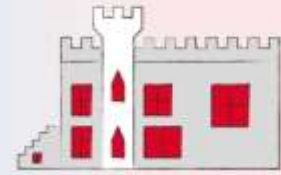




The Federation of North and South Cowton Community and Melsonby Methodist Primary Schools



Melsonby Methodist Primary School
Live Life in all its Fullness



North and South Cowton Community Primary School
Aspire, Inspire, Enquire

Friday 20th January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to this week's Newsletter! With plenty going on in the media, I want to give a couple of updates.

Firstly, you are probably fully aware of the media coverage around Industrial Action to be taken by teachers who are members of the National Education Union (NEU).

Four days of industrial action are planned taking place on; Wednesday 1st February, Tuesday 28th February, Wednesday 15th March and Thursday 16th March.

As it stands, I am unable to provide clarification as to which classes may be affected by this action however, I am set to meet with Union representatives in the coming days and will provide a further update as soon as I have it. It is important to note that the majority of teaching staff within the schools are members of the NEU therefore, it is highly likely that classes will be affected by this Industrial Action. Please keep an eye out for further updates - I would like to give families as much advance warning as possible.

Cost of Living

The Cost of Living crisis is clearly impacting on many people. If you are not aware of it, the Government website provides lots of useful information about the ways in which families can be supported at this time. If you have not had the chance to look at their website then here is the link; <https://helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk/>

Ian Abtla

Federation Notices and Dates

Small School Pentathlon – 31st Jan

Safer Internet Day – 7th Feb 23
February half term – Monday 13th Feb to Friday 17th Feb

Parents Evening – Tuesday 21st,
Wednesday 22nd, Thursday 23rd
March



News from Class 1 at Melsonby

In Science this week, we have been thinking about Humans and their basic needs for survival, 'air, food and water'. We expanded on this and thought about shelter, safety and exercise. We imagined being stranded on a Desert Island. We thought about how we could use the natural environment to help us survive. Some ideas included, using the trees for shade and to make a shelter. Creating a fire to boil water and cook food as well as keep predators at bay. We also thought about making weapons from the branches and rocks to help us hunt for food and keep us safe from predators. Well done Class 1!

What will we be learning next week?

Next week we will be expanding our knowledge of Kenyan Culture by looking at African Music and food as well as creating our own version of our story, 'Lila and the Secret of Rain.'

Pupil Recognition

Achievement award – **Daisy** for writing a fantastic description from our story this week.

Values award - **Hattie W and Nathan** nominated by their peers for showing perseverance in their writing and science this week.

Reminders

All children to have their reading books in school each day PE kits, now every Monday and Thursday for this half term.

Monday 23rd January – No cooking club

Upcoming events



News from Class 1 at North and South Cowton

This week we have been busy working on our fine motor skills, introducing our playdough disco on a morning, writing CVC words and phrases in English and exploring different brush strokes and techniques as we study the work of Monet in our art lessons. Year 2 have also been exploring the emotions of Iris and Isaac during different events in the story, and using their scientific knowledge to think about what they might need to survive in a different environment.



What will we be learning next week?

We will be thinking all about our bodies! We will continue our scientific investigations into what humans need to survive by exploring healthy practices with diet, exercise and hygiene, linking nicely into our PSHE work on safety with medicines and how to make a call to the emergency services. Lots of role play to follow!

Pupil Recognition

Values award - **Jude** has shown exceptional kindness towards his peers this week during play and routines, comforting his friends after a tumble and offering his help to others.

Reminders

The boys are modelling mad this half term – any bits of clean recycling such as cardboard boxes, plastics pots, bottles, etc. would be well received! Thank you.

Upcoming events



News from Class 2 at Melsonby

This week we have begun our new Geography topic of North America, we have been revisiting our work on latitude and introduced longitude in order to be able to identify countries and continents on a world map.

What will we be learning next week?

We will be exploring which rocks make up the Earth and how they are formed.

Pupil Recognition

Achievement award – **Melody** has had a great week, and an excellent start to this term, she is challenging herself to not only create imaginative writing, but to then go back and improve it. Well done!

Reminders

Please can pupils from Class 2 bring a can in from home e.g. soup/beans/etc., for Monday 23rd January. Thank you.

Monday 23rd January – No cooking club

Upcoming events

Number Day - Friday 3rd February, further information to follow next week.



News from Class 2 at North and South Cowton

This week In English this week we finished our plans for our own endings of Cinderella of the Nile. To support our writing, we have looked at dialogue within narratives and where the punctuation goes and how it should be set out.

We have changed our organisation of Spellings and Guided Reading. On a Monday and Friday, the focus will be on Spellings with each year group having an input and time to practice their new words ahead of Friday's test. Guided Reading will take place Tuesday through to Thursday, with Mrs Bamma working with a different Year group each day.

In Art the children have been looking at Andy Warhol. After learning some of the techniques, the children used the blotted line method to create their own print.



Year 6

Time 4

Location at NSC



Year 30

Time 4

Location at NSC

In Maths Year 4 will move on to developing their knowledge of length and perimeter, Year 5 will move on to multiplication and division, building on the work they completed in the Autumn term while Year 6 will explore Ratio.

In English we aim to complete our alternative endings to Cinderella of the Nile, editing and improving them after we have shared them with our peers.

Pupil Recognition

Values award (perseverance) – This week my award goes to **Evan** for his perseverance in Maths. The questions this week have been challenging but he has used his knowledge to solve the questions given.

Achievement award – Well done to the **Year 6** children across the Federation who played in the football tournament earlier this week. They all enjoyed it and demonstrated good sportsmanship and teamwork.

Reminders

Year 4 MTC – this is a multiplication check that the Year 4 children will complete in June. The attached guidance gives you more information on it. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Bamma.

Upcoming events

Year 6 SATs meeting Monday 30th January

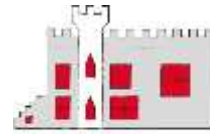
Time 4pm-4:45pm . Location at NSC

All Year 6 parents' welcome. If you need to join virtually, please let us know and we will send you a link.

Number Day - Friday 3rd February. further information to follow next week



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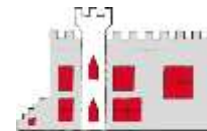
Information for parents: 2023 multiplication tables check



Standards
& Testing
Agency



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Multiplication tables check

Do you have a child in year 4 at primary school?

If so, your child will be participating in the multiplication tables check in June.

The purpose of the check is to determine whether your child can fluently recall their times tables up to 12, which is essential for future success in mathematics. It will also help your child's school to identify if your child may need additional support.

What is the multiplication tables check?

It is an on-screen check consisting of 25 times table questions. Your child will be able to answer 3 practice questions before taking the actual check. They will then have 6 seconds to answer each question. On average, the check should take no longer than 5 minutes to complete.

What if my child cannot access the check?

There are several access arrangements available for the check, which can be used to support pupils with specific needs. Your child's teacher will ensure that the access arrangements are appropriate for your child before they take the check in June.

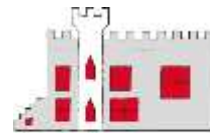
The check has been designed so that it is inclusive and accessible to as many children as possible, including those with special educational needs or disability (SEND) or English as an additional language (EAL). However, there may be some circumstances in which it will not be appropriate for a pupil to take the check, even when using suitable access arrangements. If you have any concerns about your child accessing the check, you should discuss this with your child's headteacher.

Do I need to do anything to prepare my child for the check?

No, you do not need to do anything additional to prepare your child for the check. As part of usual practice, teachers may ask you to practise times tables with your child.



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Schools will have unlimited access to a 'try it out' area from April. They can use this to make sure pupils have the necessary support required to access the check. This includes opportunities for pupils to familiarise themselves with the check application and try out any access arrangements that may be required.

How will the results be used?

Schools will have access to all their pupils' results, allowing those pupils who need additional support to be identified.

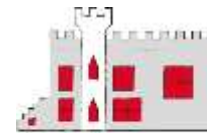
Will I receive feedback on my child's check?

Yes. Your child's teacher will share your child's score with you, as they would with all national curriculum assessments. There is no pass mark for the check.





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Further information

Your child's teacher will be able to answer any questions about the multiplication tables check.

For further details you can also visit www.gov.uk/STA.

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Information for parents: 2023 multiplication tables check
Electronic version product code: STA/22/8666/e ISBN: 978-1-78957-859-1

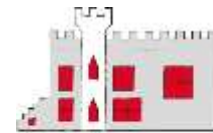
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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about
ROBLOX **PEGI 7+**

With more than 150 million users worldwide, Roblox is one of the most popular video games of recent times. Roblox allows users to create their own gaming experiences using Roblox Studio: building levels and games then allowing other people to play them. Similarly, players can play each other's creations, either on their own or with other people online. While it's a tool that can help foster creative thinking, Roblox is also intermittently in the news amid concerns over young users' safety.

No Age Rating
Roblox is rated TV-14 by ESRB, but the platform itself doesn't have a minimum age requirement. A clear ask for a date of birth when registering, but this can be easily falsified. The sheer quantity of games available on Roblox means that some will fall into teen/adult categories. Users can also interact with each other freely – and the game has, historically, attracted scammers, grifters and online predators.

Chat Functionality
Users can join group chats with friends or even through the Chat & Party function. While the chat has some filters, predators will try to find ways around these to prey on young children. There have been recent reports of adults pretending to be children, attempting to groom younger players and encouraging them to chat privately in an unmoderated environment away from the game.

In-App Purchases
Roblox is the in-game currency used to buy things like special avatars or weapons, and to play certain sections of the game. A subscription service (costing £4.99 per month) called Roblox Premium offers more privileges and more in-game currency. Roblox can also be purchased in bundles, for up to £4.99. Children can easily pay for these, or purchase a membership, without realising it.

Orders
An 'Order' (online store) gives Roblox to find someone to visit online. While there's nothing inherently wrong with finding love on the internet, it becomes an issue in a space that's populated by children and young teens. On Roblox, online dating is against the site's community guidelines, but certain player-built games on the platform are specifically for 'Orders' and should be avoided by children.

Online Predators
Roblox's developers aim to maintain a safe place for children; they employ human moderators for their players' protection. But there will, sadly, always be individuals who try to bypass these safeguards so they can chat to children and attempt to communicate outside the game. Anyone asking for your child's personal information or to talk privately should be blocked and reported.

Advice for Parents & Carers

Take Note of Ratings
Recent press reports drew attention to Roblox's issues with potentially offensive content. Some players were using Roblox Studio to create games featuring nudity, sexual activity and extreme profanity. In response, Roblox is introducing a rating system which will mark content for age appropriateness, with more warnings if a game is not suitable for your own players.

Set Parental Controls
Roblox has controls that allow parents to manage what their children can talk to and which games they can play. To enable these, add your email address to your child's account through the security menu, and enable a secure PIN for their settings being transferred with them. Then head into the privacy menu where you can specify restrictions like in-game chat, personal messages, invites and more.

Disable Messages
It's not possible to block all messaging if you have no account over your child's safety. If they're sharing with friends they know and trust, encourage them to chat in private only. Shut off the account, and you know exactly what they're talking to and have accounts can be blocked to show messages from specific groups of people, such as friends or users that your child follows.

Block and Report
To report players in a game, find the player's avatar on screen (or the 'Settings' button on some avatars), identify the offending player and click the flag icon. Clearly, not if a player is being reported by checking to ensure that's not it. If you think a particular game is inappropriate, you can star flag it for a moderator to check by following the same steps but selecting 'Block' instead of 'Flag'.

Encourage Creativity
It could prove a little too complex for younger children, but Roblox Studio is a great place to start learning the fundamentals of game design. Many building developers have created some games which have become a popular among the community. There are plenty of tutorials on making games on sites like YouTube. You never know, your child's creation might be the next big thing!

Meet Our Expert
Mark Factor has worked in the gaming industry for several years as a writer, editor and presenter. He is the gaming editor at two of the biggest gaming news sites in the world, Eurogamer and GamesRadar+. Starting gaming from a young age with his parents, he has a passion for understanding how games and tech work, but more importantly, how to make them safe and fun.

NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

www.nationalonlinesafety.com @nationalonlinesafety /nationalonlinesafety @nationalonlinesafety

Some of these games do not fit their own description. No liability is entered into. Content as of the date of release: 25.04.2021

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In the guide, you'll find tips on a number of potential risks such as in-app purchases, online dating and chat functionality.

This is part of our Gaming, Online Platforms and Online Relationships categories.