



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

*Headteacher: Mrs Helen Armstrong
Diocese of Plymouth*

22nd September 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to take the opportunity to update you on the life of the school this week.

This year, alongside many other schools in the U.K., we are teaching maths using methods developed in Singapore; the world leader in maths results for children (PISA studies). The methodology used in Singapore is based on rigorous academic study and can be summarised in the following ways:

- Singapore consistently tops the international benchmarking studies for maths teaching
- A highly effective approach to teaching maths based on research and evidence
- Builds students' mathematical fluency without the need for rote learning
- Introduces new concepts using Bruner's Concrete Pictorial Abstract (CPA) approach
- Pupils learn to think mathematically as opposed to reciting formulas they don't understand
- Teaches mental strategies to solve problems such as drawing a bar model

Staff have received INSET training in this methodology and we are also working collaboratively with other local schools who teach their maths using the same scheme.

So that we continue working effectively together, we would like to invite you to the school:

From 6pm until 7pm on Wednesday 8th November in the school hall for KS1.

From 6pm until 7pm on Wednesday 15th November in the school hall for KS2.

If you have children in both KS1 and KS2 you are welcome to attend both meetings. Although Foundation stage do not follow Maths-No Problem!, parents and carers are welcome to attend the KS1 evening.

The aims are to:

- Explain the Singapore approach in terms of its global reputation and relevance to the revised curriculum in the U.K.
- Discuss the Concrete/Pictorial/Abstract approach and how you can help with this.
- Look at the resource books that your child is using.
- Demonstrate the building of mathematical reasoning skills rather than following formulae by rote (for example by using the bar method to solve word problems).

Following this initial meeting we aim to host a monthly informal open evening for maths where you can come into school, enjoy some refreshments and get extra help with supporting your child in maths.

Please do not worry if you lack confidence in maths; you will not be put on the spot or asked to answer challenging questions. We simply want to ensure that we are working in partnership to achieve the best possible outcomes for your children.

We look forward to working alongside you in order to achieve the best possible outcomes for your child.

Thank you for your continued support,

R Howard

J Lindsay

Mr. R. Howard,
Deputy Headteacher

Miss. J. Lindsay
Maths Subject Leader