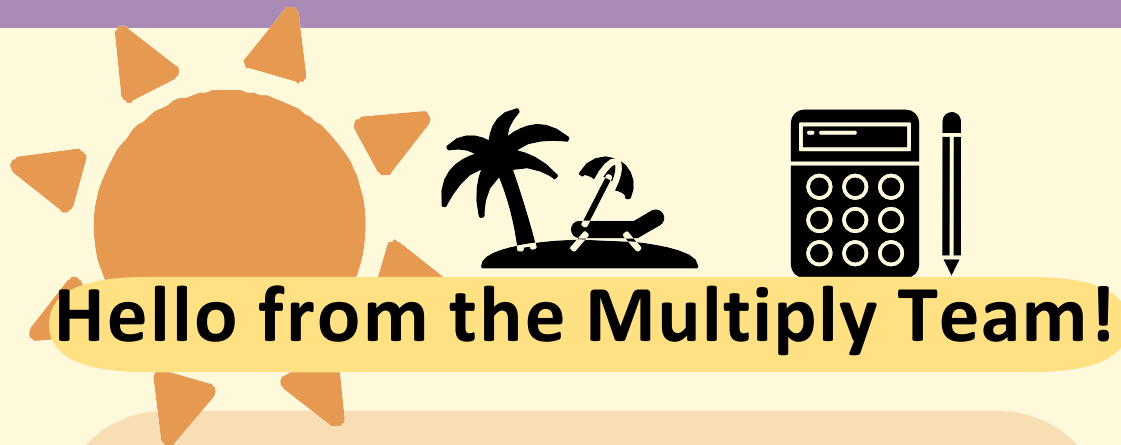




# MULTIPLY

Advancing Numeracy Skills in the Scottish Borders

June 2024



## Hello from the Multiply Team!

Summer is finally here, and we hope you are enjoying the sunshine. With a diameter of 1,392,000km, there is certainly plenty of sun to go round! That's the same as lining up 109 planet earths side by side...phew!

Since our last issue we have run two funding programmes, the Multiply Grant Fund, and the Multiply Workshop Fund. We are pleased to say that the applications were *so* interesting to read, and we are really looking forward to working with partners to get these exciting projects up and running. The creativity that's out there never fails to amaze us.

It's exciting that very soon there will be a wealth of new learning opportunities happening across the Scottish Borders, alongside our existing ones. In **July**, the second Multiply Adult Learning Programme will be launched, and again there will be lots of amazing workshops on offer for Scottish Borders residents to sign up to, and enjoy over the summer through to February next year. For details of all opportunities visit [Multiply - Scottish Borders Helix](#).

In this third instalment of our newsletter, we are pleased to bring you all the usual features including details of current learning opportunities, Resource of the Month, Meet the Multiply Partner, our work with parents, and of course some additional summery treats. We hope you enjoy... and keep learning!



### What does it mean to be numerate?

Being numerate is the ability to use basic maths skills in everyday life or at work.

Numeracy means understanding how maths is used in the real world, and being able to apply it to make the best possible decisions.

We need to be numerate to complete everyday tasks effectively. These tasks could include measuring doses of medicine, helping children with homework, checking we have received the correct change, or managing our diet and nutrition.

## Resource of the Month

These days, especially online, we are presented with more numerical data than ever before. This puts a new premium on being numerate.

We need good numeracy to use computers effectively – and although they can do the processing for us, we still need to enter the right data and decide whether the answer seems about right. This is especially important as more ways to manage our money become digitalised.

This month, we introduce [Learn My Way](#) and [Lloyds Bank Academy](#), two websites to help you access the digital world, including supporting the development of basic computer skills.



LLOYDS BANK  
ACADEMY

Learn  
My Way



*Credit: Mark Davey/Peeblesshire News*

On the 8th of June 2024, Multiply joined Jan Cowan, James Gaffney and one of their learners at [St Abbs Independent Lifeboat Station](#) to present artwork to crew members.

The work was produced by participants in the series of workshops 'Mindful Art and Numeracy,' run by Jan and James from JagArt82. It features the lifeboat centre, themed with Tunnock's tea cakes, as a reminder of the generous gift from the teacake and caramel wafer maker Tunnock's that brought the lifeboat back into operation at St Abbs after the RNLI closed its site.

This piece of work was an important turning point in the workshop sessions, not only for the numeracy involved, but by paving the way for participants to open up to each other about their difficulties and find support within the group.

## MULTIPLY *Makes its Mark!*

On Tuesday the 4th of June 2024, the Multiply Team had the privilege of joining Jules Bradbury and her learners (now artists!) at Innerleithen Library, Buccleuch Road, for the unveiling of a piece of artwork created in her workshop 'Art Counts,' which formed part of the Multiply Adult Learning Programme, Jan-March 2024.

The mixed media work, entitled 'Our River,' was created by Phil Crowther, Louise Cumming, Simone McLauchlan, Sarah Miller, Anna Nicholson, and Sue Zacharias who all signed up for Jules' workshop. Our River was created from a collection of individual pieces produced by the group during a session on scale.

The work was based on a black and white A4 photograph of the banks of the River Tweed which had to be increased to A1 on a scale of 1 to 4. The A4 image was divided into 18 pieces, each identical in size, and handed out to the learners who then interpreted them through painting or drawing, but on a larger scale.



## STEM family sessions: Newtown Primary School

Outside the Box receive Multiply funding in November 2023 to deliver adult cookery courses imbedded with lots of opportunities for numeracy learning. The course was very well received in Eyemouth.

Outside the Box now have an established model that they know works well with adults who may need different supports when reading and following recipes. As well as improving confidence using basic numeracy skills in estimating, measuring, and weighing; participants have developed their general confidence in the kitchen by trying new foods, being creative and developing important social skills through peer support.

If you know a group who would benefit from an 8-week course like this, contact Christine at [christine@otbds.org](mailto:christine@otbds.org) for further information.



Click on the cookbook to see the newest recipes from Outside the Box!

Multiply grant partner Cameron Hall, who delivers the Multiply project of Community Role Playing and Table-top Games, recently teamed up with Alison Heaton, SBC STEM Coordinator, to deliver three amazing STEM sessions for families at Newtown Primary School.

Alison works closely with schools to promote the importance of STEM subjects and to build what is known as science capital in young learners. The more science capital learners have, the more likely they are to move onto studying STEM related subjects or taking up a STEM career. Starting to build science capital from a young age in primary schools is Alison's aim.

Multiply could think of no better partner to introduce to Alison. With his enthusiasm and charisma, Cameron Hall delivered some brilliant numeracy card game activities which the pupils and their parents/carers and grandparents loved.

Alison showcased some excellent activities linked to technology, science, and engineering, including developing skills for primary pupils transitioning to secondary school.

With paper hoop aeroplanes taking flight across the hall, cardboard constructions taking shape, and pompom catapults being launched, these were certainly sessions to remember!

## Outdoor Learning Ideas

With some better weather now here, how about getting outside to do some numeracy learning? Lots can be done in the outdoors to support numeracy skills development, whether by yourself, with family, or with friends, it's a great way to enjoy being outside the fresh air, which promotes the right mindset for learning.

Maths Week Scotland runs from 25th of September to the 1st of October 2024. As part of a previous year's celebrations, National Numeracy compiled this collection of [25 Outdoor Maths Games for Everyone](#).

The resource provides strategy games and challenges from around the world which can easily be played almost anywhere. Most of them have their origins in traditional games and variations can be found in many countries. They serve to demonstrate that a love of strategy, tactics and social interactions are common to humans as a species.





# Could studying for a Maths Qualification be the right step for you?

So many jobs and careers require a good level of maths – particularly quantitative and analytical skills. But at the moment, around 8 million adults in the UK have maths skills lower than those expected of a nine-year-old, meaning lots of rewarding jobs might not be available to them (UK Gov, DfE 2023).

Studying for a maths qualification is not only essential to help you progress in life and at work, but to improve your ability to apply numeracy effectively in everyday life. Let's not forget to mention that feeling of achievement when you reach the end of the course - what a confidence boost!

If you are interested in studying for a maths qualification via any of the courses listed on [Multiply - Scottish Borders Helix](#), then you can complete a registration form on the same page and we will be in touch with you.

All courses are FREE of charge for adults without a maths qualification at National 5. If none of the options fit with your schedule, please do still get in touch with us as we have alternative options through course providers who we work with on an ad-hoc basis.



Saturday  
School Ltd.

BORDERS



COLLEGE

## Meet the Multiply Partner

This issue, our featured partner is the Live Borders Library Service. In January, Kelso and Duns library provided Multiply workshop organiser Lesley Rosher from The Crafty Creative with the perfect learning spaces for her sessions on 'Introduction to Creativity.' Furthermore, the libraries are always willing to display Multiply artwork, publicity materials, and learning materials.

We want to take this opportunity to highlight the amazing places that the local libraries are. They operate as a warm space where everyone is welcome. The [services on offer](#) make them a valuable resource for our communities.

There is a library in most of the larger Scottish Borders towns and there are also two mobile library vans serving the rural areas. There is no charge to join the library and membership gives you access to thousands of books, cd talking books, E-books and E-audio books. All items can be searched for through the [library catalogue](#).

The Multiply Team will be gifting the libraries a selection of board games for families to enjoy together during the school holidays. Boardgames are a GREAT way to develop numeracy skills and they don't even feel like learning! There will be dedicated gaming time at your local library during the summer holidays, so keep an eye out.

Don't forget to join the library whilst you are there. You can also pick up a free copy of our new Multiply Resource Workbook for families too (see last page of this newsletter for more info).



### Did you know?

The library service also offers:

**Free computer use**

**Fancy a Chat**

**Reading groups**

**Book Blether**

**Writer's Groups**

**Storytelling**

**Book Bug**

**Lego sessions**

**Duplo sessions**

**Children's crafts**

**1:1 basic IT help**

**Printing**

**Scanning**



# Parent Workshops for Gordon and Earlston Primary School Parents

The Multiply Team recently teamed up with Kevin Wilson, Headteacher of Earlston Primary School, Erin McKeich from the SBCway team, and Craig Harrison from the Worker's Education Association to successfully develop and deliver a series of workshops for Earlston and Gordon Primary School parents entitled *Supporting Your Child's Numeracy Learning*.

The aim of the sessions was to first and foremost provide a safe space for parents to discuss their own numeracy confidence and ability, as well as the challenges they face in reinforcing their child's numeracy learning at home. In response to the points raised by parents, sessions were shaped to address concerns around areas such as maths anxiety, and how teaching methods have changed over the years.

The partnership approach taken to planning and delivery ensured that content was relevant, and that parents' questions could be answered accurately. Craig Harrison was able to introduce parents to a wealth of relevant and fun activities that could easily be implemented at home to boost numeracy through family learning.

The full story of Earlston's Numeracy Journey, featuring Multiply, can be listened to on the Educating Borders Podcast on [Spotify](#) or [Apple Music](#).



*"All was very good and insightful. The discussions between other parents/carers and what they do to help teach their children was great."*

- Parent Attendee

*"(I liked the) responsiveness to the issues raised in class. Demonstration of games. Shared acknowledgment that many parents struggle to 'get to' the apps highlighted by school with their kids, and to keep up with Showbie. Reassurance that other ways are helpful for kids' education."*

- Parent Attendee

As a result of the Supporting your Child's Numeracy Learning sessions, the Multiply Team have developed a workbook of resources for parents to use at home, based on parent feedback of what works for them. If you would like a copy, please pop into your local library to pick one up. Don't forget to sign up for library card too!

Multiply are now in the planning stages for follow on workshops and initiatives with Kevin and his team. If you would like to work with Multiply at your school, get in touch at [multiply@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:multiply@scotborders.gov.uk).

