Curriculum Corner – Mathematics – Provision Special

At Lickey Hills Primary School, we believe passionately in giving all children the opportunity to have a deep and secure understanding of mathematics. Mathematical skills are essential to everyday life; critical to STEM, and necessary for financial literacy and most forms of employment. In this edition of Curriculum Corner, we will take you on a tour for the elements of our maths teaching and learning at LHPSN. Read on to find out more!

Arithmetical Fluency

Our daily maths diet begins before our main maths lesson, our arithmetic or fluency session. This is a great opportunity to keep calculation skills ticking over and to become quicker at them too! We practise all our skills in all 4 operations, and also some other areas such as fractions and geometric calculations.

KIRFs – Key Instant Recall Facts

To support our number fact recall, we have time set aside each day to year group specific KIRFs. Learning KIRFs to automaticity is an essential prerequisite to learning new and more complex concepts / procedures, reducing cognitive load. We ensure children are taught the conceptual understanding behind these facts, and how they can be quickly derived from other known facts, rather than simply being learned by rote.
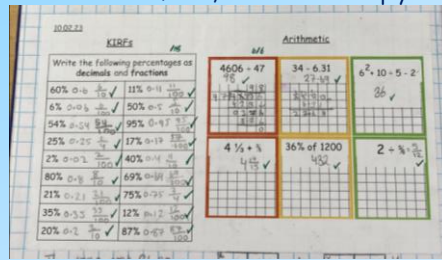
Our Main Maths Lesson - Explore

Our main maths lessons are usually delivered using Maths – No Problem! The lesson begins with an 'Explore'. This is a potential real-life problem called an anchor task. We read through it as a class, discuss what we notice in the problem and children share ways they could potentially solve the problem. This helps to draw out the children's existing knowledge to which we will connect new learning. In the master part of the lesson, teachers go through the focal concepts and procedures. We may use manipulatives to represent the maths.

Our Main Maths Lesson – Guided Practice

The next part of the lesson is where children have a go at some questions to challenge the new key learning. Children can try this independently or can be guided through the question types with their adults – to gain confidence in practice.

Our Main Maths Lesson – Independent Activities

Children then embark on their independent activities in their workbook. They can use the scaffolds and practice performed to this point to support this or may work in a small group with an adult if they need a little more help. Questions use variation theory to look at the new learning in different ways to really challenge and secure understanding.

Our Main Maths Lesson - Deepen It!

Our Maths – No Problem! workbooks give us a great opportunity to secure our learning each day in our independent tasks. If we finish these quickly, we look at 'Deepen It' challenges – opportunities to secure our new knowledge and go deeper into its application.

Mastering Number

We use a fantastic set of resources in school to secure number sense called Mastering Number. Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 work on additive relationships to secure early number sense. In Reception, this programme forms the basis of our maths learning. We use a number of representations including tens frames, rekenreks and dice patters. In Years 4 and 5, children work on multiplicative relationships to secure multiplication and associated division facts.