

# Numeracy Newsletter



Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome to our Numeracy Newsletter.

As you know, numeracy is one of our main priorities in session 2018/2019.

The aim of this newsletter is to update you on our progress and to share our successes to date.

## Parental Event

Our Numeracy Strategy was launched in September 2018, during Maths Week Scotland. Many parents/carers attended an information evening to gain an insight in to the planned changes this session. There was also opportunity for parents/carers to attend Early Level numeracy workshops in our nursery, a SEAL workshop, Sumdog workshop, review new and existing numeracy resources as well as engaging in maths based games with their child. 100% of parents agreed that this was a useful event, that they now have a better understanding of numeracy approaches in the school and that they found the tips given to help their child at home useful too. The presentation and hand out from this event has been uploaded to the school website for anyone who was unable to attend. Thank you to our Numeracy Champions, Miss Johnston and Miss Satera, who helped to organise this event. Parental feedback from the event:

*"Great event!"*

*"Impressed by the variety of methods and materials used to teach maths"*

*"Very well done presentation. Useful links for online resources"*

*"seeing textbooks & resources used in school and (my child) showing me these and talking about how she uses them in class"*

*"Glad you are moving to TJ resources!"*

## Renfrewshire Maths Week Award

Wallace Primary School was recognised for our 'engagement with the community, families and vertical learning experiences' during day 3 of

Maths Week Scotland. Our success was celebrated at assembly and the £50 prize money has been spent on beebot resources to enhance position and movement activities for all pupils.



**Renfrewshire Attainment Team** @AttainRen · 13 Sep 2018

The day 3 winners of #MWSREN are 🏆

Wallace PS - Engaging the community, families and in vertical learning experiences

St. Anne's PS - Engagement in problem solving and challenge activities

St. James's PS Renfrew - Engaging learners in creativity in Maths

Well done!



## Sumdog Success

Primary 7 won a Maths Week Sumdog competition and they finished 26<sup>th</sup> for the week. With 3500 classes all over Scotland taking part, this was an amazing success. Well done Primary 7! All pupils have their own individual Sumdog login so that they can play at home. If your child is unsure of their login details please speak to their class teacher.



## SEAL

Support staff, nursery officers and teaching staff have attended Renfrewshire Council's SEAL training programme. SEAL (Stages in Early Arithmetic Learning) approaches are now being used in all nursery-primary 3 classes to help support number identification, patterns and counting. Ask your child if they can use domino patterns to add and subtract.

## Concrete – Pictorial – Abstract

All stages across the school are using concrete and pictorial approaches to gain a solid understanding of numeracy concepts, before moving on to formal notation (abstract). Using our PEF funding, we have invested heavily on

concrete materials to support this approach. These resources were available to view on Parent's Night.



## Mixed Ability Teaching

All numeracy lessons are now being delivered to mixed ability classes rather than ability setting groups. This is in line with Renfrewshire Council guidance and our comparator schools. 75% of pupils prefer working in mixed ability groups in numeracy. It is proving successful as it is already having a positive impact on our mid-term attainment data. In one year group, we have seen a 15% increase in pupils on target in numeracy with 26% of them working ahead of target.

Another year group has seen a 22% increase in pupils on target in numeracy.



## Staff Success

Three members of our teaching staff were invited to present to staff in another Renfrewshire establishments about their positive experiences of changing to mixed ability teaching in numeracy. The Renfrewshire Numeracy Development Officer was so impressed by their presentation that the staff have been asked to present to more schools within Renfrewshire. Well done Mrs Clydesdale, Mrs Robertson and Miss Satara.



## **Pathways**

All classes are now using Renfrewshire Pathways as a basis for their numeracy lessons. The pathways are used in all Renfrewshire schools to ensure the Numeracy Curriculum provides depth, challenge and progression in pupils' learning.

## **Numeracy Support**

Mrs Sloan and Mrs Mcleod have been employed as part of our PEF Teaching Team. They have been delivering numeracy support to targeted pupils as part of our PEF plan to raise attainment.

## **Parental Engagement**

As part of our PEF plan, some pupils and their families will be invited to numeracy workshops. The purpose of these workshops is to raise attainment by supporting parents to help their children with numeracy concepts.

## **Money Workshops**

All classes within the school have benefited from money workshops delivered by Royal Bank of Scotland and Dogs Trust volunteers. We even had a formal pupil delivering our Primary 7 RBS workshop! All visitors were very impressed with the knowledge and

enthusiasm for budgeting from all of our pupils.

## **Numeracy Journal Pilot**

Both Primary 7 classes are taking part in a Renfrewshire Numeracy Journal Pilot. Every Primary 7 pupil has a numeracy journal where they can jot down their thinking to help them work out the solutions to numeracy problems. The hope is that this will encourage pupils to use a range of strategies to find their answer and therefore develop a deeper understanding of concepts. These journals will move with the pupils to Castlehead High School for use within the Maths Department. Ask your child to explain one of the strategies that they've used in their journal.

## **Pupil Savings Scheme**

Many years ago, Wallace Primary School partnered with a local credit union to allow pupils to open a savings account to help them save their own money. This is something I would be keen to start again however I have been unable to find a savings partner to run the scheme. If any parents have links to a bank/credit union that would be willing to partner with us, please let me know.



## Good Practice Visits

Next session all classes will be hosting visits from practitioners from other schools within Renfrewshire to share good practice in mixed ability teaching and active approaches. This is a really good opportunity for all staff at Wallace to share their knowledge and experiences of these approaches and to raise the profile of our school.

## Winning Scotland

We have secured funding from Winning Scotland for three members of staff to be trained in Growth Mindset in Numeracy. Ms Crawford, Ms Harper and myself will undertake this training with a view to disseminating our learning to Wallace staff and delivering to pupils next session. We hope that engaging pupils in Growth Mindset in Numeracy will help to empower our pupils to be ambitious, versatile and resilient with the self-belief to succeed in Numeracy and beyond.



## Numeracy Apps (Apple)

Subitize this! (SEAL)

Ten frames math (SEAL)

10 fingers+ (SEAL)

Ultimate number bonds (number)

Up to 100 (number)

Base ten block math (number)

Fractions & decimals (number)

Word problems (number)

Interactive Telling Time (time)

Geoboard by the math learning centre (shape)

## Numeracy Apps (Android)

Numbers learning for kids (SEAL)

Addition Subtraction by codeduo (SEAL)

10 fingers (SEAL)

Ultimate number bonds (number)

Up to 100 (number)

Maths word problems (number)

Clocked clock (time)

Area & Perimeter (shape)



I hope that you have found this update useful and agree that we have made great progress in numeracy in the last seven months. Thank you to all parents/carers who have attended events, to all staff for their continued commitment to improve numeracy within our school and to all pupils for working so hard. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss any aspect of numeracy further.

Kind Regards,

Lynne Docherty

Depute Head Teacher