

Meeting with Miss Lally - Maths Subject Leader

and Danita Rowlands Maths TLR governor January 2020

Introduction

Miss Lally is currently in the process of introducing a new maths scheme to the whole school. This has proven to be an enormous task, in which she (with support from Mr. Rakowski) has put a lot of time and effort to source a program which best serves our needs. I should add that she has kept me fully updated throughout the process. Unfortunately, there have been one or two teething problems in relation to book numbers and access to SOME online resources.

Maths focus across the school

- Introduce 'Rising Stars' structure and planning from Year 1 to Year 6
 - Jessica (SENCo) to have the Rising Stars intervention applied to identified groups
 - Bigger push needed across school to ensure children are prepared for Upper Phase
 - Aim for children to be resilient maths learners and show perseverance in finding solutions to problems
 - To Raise profile of problem solving by hosting the Problem solving 'Maths Competition' for the Deanery Schools Date TBC
 - Develop Problem Solving Handbook which exemplifies strategies that need to be explicitly taught for pupils to access and solve problems
 - Children to be confidently solving problems
 - Children to know their times tables up to 12x12 on reaching the end of Year 4
-

Action

Rising Stars introduction should support teachers in delivering problem solving strategies as well as ensuring children are given the opportunity to apply their understanding daily.

Sinead will use her TLR Holder time to ensure successful implementation and effective use of resources

Introduce Problem Solving Handbook (containing links and examples of resources to be used);

- As a result of a pupil maths questionnaire, it was discovered that children wanted more help with problem solving. They would also like more parent involvement. Monica Bertorelli (Year 6 teacher) leads a monthly problem solving challenge for children for all three phases, as well as a parent challenge. This is all accessible on the school website. Any correct answers receive a certificate and are collated to allow one winning answer per phase, per month, to be drawn to win a prize. These are things that children would like such as balls, skipping ropes etc. in the hope that there is an incentive to challenge themselves. The winning prize draw for parents will take place once a year in July. This might be a small hamper for example. It is hoped that this might encourage not just parent involvement, but parent engagement in the subject.

Results in MTC (Multiplication Tables Check) show that some children have quick recall in their times tables.

'Challenging tables' have been rolled out successfully across the school – Now the plan is to ensure it remains as 'high profile' for children and teachers.

Rising Stars

Miss Lally led a staff meeting on the 13th January with the assistance of Nicola Covington who is an SLE (specialist leader in education). She currently holds the post of 'Head of Standards for school' in Tennyson Primary school in Luton. Tennyson is a flagship school for Rising Stars and have successfully implemented the programme resulting in impressive outcomes. Tennyson has been a Rising Stars partner school for 6 years, and has found this to be an extremely effective 'greater depth' recourse. The structure has many elements that teachers can dip in and out of, and will find that it complements ideas or existing resources. It is not as prescriptive as some programmes. Consequently, enjoyable, practical lessons can still be delivered. Teachers have full access to all resources.

The following gives a small idea of the programme layout.

What's included in Rising Stars Mathematics?

Early Years	Creative, free flow activities	Talking and thinking images for whole-class discussion	Gameboards for group activity work	Posters to build home-school links		
YEAR GROUP	TEACHER'S GUIDES	PUPIL TEXTBOOKS	PRACTICE BOOKS	HALF-TERMLY ASSESSMENTS	WHITEBOARD ETEXTBOOKS	ONLINE TEACHING AND LEARNING RESOURCES
Year 1						Pupil videos introduce the topic Digital versions of the Teacher's Guides Subject knowledge and CPD videos Editable medium-term plans Introductory presentation for staff meetings Whiteboard Modelling Toolkit Unit Plans
Year 2						
Year 3						
Year 4						
Year 5						
Year 6						

Why did we choose Rising Stars Mathematics for our school?

- Designed and written by experts with experience of UK classrooms
 - Written specifically to deliver the aims of the 2014 National Curriculum
 - A quality programme that is rigorous and still flexible.
 - The programme follows the guidance that the NCETM (National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics) provided on quality textbook schemes in January 2015.
- There is a double-page spread in the Teacher's Guide for each spread in the Textbook, outlining the focus of the unit, prior learning required, suggested activities and ways to measure understanding and assess mastery.
 - In the Textbook, the engaging pictures show maths in everyday life and are accompanied by questions which prompt open discussion.
 - The Teacher's Guide provides suggested discussion points and ideas for activities. The questions are usually open to allow the discussions to roam freely and help you assess what the children already know.

- The unit plans suggest flexible teaching sessions for each unit.
-

Summing up

It is important to maintain the good levels of attainment across the Phases.

The weekly written arithmetic tests are making a difference. it is well taught and presented across the school. The children are very familiar with the format.

Our KS1 is split as year one are in Lower phase and year two are in Middle phase. Miss Lally is keen to have year one and year two working together at some point, so that a transitional period could happen to make the merge from one to the other easier for the children. This she feels will help maintain our fantastic EYFS results. A process also made easier by the Rising Stars programme.

Having introduced an effective **Mastery** programme, the aim now is to have consistency across the school. The textbooks can massively change the difficulty of planning and quality of learning. The children will make connections in their learning, sustain their understanding and build on prior learning.