



Website: <http://www.lowickholylslandschools.org.uk> Tel (01289)388268 E mail: Admin@lowick.northumberland.sch.uk

Headteacher : Mrs Rebecca Simpson rebecca.simpson@lowick.northumberland.sch.uk

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It certainly feels like Autumn has arrived with wind and rain this week. We are noticing that the mornings and evenings are now getting darker. Please be mindful of road safety and make sure your children are visible to motorists and other road users and careful when walking near roads.



Despite poorer weather this week, our activities went ahead and we did get outside when we could. When it was too wet, we used the gym or the learning zone when we needed more space to move around.

Curriculum updates....

The children have been working really hard and they have been up to lots of things in school. Mrs Turner comes on Tuesdays and does active learning sessions in maths and English with all the children in turn. She also leads the outdoor games after school club on Tuesdays.



Staff have been doing training on Mastering Number and on early reading. We are excited to be part of a national training event aimed at the younger children to help them develop fluent number sense which will allow them to work more flexibly with numbers. We will be doing short sessions during the week with the younger children as part of Mastering Number and the older children will use that time to have times tables boosters. Class 2 children have been doing excellent practical problem solving working with numbers up to the thousands.



The school has subscribed to Charanga to support our music teaching this year. The children are doing a unit about music from South Africa which includes work on singing, rhythm and some instrument work. It sounds absolutely wonderful!

Reading

Reading is so important to help children to enjoy books and magazines as well as to access the rest of the curriculum. We continue to have our reading for pleasure groups first thing in the morning.

We need children to bring their reading records every day so that we can fill them in when we listen to a child read. We hope you will also fill in when you listen to your child read at home. Mrs Stiansen is taking a guided reading group every day (when she is at Lowick) and children do Read Write Inc (RWI) phonics in small groups.



We are looking for a new school cook!

Our advert for a new school cook is now on North East Jobs as well as on our own website. You can read more details here: <https://www.northeastjobs.org.uk/job/-/213906> Please contact the school if you would like to have a chat about this opportunity.



Times Table Challenge

In Class 2 we have launched our Multiplication Challenge. When the children know a times table, they receive a 'times table star' sticker. To be awarded with a sticker, the children need to demonstrate that they know multiplication and division facts. There are bronze, silver and gold award badges to be won and there is also a 'Red Hot Tables Star' award! The children have been very enthusiastic and have brought home a times table bookmark with their reading book so that they know which table they are focusing on.



Eco School News

This week we made links to Global Goals 1 'No Poverty', 2 'Zero Hunger', and 12- 'Responsible Production and Consumption'. We discovered that globally, around a third of all food produced is lost or wasted, which contributes between 8 and 10 per cent of total greenhouse gas emissions. The GG Target is to half all food waste per person, so we talked about good ways to do this, including only buying what we can eat, eating our leftovers, and freezing different foods to make it last longer.

We also talked about some smart ways to use our food scraps or leftovers if they were unavoidable, please see below.....

Spellings

Year 1: **'ss'**
Eg miss, kiss, hiss

Year 2: **the 's' sound spelt before e, i and y**
Eg race, ice, cell

Year 3 & 4: **the ending sounding like 'zh' is always spelt**
Eg sure, measure, treasure

Eco-School continued....

Vegetable Scraps

Save carrot peels, potato skins, and celery tops to add to a homemade stock or broth.

Make yummy potato peel chips out of your potato scraps.

Retain the seeds, pits, and cuttings of your veggies and regrow them at home – saving you money on seeds or seedlings. We decided to twin our bin with Nepal, and our toilet with Nigeria.

Save veggie peels for all-natural fabric dye. Use beet ends for reds and purples, red cabbage for blues, yellow onions for oranges, and spinach for greens.

Place cucumber peels at entrance points in your home to deter ants.

Keep the green "trunks" of your broccoli. They make for a delicious soup. Just search "broccoli stalk soup" for inspiration. Mince and freeze leftover herbs in oil or water before they go bad.

Hold onto tomato peels, cores and juice and turn into a tomato sauce. Just blend and simmer with oils and spices of your choice.

Fruit Scraps

Make jam from apple peels and cores. You can also do this with strawberry tops and apricot peels.

Rub the soft side of a banana peel on the leaves of houseplants to shine them up and remove dust – this is great for plant health.

Dry lemon or orange peels, then add them to your homemade vinegar cleaning solution. The citrus oils will help dissolve grease and add some antibacterial power.

Bread Crusts & Crumbs

Turn dried bread crusts into croutons and breadcrumbs. A yummy addition to your soup. Or do what we did- Bread crust pizzas!!

Miss Easten

