun.

More Formal Teaching

Then more formal lessons are done

sporadically throughout the day in five to ten minutes slots. This can include lessons that are centered around phonics, reading, writing and math. These shorter spells will be more effective than longer formal lessons because children will be relaxed and have better levels of concentration.

In addition, formal lessons can be linked to free flow activities. For instance, phonics can be linked to the kitchen play set that has been established on a day, or the dress up station you have established.

Conclusion

By using free flow lessons in conjunction with more formal lessons, you're teaching children at a higher standard. Pupils will want to learn and be happier in school. Therefore, you will hopefully have a more rounded and higher achieving set of pupils.

A FOCUS ON OUTDOOR DINING AREAS



EXTENDING YOUR DINING SPACE WITH MINIMAL SPEND

We look at ways that you can increase your dining capacity with minimal spend

Dining rooms within schools are usually fairly crowded, particularly within older schools as they were built for a smaller number of pupils. You may think that the only option to add more space is to undertake major building works and add an extension to your school however, there are much more cost-effective options available.

Extend Your Dining Capacity with Minimal Cost

The most ideal option would be to add picnic tables to your outdoor area adjacent to your existing dining room. Depending on your available outdoor space, you could substantially increase your dining

capacity, allowing more pupils to enjoy their lunch seated at a table with their friends.

Up Your Dining Game Whilst Keeping Costs Low

If the idea of adding picnic tables to your school grounds is causing light bulbs to suddenly appear above your head, continue reading... The only downside I can think of when adding dining tables outside, would be the weather. Of course, we live in the UK and we've been known to experience nearly every season in one day on many occasions so, you will need a solution and that solution is a canopy. Our canopies are perfect for covering outside dining areas,

enabling them to be used all year round, saving you money, disruption and time.

A canopy will merge your indoor and outdoor dining spaces into one free-flow dining area so your pupils can purchase their lunch in your canteen and then walk straight through into your outside dining area, whilst keeping completely covered from the weather.

Multiple Uses

A dining canopy with picnic tables underneath can also double up as a social canopy and a study canopy, provide your pupils with an area to study or learn outside of lunch and break times.

WITHIN SCHOOLS

COMPARE DINING CANOPIES FOR YOUR SCHOOL



WALL MOUNTED CANOPIES



Wall Mounted Canopies create a free-flowing environment from the indoors to the outdoors with full weather protection for playing, learning & dining outside.

Recommended Structure:

The Coniston Wall Mounted Canopy

See pages 5 - 7 of the Step-by-Step Guide to Buying a School Canopy.



FREE STANDING CANOPIES



Free Standing Canopies are perfect for when fixing a canopy to the wall is not possible, or if you'd like a canopy in your field or courtyard.

Recommended Structure:

Welford Dome Junior Free Standing Canopy

See pages 8 - 9 of the Step-by-Step Guide to Buying a School Canopy.



TIMBER CANOPIES



Timber Canopies add a natural feel to your outdoor setting, making them perfect for both traditional and modern school buildings. They are available as wall mounted & free standing.

Recommended Structure:

Tarnhow Dome Free Standing Canopy

See pages 10 - 11 of the Step-by-Step Guide to Buying a School Canopy.



Download your free Step-by-Step Guide to Buying a School Canopy to help you make the right choice when it comes to keeping your pupils and staff covered. Turn the page for more information or visit: www.ablecanopies.co.uk/schoolcanopy



FREE DOWNLOAD:
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Step-by-Step Guide to Buying a School Canopy
For alfresco dining, outdoor classrooms and more

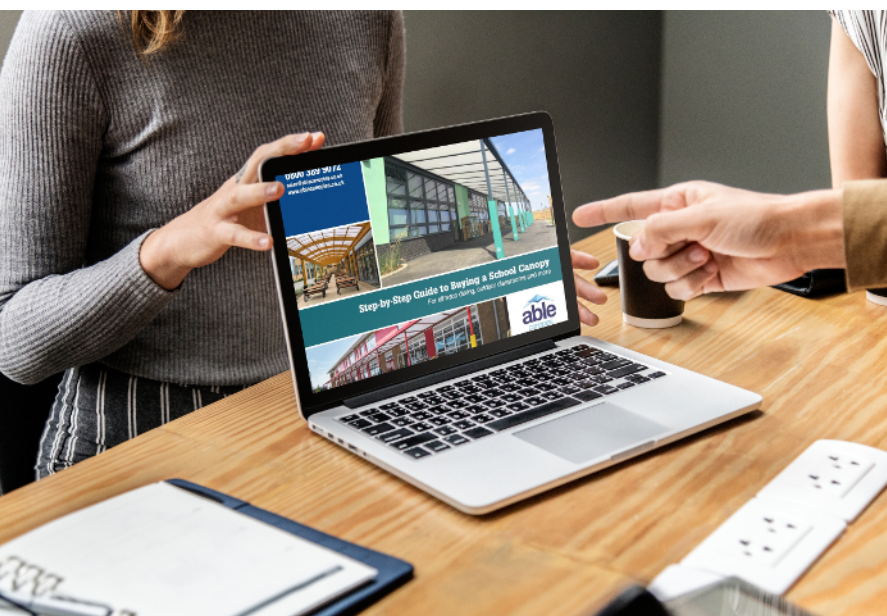


STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO BUYING A SCHOOL CANOPY

For Alfresco Dining, Outdoor Classrooms and More

It's becoming more and more apparent that social distancing and 'bubbles' may be required for a while yet. We have a potential solution to enable you to take advantage of the space you currently have; canopies.

www.ablecanopies.co.uk/schoolcanopy



Our commercial canopies can turn awkward areas into usable space, to make choosing the perfect canopy for your requirements quick, easy and enjoyable.

Why Choose Able Canopies?

We have been designing, manufacturing and installing canopies and shelters for schools across the UK for over 18 years, helping to transform under-used outdoor space into versatile all-weather areas that can be used all year round for teaching, waiting and dining.

To Download Your Free Guide Visit: www.ablecanopies.co.uk/schoolcanopy

EASTBROOK SECONDARY SCHOOL INCREASE THEIR DINING CAPACITY WITH 270 EXTRA SEATS

Eastbrook Primary School were having some building works completed at their school in Dagenham, Essex and had appointed Living Architects to work on the project for them.

The school is an existing customer of ours; in August 2019, we supplied and installed two Coniston Wall Mounted Canopies adjacent to their classrooms to create free-flow learning and play areas from the indoors to the outdoors.

The new project included the requirement for a free standing canopy which would dramatically extend the dining facilities available at the school.

The Director from Living Architects who we have also worked with in the past, asked us to supply them with a quotation for a large timber canopy

to provide the cover required for their dining room extension.

The canopy the architect chose for the project was the Tarnhow Dome Free Standing Canopy which is a standard product of ours and is extremely popular for covering outside dining areas within schools, hospitality and leisure settings.

The Tarnhow Dome Free Standing Canopy is a timber structure and was a whopping 33.1m x 7m and has the capacity to shelter 45 picnic tables and 270 students at one given time, (these figures were in place before social distancing was introduced). Once social distancing is no longer required the canopy will provide the intended original coverage.

The Tarnhow Dome Free Standing Canopy can span an impressive 12

metres in width and has an unlimited length, making it perfect for covering larger areas such as alfresco dining areas and outdoor classrooms.

You can find out more about this product by visiting our website or downloading your free copy of the Step-by-Step Guide to Purchasing a School Canopy:

www.ablecanopies.co.uk/schoolcanopy



PLANNING FOR WINTER FUNDRAISING WITH SOCIAL DISTANCING

It has become apparent that the need for social distancing due to COVID-19 will be around for the foreseeable future. However, that shouldn't put a stop to your school's fundraising efforts.

Normally, autumn and winter fundraising events are held indoors and often get a little congested. Events might include school performances, winter fetes, fireworks nights and more. It seems that none of these events will be going ahead this year. So, what can be done? Well here are some winter school fundraising ideas that you can use.

1. A Winter Wonderland Tour

Decorate your school as a winter wonderland for the weekend and then invite parents and children to tour the school for a small fee. You can have set entrances, numbers and a one-way system to encourage social distancing. Those waiting to enter can do so outside, underneath a canopy.

Inside the winter wonderland, you could have activities that could easily be sanitised. Tours could also have treasure hunts on them, where children could win prizes for spotting certain things around the tour.

2. Virtual Shop

Do you sell a lot of craft at your normal winter events? Why not create a small online shop and sell items via your website. The great thing about this option is that it can run over a long time and could be re-used for future fundraising events.

Crafts and other gifts could be donated by local businesses and artists to help raise stocks. Buyers could also have their products delivered to them, to prevent more footfall in the area. A parent or PTA member may be able to create the online shop for you if they have experience.

3. Virtual Shows

Use the power of online to sell tickets to virtual shows at your

school. Pantomimes, variety shows and more can be filmed at your school and showed online for a small fee. You can use online media distributors like YouTube and Vimeo to help you stream and share the videos.

This is a rather low cost option that retains the tradition of the school play.

Conclusion

While it seems social distancing and restrictions may be around for some time yet, your schools' fundraising can still go ahead. There are ways to make fundraising this winter possible, like the options mentioned in this article.

Remember - If you plan to make a success of these fundraising streams, start planning as soon as possible as preparation and advertising is key.





TURN YOUR SCHOOL WEBSITE INTO A FUNDRAISING POWER-HOUSE

Whether you're raising funds for a new school canopy or perhaps a new computer room, fundraising in this day and age has become more challenging. Sponsored events, school fetes and other activities have ground to a halt. That doesn't mean that you're unable to hold fundraising events, it just means you have to change strategy.

One strength of a school that is often ignored is the potential of the school website. Very few educational institutions take advantage of their website as a way to raise funds. So here are some suggestions.

1. Sell Merchandise

Using print on demand services, you can have items sold on your school website. Get children to create designs for t-shirts, cups, tea towels and more and have your website sell these designs. There are printers that can then print the items and send them to those who have placed orders, with you taking a cut of the sales.

2. Crowdfunding

Another option is to use websites as a way to collect donations from parents/guardians for specific projects. A simple donation button on your website is like crowdfunding and can be much more important.

3. Online Fetes

You might not be able to use your school to host a fete, but you can use your website to host an online fete. Stalls can be setup on pages where games/products can be sold. Local businesses can hire out pages to help you raise funds.

4. Online Views Of Your School Productions

While a school production might not be on the cards this year either, that doesn't mean children can't learn the annual Christmas production and

then film it in front of a camera. The video footage can then be shown on the website where tickets can be charged.

Conclusion

You might be limited in how to raise funds face to face for your new school canopy or sports equipment, but that doesn't mean all the options are gone for you. Use your school website as a platform to fundraise this winter and protect your staff, students and those close to the school while also finding the money you need for projects.



FOREST SCHOOLS AND COVID-19

Most schools have fully returned and there certainly have been differences to the start of the academic year. Students are facing new limitations and new experiences, and there have been concerns about how children can get the same high quality of teaching as they have done before. There are also concerns around whether forest schools can go ahead.

Transmission Within Outside Settings Could be Lower

The big advantage of forest schools is that they're outside either within a forest area or under the cover of a canopy, and it has been considered that time spent outside in these kind of environments, could reduce the risk of transmission. Therefore, forest schools could be deemed as one of the lower risk environments.

There are lots of great lessons that can be held outside. For instance, mathematics, science and art can all be taken outside.

Forest Schools Help Pupils To Learn

By taking lessons outside, pupils can grow a confidence that they can apply across their education as they learn academically and work towards personal growth. Having fun helps pupils to retain information much better. Finally, your pupils will be more active outside which is better for mental and physical health.

There are so many benefits to forest schools, that by being able to keep them in the learning mix during these tough times is a real bonus.

How To Stay Safe During Forest School Lessons

While it is considered that forest schools may pose a limited risk for the spread of COVID-19, there may still be a risk and there are still things that you can do to minimise the risk further. For instance, forest school areas could be limited to bubbles. Where only a set of

students in a bubble can interact, use equipment and learn at the same time.

All equipment should be used for one bubble and not shared between bubbles. In addition, surfaces should be cleaned as much as possible.

The same hygiene processes that you apply within the school should be continued into the forest schools however, there may be less surfaces that require cleaning.

Conclusion

Forest schools are an important part of learning and it seems, may pose limited risk so they can still be enjoyed during restrictions.

Please always check the latest government advice for the most up to date restrictions for your local area before organising a forest school session.



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

"I can't recommend your installation team high enough. Very impressive, thank you!"

Beaudesert Park School,
Stroud, Gloucestershire

(pictured above)

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

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

