

Dear Parent/Guardian,

### ONLINE SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN ENTERING PRIMARY 7

The Department of Education (DE) has proposed a scheme whereby all current year 6 children<sup>1</sup> and their parents<sup>2</sup> may access online learning programmes in English and Maths.

Children will require access to a tablet, laptop or smart phone to access the programmes. **Parental engagement with this scheme is optional.**

There are many online support materials; however, **two** commercial programmes that could be used are IXL Learning and MathematicsMastery.<sup>3</sup> Both of these programmes contain Numeracy and Literacy.

As with the use of any online programme or application, it will be important that parents consider both appropriate levels of screen time and their child's online safety. Parents may find the EA online safety guidance material useful:

<https://ineqe.com/safeguarding-hub/>

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>

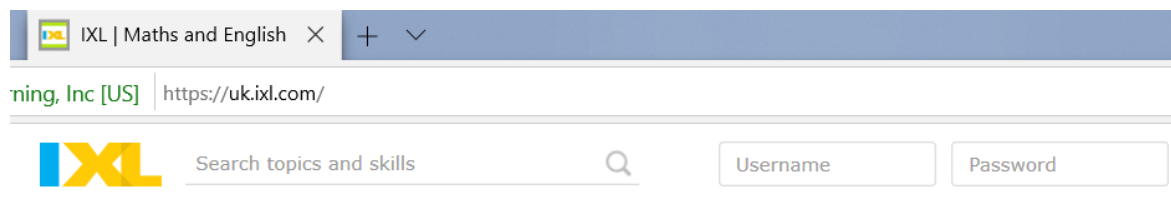
In addition the '[Supporting Learning](#)' material available on the Education Authority (EA) website and specifically EA designed material, link directly with Northern Ireland Curriculum, provides reinforcement and a reminder of the key literacy and numeracy concepts across Key Stage 2.



### **IXL LEARNING**

[www.uk.ixl.com](http://www.uk.ixl.com)

To sign in, each child requires his/her own username and password. We have already registered each P6 pupil so, to find out your child's username and password, please download the "IXL Learning usernames and passwords" document from our P6 Home Learning page.

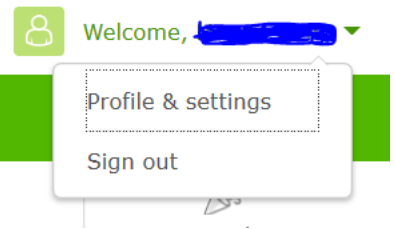


<sup>1</sup> Those children enrolled in year 6 2019/2020

<sup>2</sup> Parents includes guardians / carers

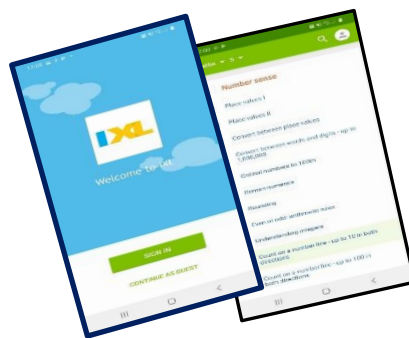
<sup>3</sup> These programmes are being suggested to support virtual learning; however, neither programme is endorsed by DE or ETI. They are intended to be helpful to children in the context of a very challenging learning environment brought about by Covid-19.

Once signed in, click on the arrow beside your child's name, select "Profile & Settings". You can then change your child's password. You can also choose to add an email address. By adding an email address, IXL Learning will then send you regular emails updating you on your child's progress and achievements.



A [Parental Guide](#) / [Quick Guide](#) provides a quick tour of the programme.

The IXL Learning app can be downloaded from Google Store/Apple Store and supported by the [IXL Mobile App Guide](#)



Through both platforms parents can select:

- The **Numeracy** or **Literacy** option,
- The corresponding class/age/stage for their child [year 5 level in England is approximately equivalent to year 6 NI] or,
- The 'search' option through which a particular numeracy or literacy aspect on which to focus may be identified, for example - adding 9 or, proper nouns.

If you click on "Learning" then "National Curriculum" then "Northern Ireland" the content will be mapped to the **Northern Ireland Curriculum** by key stage.

**IXL Numeracy** - helps children master essential skills at their own pace through interactive questions, built-in support and motivating awards.

**IXL Literacy** - provides drill and practice exercises in phonics and reading comprehension.

**IXL's Real-Time Diagnostic** is an adaptive assessment tool that provides an accurate, up-to-the-minute portrait of each child. Parents can use the diagnostic tool contained within the programme to identify areas where the child requires reinforcement and further challenge.

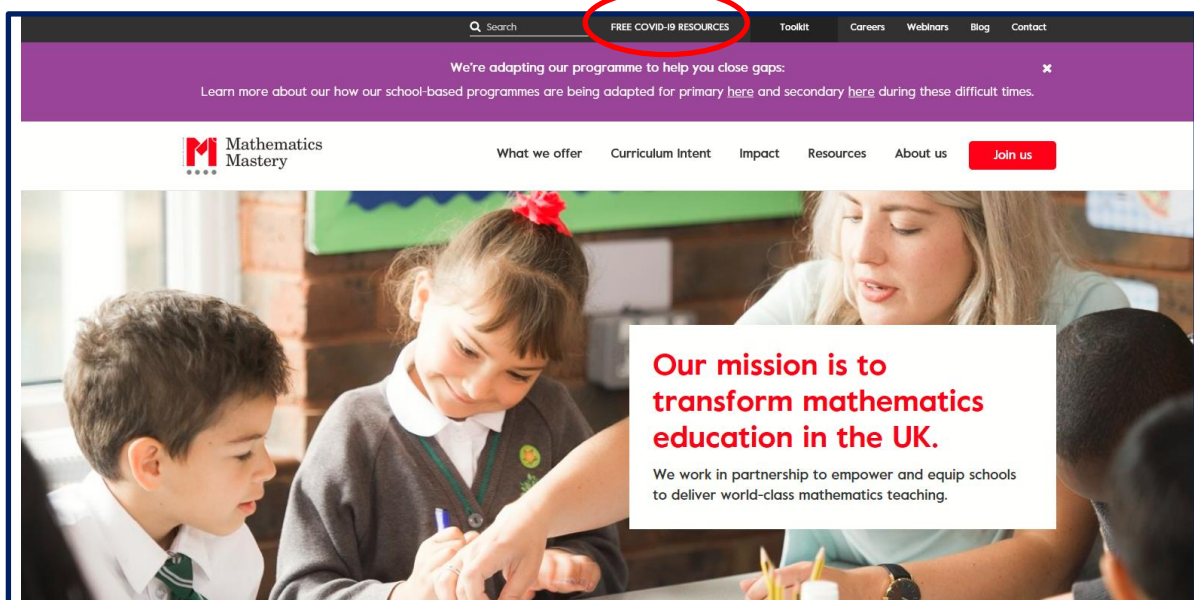
The IXL Learning programme is offered to all schools as a free trial. At the end of this free trial, the cost of the subscription (for those pupils who are entering Primary 7 only) will be met by the Department of Education subject to funding being secured by the NI Executive. Funding is not available for children in other year groups.

## **MATHEMATICS MASTERY:**

<https://www.mathematicsmastery.org/>

**Mathematics Mastery** provides a structured programme for **Literacy** and **Numeracy** and step by step guides for parents.

Parental access to the programme is straight forward, there is no need to register. Just access the '**Free Covid-19 Resources**' at the top of the **Mathematics Mastery** homepage:



There are two maths packs for each year group, one has the guidance pages and the other the pupil facing resources. Parents need to access both packs as the pupils' packs do not make sense without the guidance.

To reduce printing, the guidance packs can be accessed digitally as they contain embedded video links.

There are also two literacy packs with the guidance included.

### **Year 5 [approximately equivalent to year 6 in NI] printable packs**

- [Maths Year 5 Weeks 1-4 Guidance pack](#) (easy for parents/guardians to guide learning)
- [Maths Year 5 Weeks 1-4 Pupil pack](#)
- [Maths Year 5 Weeks 5-9 Guidance pack](#) (easy for parents/guardians to guide learning)
- [Maths Year 5 Week 5-9 Pupil pack](#)
- [English Year 5 Workbook \(week 1-4\)](#) (guidance included)
- [English Year 5 Workbook \(week 5-9\)](#) (guidance included)