

Mereworth Maths News April 2019



Since September 2018 all of the classes across the school have been undertaking a 15 minute daily Maths Fluency session to focus on improving the children's ability to recall key number facts and times tables accurately, efficiently and flexibly (using a variety of different approaches to calculating answers). Part of the Maths Fluency sessions includes the weekly Maths Passport tests (Years 1-6) which are now well established and in their third year at Mereworth. Additionally, there is a weekly Times Tables Club, on a Tuesday lunchtime, for children in Years 3–5, which has proved very popular, especially with the Year 4 children.

The reason we have focused on improving Maths Fluency is because educational research shows that it enables children to:

“...provide correct answers quickly ... use facts and computation strategies they know to efficiently determine answers that they do not know”

Russell 2000

This enables children to free up their thinking to consider, understand and solve more complex mathematical problems.

It is also partly for this reason that the Government has introduced a Multiplication Table Check Test for all children in Year 4 starting next academic year, to help ensure that all Year 4 children working at the age expected level of maths, know all of their Times Tables by Term 6 in Year 4.



In October 2018 we introduced the online learning programme Mathletics, for use both in school and at home for fortnightly maths home learning. In March 2019 Mereworth CP School took part in the Mathletics challenge which included 450 schools in the UK and internationally. For our first competition we did really well, coming 119/450 and 6th in Kent, and we aim to improve on this when we have the next Mathletics Competition.

From talking to the children it is also evident that they really enjoy using Mathletics and prefer this approach to their home learning:

Bertram Year 1: *'It helps me concentrate. It can be a bit tricky'*

Leo Year 2: *'I like the games because they make me faster at Maths'*

Henry Year 3: 'I like that it tells me whether I'm right or wrong straight away'

Mazie Year 4: 'I think it is good because you get to go through things you have done at school again'

Oliver Year 5: 'It's fun challenging your friends by going on 'Live Mathletics'. There are lots of mini games/ multi universe/ space games'

Ryan Year 6: 'I prefer doing homework on Mathletics instead of on paper ... I think it will improve my Maths because I can go onto different levels too'



We are now in our second year of using the Maths No Problem approach to maths at Mereworth and all of the teachers are very positive about the benefits of the scheme. This year we invited parents and carers of children in each year group to come along and watch their child being taught maths and to ask the class teacher any questions they may have about maths.

The response from the parents has been very encouraging:

Year 1 parent: 'The lesson was well structured, the pupils were engaged and the team were dedicated....great interaction between the pupils and the teacher'

Year 2 parent: 'Really helpful to see how mathematical concepts and strategies are taught and applied to problem solving. This will be helpful to supporting my child...'

Year 3 parent: 'Helped me understand how things are taught, terminology used...totally different from how I was taught...'

Year 4 parent: 'Great that there are many methods applied to working out the answer. Really in depth and invaluable'

'Great to see all the children so engaged and motivated and being stretched'

Year 5 parent: 'Very impressed at how fast the lesson moved on'

'Very thorough, concise and clear and the children were well supported'

Year 6 parent: 'It was great to see the children work through the problems and how we could support them at home'

And finally....

A huge thank you to all of the parents who provide so much support to their children at home in their maths learning with Maths Passports, times tables tests and Mathletics home learning. It makes such a valuable difference to your child's overall maths learning and helps them to view maths confidently, and of course to the children for their enthusiasm and tenacity towards their maths learning, even when it is tricky.