

Mathematics at St Mark's

At St Mark's, we believe that mathematics is fundamental in helping children understand the world around them. We aspire to plan and deliver an exciting curriculum that gives children stimulating and memorable experiences, both in the classroom and around the school, as well as within the wider community. This gives a wealth of practical opportunities that develop exploration, teamwork and problem-solving skills.

Throughout the academic year, children are taught varied areas of mathematics using a range of concrete objects such as counters and cubes, pictorial representations such as diagrams and tables, and then, in order to develop the conceptual understanding required to tackle everyday maths, progress to abstract methods. By using these varied methods and exposing children to a range of question types, they can become fluent in the fundamentals of mathematics and are therefore more able to answer increasingly complex questions as they progress through the school.

Our children are always encouraged to explain and reason mathematically by following lines of enquiry, investigating hypotheses or conjectures and developing an argument, justification or proof using mathematical language. They are also encouraged to use these fundamental skills to solve a range of problems with increasing sophistication, including in unfamiliar contexts and to model real-life scenarios.

At St Mark's, teaching is matched to the learning needs of individuals or groups of children and our lessons are designed to enable all pupils to excel. Our teaching and activities strive to promote a rich dialogue between teachers and pupils, between children and their peers and within the wider school community. We foster positive attitudes and we promote the fact that 'we can all do maths!' We believe all children can achieve in mathematics, and teach for secure and deep understanding of mathematical concepts through manageable steps. We use mistakes and misconceptions as an essential part of learning and provide challenge through rich and sophisticated problems.

Primarily, we want all children to enjoy mathematics and to experience success in the subject, with the ability to reason mathematically. We are committed to developing children's curiosity about the subject, as well as an appreciation of the beauty and power of mathematics.