Mathematics Newsletter November 2024

Welcome to this month's Mathematics Newsletter! Our aim is to share the latest good practices in mathematics education for Key Stage 1 (KS1) and Key Stage 2 (KS2), as well as provide you with tips and resources to support your child's learning at home.

Good Practices in Mathematics

- **Hands-On Learning**: Teachers use objects like counters, cubes, and number lines to help children visualise mathematical concepts. This practical approach helps build a strong foundation in understanding numbers and simple operations.
- **Fluency and Problem-Solving**: Lessons focus on strengthening fluency with numbers while developing reasoning and problem-solving skills. This helps children not only calculate accurately but also understand the "why" behind their answers.
- **Real-World Applications**: To make maths relevant, teachers introduce real-world scenarios, such as shopping, measuring, or interpreting data, allowing students to apply their knowledge in meaningful ways.

Supporting Mathematics at Home

We know that practice at home is key to boosting confidence and recall. Here are some ways you can help:

1. Mastering Times Tables in KS2:

- **Use Times Tables Rockstars**: Encourage your child to log into **Times Tables Rockstars**, a fun and engaging online platform that helps them practice and improve their multiplication fluency. Just 10 minutes a day can make a huge difference!
- **Sing and Chant**: Create fun chants or songs for times tables. For example, singing the 3 times table to a familiar tune can help make learning memorable.

2. Building Number Bonds for KS1:

- **Play Numbots**: Designed for younger children, **Numbots** helps improve addition and subtraction skills through interactive and rewarding games.
- **Daily Challenges**: Ask quick-fire questions, such as "What makes 10?" or "What's 7 plus 3?" during car journeys or while setting the table.

3. Everyday Maths for all year groups:

- **Shopping Trips**: Involve your child in budgeting during shopping trips. Ask them to add up the cost of items or calculate change. Use of coins is becoming increasingly rare but these are a great way to build basic number knowledge and help with place value. If children receive pocket money then consider giving it in a range of smaller coins for children to add up and spend.
- **Cooking Together**: Recipes are a fantastic way to explore measurement and fractions. Let your child weigh ingredients or double a recipe for added challenge.

4. Board Games: Games like Monopoly, Yahtzee, or card games encourage mental math and strategic thinking.

Spotlight on Success

This term we are celebrating the improvement that Year 6 have made in their formal arithmetic skills with increases in scores in informal tests and greater confidence with aspects such as formal long division.

Maths Hubs

This term Mr Boyles and Miss Goodsall have been working with the Maths Hubs team to take Mathematics at Sissinghurst to the next level! We attended a useful and eye-opening course which demonstrated how our White Rose mathematics scheme can be broken down into tiny steps and delivered to the class in an effective and logical way ensuring all pupils learn together.

We also visited Royal Rise Primary School in Tonbridge to see how their Year 6 teacher adapts their White Rose curriculum to specifically match the needs of their pupils.

We are continuing to work with Anna from Royal Rise to plan and teach a series of lessons, taking into consideration the Five Big Ideas that enable schools to develop their Mastery of Mathematics teaching.

The Five Big Ideas that underpin teaching for mastery are all interconnected. **Variation** involves looking at a concept through different **representations**, starting with one and then adding more to consider the concept from different perspectives. Concepts are presented **coherently** to engage pupils in **mathematical thinking**, to reason and make connections. Choosing calculations that pupils are already **fluent** in reduces overload and learning is made accessible to all pupils.

Amazing Lessons

This term Mr Boyles has dropped into Year 2, 3, 4 and 6 classes and seen amazing learning from all pupils in Mathematics lessons. It has been great, in particular, to hear the reasoning that our pupils are using to explain how they have reached solutions. Pupils are working hard, presenting their work well and moving steadily through increasingly complex steps. Well done all!