

Mathematics at Snitterfield Primary School

Mathematics has always been a priority at Snitterfield and there have been many developments in the last few years. Our biggest challenge is to encourage thinking and reasoning skills throughout the school.

We are currently working alongside the National Centre for the Excellence of the teaching of mathematics (NCETM) and are engaged in their program for teaching maths to mastery. This entails a structured approach to mathematics and the “five big ideas”

- Coherence
- Representation and Structure
- Mathematical Thinking
- Fluency
- Variation

In short these allow us to use consistent language and representations throughout the school so that pupils are not relearning every year but instead building on existing knowledge and developing their mathematical thinking. This link will take you to their page with a detailed overview of everything this entails.

[Link to the five big ideas](#)

This does not mean that there is a “right way” to teach mathematics. Yes, some language in maths is quite strict, it helps us to communicate if the right words are used, for example the word SUM is specifically addition rather than any mathematical calculation. However, there are many other aspects to mathematics that are far more relaxed and equally as important. There is no single way to “do multiplication” for example. “how do you know?”

It is our belief that everyone can thrive in mathematics but a can do attitude is essential for this to occur. Pupils need to be given opportunities to exercise their thinking skills to spot patterns, predict outcomes and reason in order for them to develop their thinking. “what are the” And “If I do what happens?” are three examples of open questions that get children to think mathematically. The NCETM has always had this as its goal for all schools which is why we are working with them to develop our own understanding of the learning processes involved in every day mathematics lessons.

We are also actively involved in their mixed age teaching working groups where we are developing better ways to keep the whole class working together by using well planned activities and resources.

I hope this will go some way to explaining to everyone where we are and what our long term goal in mathematics is to be. Needless to say this is a top priority at Snitterfield Primary School this year and we hope parents and teachers alike can help to encourage mathematics to flourish within the school.

[Link to a glossary of mathematical words](#)

[Link to NCETM representation and structure guide](#)