

Issue 10, February (1) 2025-2026

Hello everyone! Gong Xi Fa Cai or Kong Hee Fatt Choy to all our Chinese pupils and families! According to the Chinese zodiac calendar, it is the start of the Year of the Fire Horse—which is considered to be a symbol of freedom, energy and intelligence. Lunar New Year 2026 falls on Tuesday 17th February and celebrations culminate with the Lantern Festival on 3rd March when lanterns are lit, people watch dragon dances in the streets and children answer lantern riddles! Hope our pupils enjoy their 16 days of celebrations.

Research shows that video games have become a prevalent source of entertainment, especially among children. Video game addiction has a significant negative impact on children's attention and memory. So instead of allowing your child to play video games excessively, use memory games which would help to improve other brain functions, such as attention, concentration, focus and critical thinking skills. Please see the next page for examples of memory games to play during the holidays. I would also like to thank the Urwa, Kiyansh and Haamid for representing the academy at the annual Maths Challenge at Cranford Park Academy on Wednesday the 11th February 2026.

Next week is half term holidays— do take the children out for fresh air and away from digital devices; do fun activities like arts and crafts, lots of reading, baking, cooking—whatever you choose to do; just have fun and a good rest!

For our Muslim families we would like to say all the best with the fasting for the month of Ramadan which starts next week.

Best Regards—Ms. H. Buttar

People who participate in brain games for a few hours a week have experienced lasting benefits. Research suggests that once people learn to have better control over their attention and mental processing abilities, they can apply what they learned from the brain games into day-to-day activities

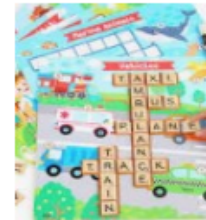
- improve concentration
- train visual memory
- increase short term memory
- increase attention to detail
- improve the ability to find similarities and differences in objects
- help to classify objects that are grouped by similar traits
- improve vocabulary

Chess

The game of chess was designed to be a mentally intensive and intellectually challenging game. It requires reliance on short-term memory to fully analyze the board and create a strategy for each move. You will also have to anticipate the moves of your opponent and make sure each move works in a way to help you achieve your end goal. This action triggers your long-term memory so you are exercising both portions of your brain in a shifting pattern.



BRAIN GAMES



Match Pair Cards

The aim of this game is to match pairs of cards. Click on a card in the interactivity below to turn it over. Then click on another one. If the two cards match, they will stay face-up. If the two cards do not match, they will return to being face-down.

Jigsaw puzzles

Jigsaw puzzles are effective brain training games, as they require you to work the left and right sides of the brain at once. They also reinforce the connections between the brain cells, which improves mental speed and improves short-term memory. Jigsaw puzzles reinforce visual-spatial reasoning as well, as you need to look at the individual pieces and identify where they fit into the big picture.

Sudoku

Sudoku can help improve your memory retrieval and stimulate other parts of your brain. To successfully complete this game, you are required to keep a range of numbers in your head while placing them mentally in one of the nine spaces on the grid. This game relies heavily on working memory to memorize the numbers and then uses logical thinking to figure out the next blank. Because Sudoku requires players to think strategically and use creative thinking to solve problems, it can help to increase both concentration and problem-solving skills. Players learn how to make decisions and take action with less hesitation.

Crossword puzzles

Crosswords are one of the most classic brain training games. These games can help test your vocabulary skills and draw on knowledge from history, science and popular culture. You can perform crosswords online or through gaming apps or go with the more traditional route, such as printed books or newspapers. Crosswords are often used as a cognitive exercise to delay the onset of dementia, especially when made into a regular habit. Focus on puzzles that are challenging and keep your brain engaged. Because it's possible to strain your brain, limit yourself to one challenging puzzle per day.

Rebus puzzles

A Rebus puzzle works well for improving memory and brainpower. This puzzle asks a question and then the clues to the answer are found in numbers, letters, pictures and symbols. Players must have knowledge of and be able to remember cliches and expressions to solve the puzzles.

**Top Attendance for the Week
commencing 02/02/2026**

**Top Attendance for the Week
commencing 09/02/2026**

	Week Commencing 02/02/2026	(%)	Learning hours Lost
1	Year 6: Zaha Hadid	100.0%	0
2	Year 6: Renzo Piano	99.3%	10
3	Year 3: Cressida Cowell	98.2%	20
4	Year 4: Nicola Tesla	97.7%	30
4	Year 2: Otter	97.2%	30
4	Year 4: Marie Curie	97.1%	30
5	Year 3: Maya Angelou	96.3%	37
5	Year 5: Katherine Johnson	96.2%	37
6	Reception: Grasshopper	95.7%	47.5
6	Year 2: Badger	95.2%	47.5
6	Year 4: Charles Darwin	95.0%	47.5
7	Year 1: Rabbit	94.2%	55
8	Year 5: Archimedes	93.2%	65
9	Year 3: Charles Dickens	92.9%	75
9	Year 1: Squirrel	92.7%	75
10	Year 6: Norman Foster	91.6%	85
10	Reception: Butterfly	91.6%	85
11	Year 5: Maryam Mirzakhani	90.9%	95
11	Year 1: Mole	90.1%	95
12	Reception: Ladybird	83.3%	160
13	Year 2: Fox	81.8%	180

	Week Commencing 09/02/2026	(%)	Learning hours Lost
1	Year 6: Zaha Hadid	98.4%	20
1	Year 5: Maryam Mirzakhani	98.0%	20
1	Year 4: Marie Curie	98.0%	20
2	Year 3: Maya Angelou	97.9%	30
2	Year 3: Cressida Cowell	97.3%	30
3	Year 5: Katherine Johnson	96.2%	37
4	Year 6: Norman Foster	94.7%	55
4	Year 1: Rabbit	94.7%	55
4	Year 1: Squirrel	94.7%	55
4	Year 2: Fox	94.3%	55
4	Year 2: Badger	94.1%	55
5	Year 3: Charles Dickens	93.7%	65
5	Year 2: Otter	93.6%	65
5	Year 6: Renzo Piano	93.4%	65
5	Year 5: Archimedes	93.2%	65
5	Reception: Grasshopper	93.1%	65
5	Reception: Ladybird	93.0%	65
6	Reception: Butterfly	92.8%	75
6	Year 4: Nicola Tesla	92.6%	75
7	Year 1: Mole	90.7%	95
8	Year 4: Charles Darwin	89.5%	105

Events—Curriculum and Special Days

13th February 2026—Last day of term

Half term holidays from the 16th February 2026 to 20th February 2026

Children return back to school on the 23rd February 2026

24th February 2026—Year 6 Trip to the Battle of Britain Bunker (Only one class)

26th February 2026—Trip to the French institute (selected pupils)

5th March 2026—Nursery to the Lookout

Important events around the world :

17th February 2026 Chinese New Year

18 February 2026 to 19th March—Ramadan starts

1st March 2026—St. David's Day

8th March 2026—International Women's Day -

5th March 2026- Non-uniform Day - World Book Day

3rd March 2026—World Wildlife Day

4th March 2026—Holi Festival of Colours

09th March 2026—British Science Week

15th March 2026—Mother's Day

17th March 2026—St. Patrick's day

Class Assemblies are at 2:45pm in the main hall

Friday 6th March 2026—Year 2 — Badger Class

Friday 13th March 2026—Year 2 — Otter Class

Friday 20th March 2026—Year 2— Otter Class

COMPETITION

A big well done to Urwa, Kiyansh and Haamid who represented our school at the 'Year 6 Federation Maths Challenge'.

They finished in 6th place and really enjoyed the challenge and excitement of the event.



Attendance Reminders

Lake Farm Park Academy has high expectations for every student from the moment they join our school. Children have the right to a high quality education and we provide this at Lake Farm Park Academy. High attendance is necessary to ensure that your child benefits fully from the learning opportunities on offer and to ensure they leave school having developed positive lifelong habits and as well rounded individuals.

Medical Appointments

Appointments, where possible, should be made outside of school hours or in the holiday period. This includes routine dental appointments. If this is unavoidable, your child should still attend school before or after the appointment where possible. Any session missed that was deemed reasonable to attend will be marked as unauthorised leave.

Absence Requests

Absence requests will only be considered for exceptional circumstances and these are dealt with on an individual basis.

What to do if your child cannot attend school:

Absence must be reported on a daily basis. You must contact the school (**before 9.00am**) on the first day of absence. This can be done by emailing

lfpaoffice@theparkfederation.org or by calling the school number 02085732622 option 1. Please leave the Child's name, class and the reason why they cannot attend school. If they are ill, please give a clear explanation of their condition. **For a prolonged absence due to illness, medical evidence will be requested.** This can be in the form of a prescription, medical paperwork or an appointment card/letter.



Lake Farm Park Academy

Learning, Achieving, Aspiring Together

PUNCTUALITY

How does this affect children?

If your child arrives late in school, he / she misses the teacher's instructions and the introduction to the lesson. They also disturb the learning of other students as the teacher has to acknowledge the lateness and go through the lesson with the child. Did you know how much learning children might miss out due to lateness?

Minutes late per day during school year	Equal days of teaching lost in a year
5 minutes	3.4 days
10 minutes	6.9 days
15 minutes	10.3 days
20 minutes	13.8 days
30 minutes	20.7 days

What can we do to help?

Ensure your child arrives on time. Children are able to come onto the school grounds at 8:30am or book them in the breakfast club through Get Active

Prepare for school the night before, including your book bag, lunch and uniform etc.

Punctuality is important for children to start the day well but also a good habit for life. If you need support or advice about punctuality please contact Miss. Dickerson or email

lfpaoffice@theparkfederation.org