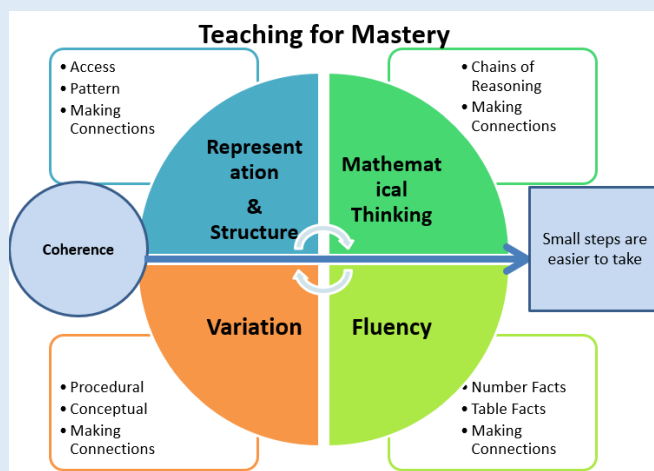




# MATHS NEWSLETTER

I am so excited to be writing this year's festive newsletter, which is all about maths! It has been a busy term here at Heath Primary School with lots of maths learning for both the children and the staff.

Since 2016, we have been following a teaching for mastery approach within our maths lessons. This means that our teachers follow a set of principles based around the view that every child can be a mathematician. Teaching for mastery is based around five big ideas: small coherent steps in learning; careful choices of representations, so that children can see the structure of the maths; fluency – being able to recall, work out and manipulate facts; mathematical thinking, which helps the children to spot patterns, make connections and reason; and variation, the process of making small changes whilst keeping essential features the same to aid understanding.



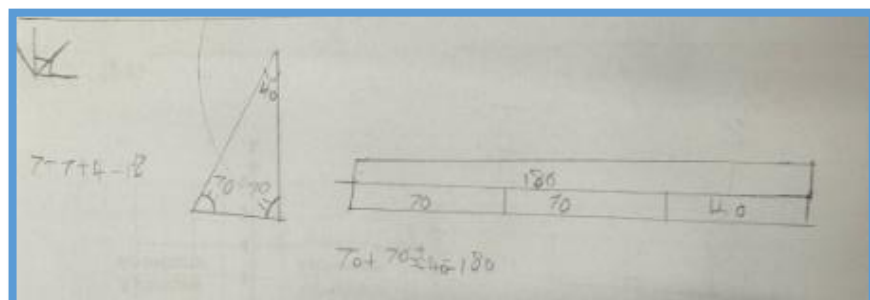
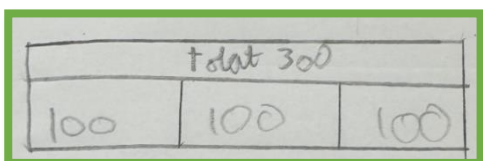
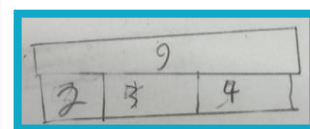
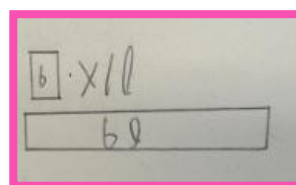
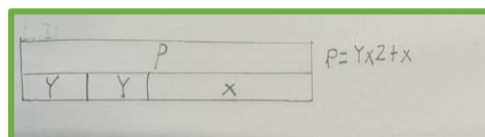
See the school website (curriculum) for more information on how our maths lessons look in school.

This year, our focus for improving maths across the school is to provide equity to all learners: ensuring that children are supported to understand, whilst those who have grasped something quickly are challenged to deepen their thinking. We have begun to try different ways of achieving this: one way is to adapt the wording of tasks so that they become low threshold, high ceiling activities – meaning that there is no limit to learning, but everyone can have a go. Look at this example from a Y5/6 lesson and wide range of responses from the children.

Tell your partner one thing that you learnt yesterday. Use your maths journal to show them using a representation of your choice.

multiplicative  
 additive  
 relationship  
 equal

Was there anything that challenged your mathematical thinking yesterday?  
(Made you think harder or more deeply)



Since 2016, as a school, we have been involved with East Midlands East Maths Hub. In this time, we have worked with lots of different schools across both Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. This allows our teachers to see maths lessons in different schools and have professional discussions around them, which in turn, strengthens our own teaching and gives us lots of super ideas.

As a Mastery Specialist, this year, I have supported over 20 Maths Leads from different schools across the East Midlands Region. They have been into our school to see lessons in lots of different year groups and the feedback is always linked to the consistency in approach throughout the school as well as the use of precise mathematical vocabulary (both teachers and children).

I am running two focus groups this year, on developing Fluency in our schools and ways to best support SEND learners within the maths classroom. These sessions are attended by some of our own staff and teachers from other schools across the region with the hope of working together to improve maths in our classrooms.

Through links with the Maths Hub this year, I became involved in a project with The University of Nottingham around Research Based Teaching. This project involved attending workshops at the university and planning a lesson which included elements of what we had explored: representations. The professors from the university and some Maths Specialists came to see our lesson in 5/6BW last week. I would like to extend my thanks to all of the parents, for your consent and allowing your children to be involved in the project. All of the children were absolutely brilliant and participated in thoughtful, focussed discussions – they represented the school beautifully and made us so proud! The recording of the lesson will be used to support training of other teachers and to unpick the use of different representations in maths lessons. We have received some lovely feedback from the university too!

Dear Jenny

Thank you SO very much for hosting us in your class and in school yesterday. It was such a privilege to be part of that experience, and you taught the most fantastic and inspiring lesson. You had the children absolutely eating out of your hand for the whole lesson, and it was genuinely inspirational to watch.

We all came away from the experience so energised by both the lesson and the post-lesson discussion, and everyone commented on just how beneficial the experience had been.

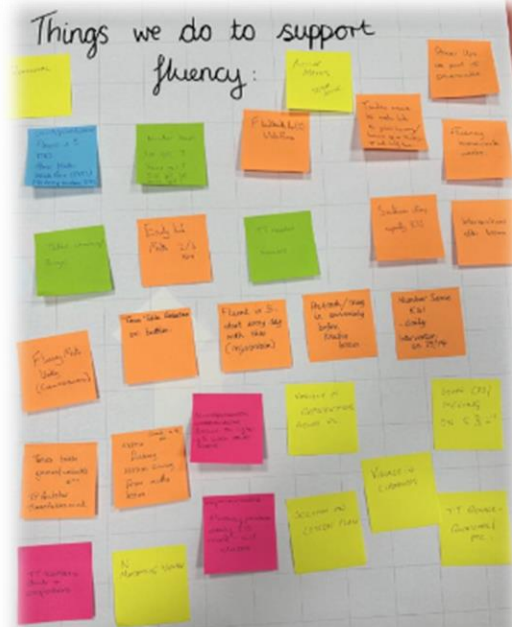
Many thanks again – we so appreciate your support for this project.

Have a wonderful Christmas break when it finally arrives.

Very best wishes

Marc

**Dr Marc North**  
Assistant Professor, Education



Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. Best wishes for happiness and health over the festive period from myself and the whole team at HPS. Merry Christmas!  
See you all on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

Mrs Wilkes

