



Maths lead- pen profile

I have the privilege of leading the subject of mathematics at West Rainton Primary School. Maths can be a very tricky subject to teach and to learn. It has many facets that are complex and require confident practitioners to convey secure subject knowledge as expert differentiators. I enjoy the challenge of fostering a can-do growth mind-set across the school in this subject.

At West Rainton Primary School, the maths curriculum follows a structured and progressive programme from early years to Year 6. Key concepts are cyclically returned to and built upon to ensure children are secure and ready to progress to next steps. Children's mental strategies and recall build up over time to increase their fluency and understanding of number patterns, structures and relationships. Alongside this, our curriculum is designed to challenge our pupils to become strategic and critical thinkers, prepared to take risks and to persevere when plan A doesn't work.

Maths at West Rainton is designed to create persistent and optimistic learners who see every challenge and problem as an opportunity. It fosters collaboration between peers, curiosity to test out theories and a proactivity to discover more.

The teaching of maths is fast-paced and has to be very reactive. For me, the responsive nature of the teaching that helps children grow as mathematicians through formative action and reaction is what makes it such an exciting subject. Time should fly in a maths lesson!

As the subject lead, and teacher of upper key Stage 2, I draw on my own mathematics studies which I've continued throughout adulthood staying in touch with current GCSE programmes of study to best understand the journey which our Y6 pupils are about to embark upon. I find the journey of mathematical discovery, from early years to secondary readiness, fascinating. From those first experiences of building towers that tumble, to writing mathematical formulae, the curriculum is broad and exciting.

Maths forms a fundamental part of everyday life, no matter what we choose to go on to do in the future. Therefore, it is essential that pupils leave our school equipped with the knowledge, skills and understanding that will form the solid foundation from which all further maths experiences will be built.

Mr Adam McDonough