

Dear Parents and Carers,

At St Francis, we are very excited to be introducing a new way of learning maths this year – Maths Mastery. You have probably heard in the news about the successful methods for teaching maths used in China and other places, and members of our maths team have been fortunate to have been part of a government research group to see how this could work in Swindon schools. Having seen the successful lessons and outcomes first hand, we are pleased to launch a brand new scheme, written by Maths Mastery experts; Maths – No Problem.

Maths Mastery has five key areas:

- fluency – recalling appropriate number and maths facts quickly and accurately; using operations effectively
- representation and structure – understanding that numbers and concepts can be represented in different ways including through the use of a variety of equipment
- coherence – joining different ideas together and developing ideas in a structured way
- variation – presenting the same concept or procedure in different ways to ensure that there is a deep understanding
- mathematical thinking – including problem solving, this encompasses the above ideas as well as increasing the level of mathematical vocabulary used by the children

Government funding towards a teaching and learning scheme which covers the five areas of Maths Mastery has been made available to members of the research team, and the school and governors have decided to use this funding towards the purchase of this scheme, which is called Maths No Problem.

The lessons in the scheme all follow a similar structure, whereby the children discuss a problem, complete new learning and then practise this learning during each lesson. The scheme includes textbooks and workbooks to stimulate our

children's maths experience, which is then backed up with maths journals in which to record, practise and extend their learning.

One of the key principles of this scheme is talking about maths, so you should find that your children begin to use more sophisticated and varied mathematical vocabulary as the year progresses. This allows them to delve deeply into each mathematical concept in order to gain a thorough understanding of what they are learning about.

As one of the aspects of Maths Mastery is fluency, children will need to be able to recall age-appropriate number facts rapidly and with understanding, such as number bonds, times tables, addition facts etc. With this in mind, we are also launching a maths practice book for the children to complete at home. Similar to the reading records, the children will fill in when they have practised a maths skill at home. Further details of this will be provided in the booklets themselves.

We are all really excited about this fresh new approach to maths learning, and we are certain that your children will benefit from the high quality materials, an enriched vocabulary and the opportunities to develop their confidence as mathematical problem solvers.

Thank you for your continued support with your children's learning. Please feel free to come and talk to your child's teacher if you would like any further information.

The Maths Team at St Francis