

27th March 2020



CHIEF EXECUTIVE
Margo Williamson

Lochside Primary School

'Working together to make a difference and achieve success for all.'

Dear Parents/Carers,

Symphony Maths

Let me introduce myself, I am a teacher at Lochside Primary School. Most of your children will be familiar with me in and around their classes. This year, I have been working with a few children from Primary 3 to Primary 7 using the Symphony Maths resource.

Due to these extremely unusual circumstances, the Symphony Maths programme providers have given our school free access to open it for as many pupils as we require. Therefore, I have taken the opportunity to create the individual logins for your children.

I hope you have seen the email sent out last week, which contains information about how your child can access their personalised programme for developing numeracy. Please view the videos on <https://www.lochsideschool.com/maths-p3-p7>. In the introduction video, you will find a short demonstration to show how to access SymphonyMath app on iPad. The videos demonstrate how to access the programme and some relevant information about how to use it when your child is logged on.

The stages available in Symphony Math are extensive and relevant to all pupils through the primary year groups and beyond. If you would like to see the full set of the skills covered, the details below show how to access all stages:

Simply visit mysymphonymath.com. On the student login screen, enter 'demo' into each of the 3 fields. This will reveal an overview of the skills. You can open these to sample the activities.

I have allocated an approximate level for your child. However, this can be adapted either up or down depending suitability of the activities once they have had time to become familiar with the resource. Once they start the activities, they will undertake the placing exercise for a stage. This will identify aspects where the pupil requires practise. If they are confident at a given stage, the programme will move them on to the next stage and the process is repeated.

I will frequently access the teacher administration site throughout the weeks, to see which pupils are progressing with ease and those who may require more support. At this point, I may open another activity providing further explanation and practice.

In my experience, it is necessary for an adult to be on hand to help pupils understand parts of the activities in order to make progress. However, where possible allow them independent to embed their knowledge and skills.

I welcome any communications from either you or the pupils. Do not hesitate to contact me via [lochsideschool.com](https://www.lochsideschool.com) and I will do my best to get back to you as soon as possible. My aim is to communicate with you and your child via their teacher if any issues are highlighted on the programme.

During the activities, suggestions are made for the pupil to draw out the examples shown onto paper. This is useful for pupils' greater understanding of concepts and therefore ensure advancement to the next level. Also, written Checkpoints show a child's understanding of the stage. It would be good for them to complete these in their jotters or on paper. These ask pupils to copy examples shown and then come up with a similar model of their own. They could post a photo of their work onto SEESAW.

Changes to the existing logins

For the pupils who have been working with me using this resource already this year, their login details will remain the same and they can continue to work on the stages already reached. They will progress past the Checkpoints without a teacher entering the secret code from now on.

I hope to see as many pupils as possible using this great resource. The suggested time for pupils to make progress is 45 minutes each week. This is best achieved in two shorter sessions. The system will close the programme when a child has spent 30 minutes at one time, with a message stating 'your session has ended for today'.

I will provide updates on how well the resource is being used by the classes, as an incentive for your child to participate.

If you have any questions or comments, I would love to hear from you.

Also, P5,6,7 please look out for weekly maths challenge tweets for our Problem of the week (POW!) <https://www.lochsideschool.com/maths-p3-p7>.

Enjoy Maths!!

Yours sincerely,

Christine Martin