

Parents Forum Minutes

The March C of E School – Wednesday 10th May 2pm

Topics covered

- Introduction of new maths scheme
- Birthday sweets in school

Attendees

Chair – Mrs Metcalfe (Headteacher)

Topic Lead - Mr Jackson (Deputy Head)

Further Attendees – Parents

Minutes – Sara Watkins

Follow up to previous meeting

A 'Health and Well Being Afternoon' will be held at the end of June in the school hall. The event will include recipe cards, ideas for days out, relaxation techniques; there'll be a chance to try out different foods and healthy alternatives. A representative from Milentos (milentos.co.uk) will also be there, they runs workshops aimed at improving self-esteem and confidence in children.

Todays forum - Introducing 'Inspire Maths'

A new maths scheme 'Inspire Maths' will be introduced to the school and rolled out from September 2017. The scheme will begin a trial in the Summer term with year 5. There will also be a maths evening for parents organised to help them support their children with the new model. Various maths techniques will also be sent out to parents to help with the basics.

'Inspire Maths' is a scheme which originated in Singapore and uses a mastery approach with an emphasis on deep conceptual understanding and problem solving. This helps children understand how they reached their answer and helps them to verbalise how they got there.

The scheme starts in Year 1. The early years foundation in maths (Year R) use a system called Numicon, essentially building blocks used for learning. These techniques lead pupils into year 1 maths learning.

As part of the new scheme, each child will be provided with a 'Pupil Text Book' and 'Practice Book' that they write in. The approach uses the following four models:

- **CPA Approach (Concrete, pictorial, abstract)**

This a 3D approach using devices such as cubes, counters and shapes.

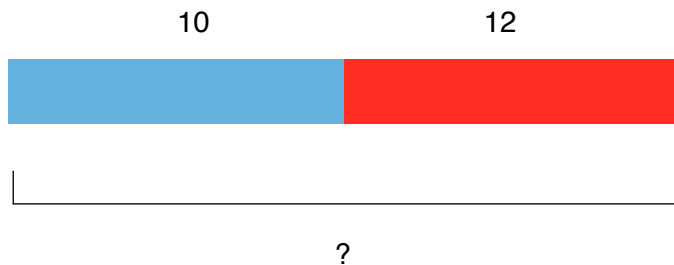
- **Part-whole model**

Using the principle that if you know two values out of three in a calculation, you can calculate the missing value using addition or subtraction. This is an introduction to algebra.

- **Bar model**

Adding on in blocks eg.

Omar bakes 10 biscuits. Ruby bakes 12 biscuits. How many biscuits do they bake altogether?



- **Word problems**

Using bars to work out word problems e.g.

Tai saves 4 times as much money as Farha.

Ruby saves £12 less than Tai.

Farha saves £32.

How much money does Ruby save?

How does this new scheme work with mixed ability groups?

There will be more tasks to do for the more able, and more time given to less able.

It was suggested as useful, if at the beginning of each new unit, the parents are sent home key vocabulary so that they know what is being covered and can support their children.

Other topic discussed - Birthday sweets in school

The topic of sweets in school was introduced by the parents. A concern was raised for the amount of sweets that the children receive during school time, and in particular the birthday sweets. It was pointed out that the birthday treats are a parent initiative. A concern was raised for the health issues and financial costs of such a tradition, and that some children feel under pressure to bring them in. It was noted that the children are also receiving sweets at other times during school time such as rewards for good work, end of terms treats from teachers. It was also noted that some classes take up the birthday treats more than others - in some classes a majority of parents take part while others were more relaxed about it. It was felt that the children wearing their own clothes on their birthday was enjoyed by the children and may be all that was necessary.

It was also noted that parents across the board have different opinions on the matter. It was suggested that a survey be sent out to parents to get a wider idea of opinion. A SurveyMonkey was sent out on 11 May 2017 asking if parents thought we should continue with the birthday sweets.

Next meeting: Wednesday 12th July 2pm

Topic of next meeting: To be decided

Possible ideas - offering life saving qualification for the older year groups. Class reps to contact parents for ideas for the forum.