



Maths at Probus School

I am writing to you to let you know about some exciting developments in your child's maths education this year.

At Probus School, we passionately believe that Mathematics teaching should provide our children with a deep and thorough understanding of all areas of maths, whether it is number, shape or statistics. It should also be exciting, stimulating and an opportunity to be highly creative.

Historically, Mathematics teaching focused primarily on what we now call, 'fluency', which is when children practise how to answer generally arithmetic questions, for example $30 + 40 = 70$. The National Curriculum today is built around two further ideas of 'reasoning' and 'problem solving'. These develop children's understanding of Maths to a much deeper degree. They often require children to record their ideas in words, or to show resilience towards their maths.

We are pleased to inform you that Probus School has been selected to take part in two exciting Maths projects over the coming year to develop this mastery approach to Maths teaching and learning in our school.

The first project is a programme run by The West Devon and Cornwall Maths Hub, which is an organisation run through Truro and Penwith College and seeks to improve mathematics education for children through staff training and high quality support in school by maths specialist teachers. The second project that we will be part of is the result of a success bid for government funding by Aspire, to develop the mastery approach of 'Fluency, Reasoning and Problem Solving' in a small group of Aspire Schools.

One key element of this project will be teachers recording parts of their lessons and then reflecting on their own and each other's practice. This will be done through an online platform called 'IRIS Connect', which is a system trusted by thousands of educational institutions throughout the world. It empowers teachers to have more ownership of their professional development, to grow in confidence and collaborate successfully with peers. Whilst it is a powerful tool for accelerating teaching and learning, it is essential that students featured in a lesson recording are appropriately protected at all times.

All video footage is kept on secure and trusted servers that never enter the public domain. The use of IRIS Connect is strictly for professional development and satisfies our strict policies on keeping young people safe. Our current permission slip for digital recordings includes allowing for recordings to be made in school for professional development purposes. Any students for whom we do not have permission to film will be blurred out of any film.

I hope you agree that this is an exciting development in maths at Probus. The children will certainly benefit greatly from the high quality, innovative training that our teachers will receive.

If you have any questions about the project, please contact Miss Norton, Mrs Perfect or Ms Carden.

Thank you for your continued support.

Miss Norton and Mrs Perfect

Maths Leads