



Cranborne Middle School



Headteacher: Mr R Stevens
Assistant Headteachers: Mrs R Cain, Mr S Gillott

Monday 20th September

Dear parents and carers,

Now that the children have been back for a couple of weeks and are starting to get back into the routine of a school day, I would like to take this opportunity to let you know how your child's maths learning will be structured over the coming year.

At Cranborne, in years 5 and 6, we use the 'Maths - No Problem!' series of textbooks and workbooks. These are based upon an approach to maths teaching developed in Singapore and incorporates a CPA (Concrete, Pictorial, Abstract) approach to learning. Some of your children may be familiar with this approach, but others will not have used it at their previous schools.

Essentially, this means that in order to really master a concept in maths, rather than just be able to reproduce a process, pupils need to be able to physically manipulate or visually represent the problems they are solving. Only once this has been fully established can the learning be transferred into a more abstract understanding. If you would like to read more on this, then you can do so here:

<https://mathsnoproblem.com/en/mastery/what-is-maths-mastery/>
<https://mathsnoproblem.com/en/mastery/concrete-pictorial-abstract/>

Additionally, as of this week, the pupils in year 5 have been subdivided into 4 groups. We are fortunate at the school that we have the necessary staff and expertise to do this. As such, your child may have a different maths teacher from the one they started the year with. I should like to clarify that this is not structured in such a way that there is a top set, 2nd set, 3rd set etc. Rather, in line with the Maths – No Problem approach, the pupils are expected to work at broadly the same pace towards similar targets. We appreciate that different children are working at different levels, especially in light of the Coronavirus lockdown that will have impacted on all of the children in different ways, but rest assured we are working hard to ensure they are back up to speed as soon as possible.

Maths Group 1	Maths Group 2	Maths Group 3	Maths Group 4
Mrs Spriggs – following the 'Maths - No Problem!' curriculum but revisiting learning from previous years as necessary to ensure solid foundations.	Mrs Tress – following the 'Maths - No Problem!' Year 5 curriculum.	Mr Woodger - following the 'Maths - No Problem!' Year 5 curriculum.	Miss Randall - following the 'Maths - No Problem!' Year 5 curriculum.

For homework, children will be using CGP textbooks which will be provided to them shortly. Likewise, we expect the children to work weekly on their times tables knowledge through the online platform TTRockstars. Children are expected to know their 12 x 12 tables by the end of year 4, so we want them to keep on top of this such that they have all this information ready at their fingertips.

If you have any questions about anything raised in this letter, then please don't hesitate to contact me at nwoodger@cranbornemid.dorset.sch.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Niall Woodger
Maths Subject Leader

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