



Parent Council Minutes – 18/3/2022

Welcome and thank you for attending. Mrs Holman started by welcoming Miss Whitlock and Mrs Weston to the meeting – maths leaders at Loose as today's main focus for the meeting was on maths, especially early maths and how we teach it.

Any issues raised from the last meeting were confirmed as having been resolved.

Miss Whitlock and Mrs Weston were joining the meeting today to explain what the school have in place for pupils to learn and understand the teaching process for Maths in the classroom. If the parents found the presentation informative, we would then look to rollout the details as workshops open to all parents or possibly record it so that parents can review the information at their leisure. A discussion would be made after the presentation.

School Maths team (Miss Whitlock and Mrs Weston) shared an overview of provision at Loose:

The aim is for all children to be successful mathematicians.

The school are currently working on the careful sequencing of the curriculum in line with national expectations. Teachers are concentrating on carefully crafting lessons to focus on the small steps of learning and building on core number skills to ensure working memory is not overloaded when children tackle more complex concepts.

The curriculum focuses on mastering number and depth of understanding rather than acceleration onto new content.

A CPA approach is used across the school in all aspects of Maths.

C = Concrete – Concrete is the “doing” stage. During this stage, students use concrete objects to model problems, such as counters or cubes.

P = Pictorial – Pictorial is the “seeing” stage. Here, visual representations of concrete objects are used to model problems.

A = Abstract - Abstract is the “symbolic” stage, where children use abstract symbols to model problems. The abstract stage involves the teacher introducing abstract concepts (for example, mathematical symbols).

EYFS and KS1 are currently following the NCETM (National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics) Mastering Number scheme which is designed to support early number fluency and is being delivered to supplement their day to day Maths lessons. This involves concepts such as subitising where children are able to visualise the value of a number without counting, e.g. recognising 5 dots on a domino without having to count each dot individually to find the total. As well as reinforcing number bonds and building connections. They are also using NUMBOTS online to support children's learning in class.

KS2 children are developing their arithmetic skills and in particular their fluency with multiplication tables. Mrs Weston shared details of Rainbow Maths which is the scheme we have developed to support children with times tables knowledge across the school. Children move through the levels in line with National Curriculum expectations for each year group. By the end of Year 4, all children are expected to have rapid recall of all times tables up to 12 x 12. Rapid recall is recall in under 6 seconds. Children in Year 3 and 4 are currently working on Rainbow Maths in class twice a week and parents are kept up to date with their progress. Strategies to support children who struggle with rapid recall of times tables were shared and clarity was provided regarding key vocabulary used in class.

Year 4 are working towards the National Multiplication Check (MTC) which will be administered in June. TT ROCKSTARS helps support children to work towards being successful with this.

Action - All parent council members agreed the session was very useful and informative and would definitely be recommended for all parents, perhaps a session in school for those who could attend that was recorded for parents to watch in their own time. The maths leaders were thanked for their information and clarity in explanations.

In view of the good feedback from the parents attending, Mrs Holman asked if there were any other subjects that parents would like more information on and let us know. We agreed the next meeting would be a general curriculum focus to talk about our curriculum and why we teach the subjects we do. You can view the school website beforehand here <https://www.loose-primary.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=Curriculum&pid=22> This will give you all the information about our curriculum and specific information on each subject too.

The meeting ended as it was time for gate duty but it was agreed that it had been a very valuable and informative meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday 20 May 2022 2.30pm to 3pm in the Staff Room.