

Harleston C.E. Primary Academy

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Headteacher: Miss Hannah Holgate

Friday, 12th March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

A letter from Miss Moss

What a buzz of excitement there was in school this week as we opened our gates to welcome our children back. And it wasn't just the children who were pleased to see their friends - the teachers too shared their excitement and anticipation for a return to `normality`. It has been wonderful for us to see the classrooms filled once again with all those lovely, smiley faces. This week has very much been a time of reconnecting with friends, providing opportunities to discuss and support wellbeing, taking time and space to be active and begin rebuilding learning stamina.

WOW moments - my three highlights of the week!

- What a privilege it was to stand at the gate this week and see our children returning to school. We are so pleased to have them back.
- Thank you to our award-winning kitchen team who have managed to provide our children with the full lunchtime menu and in a safe and socially distanced way.
- The positive and enthusiastic way in which our year 3 children have welcomed Mr Taylor to our school.

Power Maths

This week you may have heard your children talking about Power Maths which we have launched in our maths lessons across the school. This is a DFE recommended, whole-class mastery approach, which promotes a positive `I can` attitude to maths - something we want all our children at Harleston to have.

What is Power Maths?

Power Maths is a resource that has been designed for UK schools based on research and extensive experience of teaching and learning around the world and here in the UK. It has been designed to support and challenge all pupils, and is built on the belief that EVERYONE can learn maths successfully.

How does this support our approach to teaching?

The philosophy behind Power Maths is that being successful in maths is not just about rote-learning procedures and methods, but is instead about problem solving, thinking and discussing. Many people feel they were taught maths in a way that was about memorising formulas and calculation methods, then having to apply them without any real understanding of what or how these methods

actually work. Power Maths includes practice questions to help children develop fluent recall and develop their conceptual understanding. Power Maths uses growth mindset characters to prompt, encourage and question children. They spark curiosity, engage reasoning, secure understanding and deepen learning for all.

How will the lessons work?

Each lesson has a progression, with a central flow that draws the main learning into focus. There are different elements, informed by research into best practice in maths teaching, that bring the lessons to life:

Discover – each lesson begins with a problem to solve, often a real-life example, sometimes a puzzle or a game. These are engaging and fun, and designed to get all children thinking.

Share – the class shares their ideas and compares different ways to solve the problem, explaining their reasoning with hands-on resources and drawings to make their ideas clear. Children are able to develop their understanding of the concept with input from the teacher.

Think together – the next part of the lesson is a journey through the concept, digging deeper and deeper so that each child builds on secure foundations while being challenged to apply their understanding in different ways and with increasing independence.

Practice – now children practice individually or in small groups, rehearsing and developing their skills to build fluency, understanding of the concept and confidence.

Reflect – finally, children are prompted to reflect on and record their learning from each session and show how they have grasped the concept explored in the lesson.

What if my child needs a confidence boost, or wants to be challenged further?

Power Maths is based on a 'small-steps' approach, sometimes called a mastery approach. This means that the concepts are broken down so that your child can master one idea without feeling overwhelmed. There are a range of fluency, reasoning and problem solving questions in each lesson that are designed to support the different needs and confidence levels within a class, while at the same time fostering a spirit of working and learning together. Each lesson includes a challenge question for those children who can delve deeper into a concept.

We very much look forward to a time in the not too distant future when we will be able to welcome you back into the school to learn more about maths mastery and to see Power Maths in action.

Nursery Applications

Application forms for Harleston Primary Academy Nursery are now available to complete online via our school's website. Nursery admissions take place termly in September, January and April for children who are aged 3 or above. We currently have spaces available for afternoon Nursery sessions for an April intake. If your child is aged 3 or above, before 31st March 2021 your child is eligible for a Nursery place after the Easter break. Please complete an online form or contact the school office for more details.

Communication with Staff

As we are still operating within a lockdown, we ask that communication with teachers is done via email or phone call, to ensure that we are adhering to social distancing guidelines when you are on the school premises. The class teachers will always do their very best to support you with any enquiries or concerns regarding your child's learning and well-being.

Parent Consultations

We will be sending details later this half term about parent consultations which will take place after Easter, once the children have had time to settle back into school routines.

Our priority is, and always has been, to make sure that every child at Harleston has the best possible chance to *'flourish and grow'* and with the children back in their classes once again we can get back to helping them to be the best that they can be.

We move forward with this thought in our minds: *'I can do all this through him who gives me strength.'* (Philippians 4:13)

Yours sincerely,

Caroline Moss
(Assistant Headteacher-curriculum)