

Maths Subject Leader Report – 2016-17

The school year 2016-17 was a highly successful one for Maths at St John the Baptist School. This was evident with our results at the end of KS2 where we achieved 85% of pupils meeting the expected standard.

Many strategies were implemented to enable the school to achieve so positively this year. We taught themes in units using the White Rose Maths Hub resources which ensure all children understand concepts fully before moving on. The units have ensured full coverage of the curriculum, building in sufficient time for problem solving and reasoning before moving on.



We have changed the way we teach Maths so the whole class are taught together using the mastery approach. This involves an anchor task at the start of each lesson which the children try to solve themselves, before sharing their ideas with each other and then the rest of the class.



They can also choose their own challenge, which they feel confident in attempting, for their independent work once the main concept has been taught. We have also introduced Maths journals in KS2 where children can record their ideas and any prompts that will help them understand their learning. For FKS and KS1, we have introduced Numicon resources. These are practical resources which aid the children's learning and mathematical concepts. FKS have been using the large Numicon shapes in their activities, including using them outside.



To support Maths learning, we have introduced Maths of the Day, whereby children are learning Maths actively whilst doing a PE based activity. All classes have taken part in these lessons and they have also been used for intervention.



Another active way of learning has been Maths on the Move, a PE lesson incorporating Maths which Year 5 engaged in every week. For some pupils in Years 5 and 6, we have used Third Space Learning, a one-to-one intervention programme where each pupil had on-line lessons with an individual tutor tailored to their specific needs.

Every pupil in KS2 also has access to Mathletics, both in school and at home, where they can improve their Maths knowledge by playing interactive games or following the tasks set by their teacher. The children enjoy these activities and it can get very competitive! FKS and KS1 children have played many interactive Maths games individually or on the IWB.



A lunchtime club for Jaguar Maths enabled children in Years 5 and 6 to use software that simulates the setting up of a racing car, completing a series of Maths tasks in an effort to produce the perfect car. This 'virtual' car was then entered into competitive races in the hope of winning it.

A group of Y5 pupils also attended a Challenge Day called 'Around the World in a Day' where they enjoyed games and challenges with children from other schools, to apply their Maths skills in creative ways. This involved problem solving and developing team working and communication skills.



FKS children enjoyed many 'real-life' Maths activities both inside and outside the classroom, working collaboratively with each other.



During the Spring term, teachers carried out coaching in pairs where they observed each other's Maths lessons and reflected on their own practice and how they could further develop their ideas. It was a great professional development opportunity which we will be repeating next year. During other observations, it was evident that the level of engagement of the children was high and there was more mathematical talk, discussing their ideas and methods.



To support staff, there have been many opportunities during the year for continuing professional development. These have included training for Numicon, Imagery & Apparatus, In Depth Learning in Maths, Maths for NQTs, TA Maths training and Mathletics.

As a subject leader, I was also part of a Closing the Gap working group looking at closing the gap between those who achieve secure and those who do not. This was a joint project with various primary and secondary schools sharing ideas on best practice. We also received support with SEN Maths through the Central Maths Hub, ensuring we provide an inclusive learning environment and the best opportunities for every child.

We look forward to another successful year and hope the children continue to enjoy Maths.



Helen Dixon
Maths Co-ordinator