

# Mereworth Maths News June 2018



Since September 2017 all of the classes across the School have been following the Maths no Problem approach to teaching Maths. From lesson observations carried out throughout the year it has been evident that the children are really engaging with this approach and enjoying the more practical and pictorial ways of developing and demonstrating their understanding of key Maths concepts, as well as the challenge of needing to explain the reasoning behind their thinking. Additionally, all of the teaching staff are very positive about the Maths no Problem approach and are continuing to develop how they use it within their own classroom setting to meet the needs of their children.

Having spoken to some of the children this has been their response to the following questions about the Maths no Problem approach to Maths:

## **What do you like about your Maths lessons?**

Dexter Year 1: 'I like that we found out the answers by drawing'.

Lyla Year 3: 'I enjoy starting the lesson with a problem to solve'.

Ray Year 5: 'All of the in focus tasks are different...it's challenging'.

## **How do you think they could be even better?**

Most children did not feel there was anything that could make the lessons better, apart from more questions in the workbooks.

## **What do you think about the Maths no Problem books?**

Lily Year 2: 'I like that there are some easier questions and some that are really hard'.

Alexia Year 4: 'They make sense and help you understand the lesson even more'.

Ellie Year 6: 'They're good because they break the lessons down and use different methods and show pictures too'.

## **How helpful do you find the resources (manipulatives like diennes blocks)?**

Rohan Year 1: 'They are quite helpful because they help you to share numbers and solve the problem'.

Maxwell Year 2: 'I use them sometimes but I usually draw pictures in my books' (a lot of these pictures are pictorial representations of the manipulatives the children will have previously used).

Zabian Year 3: 'Using them makes the lesson fun'.

Corey Year 5: 'They are good to help you understand the Maths'.

It is really encouraging to hear how useful the children are finding the manipulatives since the Friends of Mereworth kindly donated some of the money from their fundraising to buy these resources – so thank you very much for these resources from all of the Teachers and children.

We are coming to the end of the second year of using the Maths Passports in School to develop children's fluency and immediate recall of key number facts, which are so vital for their Maths understanding. The focus on times tables recall continues to be key as this year's current Year 2 Class will be the first cohort to undertake the National Times Tables Test when they are in Year 4 in 2020. This test is a formal assessment of what has always been the National Curriculum expectation for children in Year 4 – that they should have immediate recall of all of their times table facts up to 12 x 12.

Having spoken to some children this has been their response to the following questions about the Maths Passports:

### **What do you like about the Maths Passports?**

Rohan Year 1: 'I feel challenged on the Passport but I can still achieve it'.

Maxwell Year 2: 'I like it when I meet a target and I can move up'.

Zabian Year 3: 'We have different ones for each of us. They are well explained'.

Oliver Year 4: 'It gets my brain working in the morning'.

Matilda Year 5: 'I like using them to be tested'.

Ollie Year 6: 'They're challenging and that makes the Maths different.'

### **How do you think they could be even better?**

Some children felt they would like more time on the tasks and some felt the layout of the testing grids was sometimes a little confusing for some tasks.

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