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Dear Colleague

**LEICESTERSHIRE PRIMARY STRATEGY (MATHEMATICS & LITERACY)
NEWSLETTER FOR PRIMARY AND
10+ HIGH SCHOOLS**

Welcome back to another school year. Once again here are recent local and national updates from the Primary Strategy team.

TEAM UPDATE

We welcome Simon Brown who has joined the mathematics team and Pat Gardner and James Cheesman who have joined the literacy team. Lisa Brown will be returning from maternity leave after half term.

Contacting the team

You can contact us via Carol Wilcox 0116 305 6337 or Jacqui O'Connor 0116 305 6411 or email us via the website as before.

ENGLISH AND MATHEMATICS RESULTS FOR KS1 AND KS2 2008

Full details and analysis can be found at the back of this newsletter.

SCHOOL SUPPORT

Consultant support continues to be directed to those schools that are in LA categories 3, 4 & 5 as identified by the alerts system. For some this will include individual school support. If your school is not in one of these groups it is unlikely that we will be able to support you on an individual basis.

All schools will continue to receive support and advice through Headteacher Meetings, Subject Leader Meetings, Wordzone, MathsWeb and termly newsletters.

LOCAL AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES

The Primary National Strategy has identified several current priorities for the next academic year. The following are priorities for Leicestershire.

- Improving teachers understanding and use of progression and assessment
- Developing pedagogy for personalization
- Intervention
- Leading improvements using the Primary Framework
- Girls attainment in mathematics
- Writing

THE PRIMARY FRAMEWORK FOR LITERACY AND MATHEMATICS

A priority for the team and the main area that we will be focusing on this year will be continued embedding of the Primary Framework for Literacy and Mathematics with particular reference to Assessment for Learning (AFL). This will be through:

- Headteacher meetings
- Subject Leader meetings
- APP meetings for Subject Leaders
- All central training will include a focus on AFL
- Website updates
- Termly newsletters

Schools will shortly receive two supply days to enable them to support the implementation of APP. (Period 7 tabs)

WAVE TWO INTERVENTION

All category 3, 4 and 5 schools have been given funding to continue to support the work of the Wave 2 Intervention Coordinators. This funding will enable the Intervention Coordinator to oversee the appropriate interventions for pupils at risk of falling behind age-related expectations in their schools. In addition to this there will be 2 ½ days training for Intervention Coordinators in LA category 2 schools.

Category 3, 4 and 5 schools also have access to training on:

- Overcoming barriers in mathematics – helping children move from level 2 to level 3.
- Overcoming barriers in mathematics – helping children move from level 3 to level 4.

COLLABORATIVE NETWORK DEVELOPMENTS

We are continuing to develop the success of our collaborative networks from previous years by offering the following collaboratives to targeted schools:

- ISP (Improving Schools Programme); 8 schools
- Y3 /4 maths and literacy: 10 schools
- Early Reading; 11 schools
- Y6 maths: 10 schools

- Y6 maths in the Vale: 8 schools
- Y1 maths; 10 schools
- Wave 3 maths; 9 schools
- Visual Literacy; 8 schools
- Y5/6 literacy; 8 schools
- Assessment for Learning; 9 schools

PRIMARY COURSES

- APP for Subject Leaders. There will be a days training for all mathematics and literacy Subject Leaders in November / December.
- Year 3 /4 courses. This training is available for all schools and has been advertised on EIS. The literacy sessions will focus on “Becoming a Writer”. In the mathematics sessions (for Y4) teachers will explore the use of the APP materials to identify and support pupils using the Level 2-3 Overcoming Barriers resource.
- Teachers New to Year 6. Three full day sessions over the autumn and spring terms.
- Primary Strategy
 - All schools were invited to attend Headteacher meetings in September which included a Primary Framework update from the Primary Strategy Managers, Ann Fox & Christine Tarpey
 - Meetings for Subject Leaders will be held in October and February at a venue local to your development group. Details will be posted on EIS.
- Phonic knowledge and skills. This course was repeated during September for all schools.
- “Returners to Teaching” courses were planned for September with a focus on planning from the Primary Framework, however they were cancelled due to lack of interest.

RESOURCES

- **The Assessment for Learning Strategy**

Ref: 00341-2008DOM-EN

This document is a joint project between the DCSF, the National Strategies and QCA. It is designed to support schools in using assessment information to improve and plan provision, as well as improving the quality of the assessment process itself.

- **Improving practice and progression through Lesson Study**

Ref: 00508-2008BKT-EN

This report focuses on effective continuing professional development, drawing on research carried out since 2003. It includes a step-by-step guide on how to use Lesson Study to develop and refine teaching techniques.

Literacy

- **Support for Writing**

Ref: 00468-2008DVD-EN

This DVD will support Y2, 3 & 4 teachers with writing through identifying next steps in learning.

- **Teaching effective vocabulary**

Ref: 00376-2008

Research suggests that although many children acquire vocabulary naturally through activities at school, this cannot be left to chance in the case of children with low vocabularies. This publication aims to help teachers by summarising research on this topic.

- **Letters and Sounds: Principles and practice of high quality phonics - Phase one Teaching Programme**

Ref: DCSF-00113-2008

This pack consists of materials designed to assist practitioners and teachers in promoting speaking and listening skills, so that, by the end of Key Stage 1, children have developed fluent word reading skills and have a good foundation in spelling.

- **Getting Going: generating, shaping and developing ideas in writing**

Ref: DCSF-00283-2008

This document provides a new model of working with practitioners to develop practical classroom strategies which are underpinned by current educational research. It also provides a theoretical and historical rationale for focusing attention on speaking and writing.

- **Early reading curriculum CPD resource**

Ref: DCSF 00053-2008

The Early Reading Curriculum DVD provides guidance for teachers and practitioners working with children in reception classes.

- **Reads you need in your school library: recommended fiction 3+ to 16+**
£7.95 from Library Services for Education. www.leics.gov.uk/libraries/lse

Mathematics

- **Developing Assessment for Learning in Mathematics**

Ref: 00147-2008PCK-EN

This booklet and accompanying DVD captures a range of developments in assessment for learning practice in a number of schools.

- **Overcoming barriers in mathematics – helping children move from level 2 to level 3.**

Ref: 00149-2008PCK-EN

This publication contains materials designed to assist teachers in ensuring that Year 3 and 4 children progress from level 2 to 3 by the end of Year 4.

- **Helping children with mathematics: Year 5 to Year 6**

Ref: 00142-2008PCK-EN

These resources are designed to help parents support children with learning mathematics, towards the end of Year 5 or the start of Year 6. It contains 12 separate maths topics, with real-life examples and interesting facts.

▪ **Williams Review**

These can be ordered from www.teachernet.gov.uk/publications or downloaded from www.standards.dcsf.gov.uk

WORDZONE UPDATE

www.leics.gov.uk/sips/literacy_wordzone

- The Leicestershire Literacy website – *the wordzone* – is currently being restructured:
 - New materials are being added, including:
 - questioning resources
 - support for implementing the APP process
 - toolkit for subject leaders
 - Navigation *should* be more straight forward; fewer ‘clicks’ to find what you are looking for.

This will be completed by the end of the autumn term.

MATHSWEB UPDATE

www.leics.gov.uk/sips/lqfl_numeracy

The What’s New page of MathematicsWeb has been ‘tidied up’. New items are posted on the What’s New page under a heading for the month as well as being accessible through relevant sections of the website.

The following new materials are now on the mathematics website:

- A calendar showing how the Primary Framework units fit with Leicestershire term dates.
- Materials from the APP for subject leaders Day 1 and Day 2, and assessment guidelines as word documents.
- New pupil interview questions linked with the Primary Framework objectives
- Level advice for parents
- A maths audit document to support school self evaluation in mathematics
- Detailed guidance on the Excel documents on the Primary Framework

▪ **EMBC**

There is now a Maths zone within the Primary Strategy zone of EMBC. This is aimed at facilitating communication with subject leaders and leading teachers. Please contact Alison Godfrey (agodfrey@leics.gov.uk) or Simon Brown (smbrown@leics.gov.uk) giving your embc login to enable us to give you access to the maths zone.

LEADING TEACHERS

The Leading Teachers in Leicestershire are continuing to offer support to our schools. Currently we are able to offer the following:

- For new Mathematics / English Subject Leaders. If you are a new Subject Leader you might want a Leading Teacher to act as a mentor during your first year.
- For Mathematics Subject Leaders and class teachers. Support for planning from the Primary Framework.
- Support for teachers new to Year 6
- Support for teachers new to KS1
- Support for NQTs and returners to teaching

For further details of Leading Mathematics Teachers please see the 'What's New' page of MathsWeb. For Leading English Teachers please contact Rosemary Payne 0116 0356337.

If you have any queries concerning any aspects of this newsletter or wish to get advice from the primary team, you can contact them at numeracy@leics.gov.uk or literacy@leics.gov.uk or via Jacqui O'Connor (0116 305 6411) or Carol Wilcox (0116 3056337).

Yours sincerely

Christine Tarpey,
Primary Strategy Manager

Ann Fox
Primary Strategy Manager

APPENDIX

2008 MATHEMATICS RESULTS

Below are the initial headlines from the 2008 results for the LA as compared to the provisional National results. Please note that they are still provisional but changes at this late stage are likely to be minimal.

Key Stage One

2008	Level 2+		Level 2B+		Level 3	
	Leics	National	Leics	National	Leics	National
Mathematics	92	90	79	74	26	21

- Results in Leicestershire continue to remain above national levels at L2+, L2B+ and L3. Level 2 outcomes at a local and national level have shown no increase from last year. Leicestershire remain 2 percentage points ahead of national.
- Results at Level 2B+ in Leicestershire and nationally have increased by 1 percentage point. Leicestershire results are 5 percentage points ahead of national.
- Results at L3 are also 5 percentage points ahead of national. The percentage of pupils achieving Level 3 has remained the same as last year in Leicestershire and nationally.

2008 (2007)	L2+		L2B+		L3	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Mathematics	90 (92)	93 (93)	78 (77)	79 (79)	30 (29)	22 (23)

- At L2+ girls outperform boys by 3 percentage points, both locally and nationally.
- At L2B+ girls are outperforming boys by one percentage points, both in Leicestershire and nationally.
- The gap has increased by 1 percentage point at L3+, with boys outperforming girls by 8 percentage points. Nationally the gap is 5 percentage points.
- The gender gap at L3 is significant and continues to be a priority for the authority.

Schools should look closely at their results, particularly if there is a significant difference between standards in reading and mathematics, or an increasing gender gap, in order to identify whether raising standards in mathematics at KS1 should be a school priority.

Key Stage Two

National data is based on First Release data from 05 08 08. This may change when national data sets are complete.

Level 4+

	2008		2007	
	Leics	Nat	Leics	Nat
All	80	78	79	77
Boys	81	79	80	78
Girls	78	78	77	76

Level 5

	2008		2007	
	Leics	Nat	Leics	Nat
All	33	31	34	32
Boys	37	35	36	35
Girls	29	28	32	30

- The percentage of pupils achieving Level 4+ has increased by one percentage point in Leicestershire the same as the national increase. Leicestershire remain two percentage points ahead of national. In relation to our statistical neighbours we have moved from 3rd to 5th position.
- Level 5 outcomes at a local and national level have both decreased by one percentage point from last year. Leicestershire remain two percentage points ahead of national. In comparison with our statistical neighbours we have moved from 4th to 3rd position.
- The gap between boys and girls performance at L4+ has remained the same as last year with boys outperforming girls by three percentage points. Nationally boys outperform girls by one percentage point. The gender gap places Leicestershire at 7/11 in comparison with statistical neighbours. The range is -1 to -5.
- The gap has increased from four to eight percentage points at L5, with boys outperforming girls by eight percentage points. Nationally the gap has increased from five percentage points to seven. The gender gap places Leicestershire at 5/11 in comparison with statistical neighbours. The range is -7 to -12.
- The gender gap at L4+ and L5 is significant and continues to be a priority for the authority.

Schools should look closely at their results when deciding on whole school priorities, especially if there is a marked difference between standards in English and mathematics, if your mathematics results are following a downward trend, if conversion data indicates that children are making less than expected progress or if there is a significant / increasing gender gap.

2008 ENGLISH RESULTS

Below are the initial headlines from the 2008 results for the LA as compared to the provisional National results. Please note that they are still provisional but changes at this late stage are likely to be minimal.

Key Stage One

2008	L2+		L2B+		L3	
	Leics	National	Leics	National	Leics	National
Reading	87%	84%	76%	71%	30%	25%
Writing	85%	80%	65%	58%	15%	12%

- KS1 performance remains clearly above the national averages in reading and writing
- L2+ no change in Leicestershire or nationally
- L2B+ slight increase in reading and writing in Leicestershire. Nationally reading remained the same with a 1% drop in writing.
- L3 in Leicestershire reading remained the same with a 1% decrease in writing.
- Nationally there was a 1% drop in both reading and writing.

2008		L2+		L2B+		L3	
		Leics	National	Leics	National	Leics	National
Reading	Boys	84 (84)	80 (80)	71 (70)	66 (66)	26 (25)	21 (22)
	Girls	91 (90.5)	88 (88)	81 (81)	77 (77)	34 (34)	29 (30)
Writing	Boys	81 (80)	75 (75)	57 (57)	51 (51)	11 (11)	8 (9)
	Girls	90 (90)	86 (86)	72 (72)	67 (67)	19 (20.5)	16 (17)

Key Stage Two

National data is based on the Statistical First Release data published on 5 August 08. This is provisional and subject to: the outcome of the appeals process whereby schools can request a review of one or more of their pupils on the grounds that the mark scheme has not been correctly applied ; any changes made by schools during the Achievement and Attainment Tables checking exercise in the autumn term; the outcome of the Sutherland Inquiry which is looking into the problems with this year's delivery of the National Curriculum tests; and further advice from the Office of the Qualifications and Examinations Regulator (Ofqual). At the time of publication, information from Ofqual indicates that the underlying data are of sufficient quality to support this analysis. Leicestershire results are provisional based on comparison of schools where 100% data has been returned (97.9% of potential schools).

Level 4

All Pupils

	2006		2007		2008	
	Leics	Nat	Leics	Nat	Leics	Nat
English	82	79	84	80	84	81
Reading	85	83	86	84	89	86
Writing	68	67	71	67	69	67

Boys

	2006		2007		2008	
	Leics	Nat	Leics	Nat	Leics	Nat
English	77	74	80	76	80	76
Reading	82	79	84	81	86	83
Writing	61	59	63	60	63	60

Girls

	2006		2007		2008	
	Leics	Nat	Leics	Nat	Leics	Nat
English	86	85	87	85	88	85
Reading	88	87	89	87	91	89
Writing	76	75	79	75	75	74

Level 5

All pupils

	2006		2007		2008	
	Leics	Nat	Leics	Nat	Leics	Nat
English	34	32	36	33	31	29
Reading	48	48	50	48	51	48
Writing	19	19	20	19	20	20

Boys

	2006		2007		2008	
	Leics	Nat	Leics	Nat	Leics	Nat
English	27	26	30	28	24	23
Reading	42	41	47	44	46	43
Writing	14	13	15	15	15	15

Girls

	2006		2007		2008	
	Leics	Nat	Leics	Nat	Leics	Nat
English	40	39	41	39	36	36
Reading	54	53	54	52	56	54
Writing	24	23	26	24	24	25

- Leicestershire continues to perform above national outcomes at L4 and L5
- Level 4 remains static at 84% where nationally there has been a rise of 1 percentage point. Reading has increased by 2 percentage points nationally and 3 percentage points in Leicestershire. Nationally writing remains static for the third year in succession. In Leicestershire there has been a decrease of 2 percentage points.
- Boys' writing remains static both in Leicestershire and nationally. Girls' writing has decreased by 1 percentage point nationally and 4 percentage points in Leicestershire
- There has been a decrease at L5 of 5 percentage points in Leicestershire. Test results are now close to teacher assessments.
- Reading at L5 has increased by 1 percentage point in Leicestershire against a static picture nationally. Writing remains the same in Leicestershire. Nationally there has been an increase of 1 percentage point.
- Boys' performance at L5 is above the national outcome and girls are in line with the national picture.
- In all aspects of English the gap between boys and girls is less than national. In writing the gap has narrowed as a result of the decrease in the percentage of girls achieving L5 writing.