

Cornerstone Church of England (VA) Primary School

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*Building our Community with Love, Forgiveness and Hope
Growing an Exceptional Learning Community*

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Maths progressions

Dear Parents,

On Thursday 17 March I ran an information evening for parents explaining the new mastery approach to teaching and learning in maths, how this fits with the new National Curriculum and how we as a school are helping the children use a range of practical, drawn and written strategies to develop their understanding, knowledge and skills in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

Our aim is to help the children develop a positive attitude towards maths and to approach their learning with confidence, resilience and a healthy understanding that they may not always understand things straight away, or get everything right first time, but that this is evidence that they are learning something new.

The new National Curriculum sets out specific learning expectations for each year group in a primary school. It also promotes the importance of covering less content more slowly to ensure children truly understand the concepts behind the maths and develop the confidence and fluency in using maths. It is designed to make sure that learning and progress is sustainable, and that in future year groups the children won't have gaps in their knowledge and understanding. The three over-arching aims in the maths National Curriculum are:

- Become fluent in the fundamentals of mathematics
- Reason mathematically
- Can solve problems

At the parents evening we also explored the crucial importance of children experiencing and exploring concepts, knowledge and skills in maths through:

- Concrete (using practical resources)
- Pictorial (drawing a range of diagrams and models to represent their thinking)
- Abstract (writing maths using numbers and symbols)

A key part of this approach is to help the children see and understand the links between these three ways of learning, so that faced with something in the abstract sense they can draw on their understanding and practical experiences to make sense of it.

The presentation from the evening and Cornerstone's current progression for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division can be found on our website in the "Teaching and Learning – Home Learning" section or by following this link: <http://cornerstoneprimary.hants.sch.uk/teaching-learning/home-learning/>

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It is important that I publicly thank our very generous colleagues from Whiteley Primary school, and in particular their Maths Leader the Deputy Headteacher, Alyson Gibbons. Alyson kindly shared Whiteley' progression document with us and our Cornerstone version are developed from these and the expertise and thought colleagues at Whiteley Primary have invested in their documents.

It is also important that I ask you as parents not to see the stages on these progressions as a series of steps, in which you aim to support your child to go through them as quickly as possible. As I have stated earlier it is about moving through the maths learning at a slower pace to ensure their fully understand the maths and can sustain their learning and understanding. The progressions will take the children through to Year 6. As a guide the National Curriculum does not expect children to start developing their understanding and use of formal column methods until the following year groups:

- Addition column method: Year 3
- Subtraction column method: Year 3
- Multiplication column method: Year 4
- Division column method: Year 5

These are only the year groups in which the children start learning these methods, so they will continue to develop their understanding through larger and more complex numbers in the following year groups.

I appreciate that some of the information on the progressions may be a little confusing if you were unable to attend the maths parents evening, therefore if you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to come and discuss these with me.

Yours sincerely,



Tim Clarke
Headteacher

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