

Maths at Menston Primary School

Our vision is for all pupils to leave Menston Primary School as confident, skilled and resilient mathematicians who understand that mathematics is a fundamental part of everyday life and the world we live in.

We want children to appreciate and embrace the everyday application of their mathematical skills and to feel confident to calculate and challenge. We use a mastery approach to mathematics teaching and this follows 5 key ideas which underpin the way that maths is taught and experienced by our learners. These are

- **Coherence** - Lessons are broken down into small connected steps that gradually unfold the concept, providing access for all children and leading to a generalisation of the concept and the ability to apply the concept to a range of contexts.
- **Representation and Structure** - Representations used in lessons expose the mathematical structure being taught, the aim being that students can do the maths without recourse to the representation
- **Mathematical Thinking** - If taught ideas are to be understood deeply, they must not merely be passively received but must be worked on by the student: thought about, reasoned with and discussed with others
- **Fluency** - Quick and efficient recall of facts and procedures and the flexibility to move between different contexts and representations of mathematics
- **Variation** - Variation refers to how the teacher represents the concept being taught, often in more than one way, to draw attention to critical aspects, and to develop deep and holistic understanding. It is also about the sequencing of the episodes, activities and exercises used within a lesson and follow up practice.

(NCETM)

At Menston Primary, we strongly believe in inspiring all to achieve their full potential. Through our curriculum, we believe that every child has the right to rich, challenging and exciting experiences to help nurture a lifelong love of mathematics. This is developed through discrete maths lessons and topic based learning where clear, real life links can be made.

For learners to fully understand the key principles and concepts, every child must experience a wide range of hands on, practical activities which enables them to see the connections and patterns for themselves, thus creating a deeper level of understanding. This in turn, allows them to truly understand the concepts behind the visual and symbolic representations of mathematics which they are traditionally presented with.

Furthermore, we believe that for children to be confident, skilled and enthusiastic mathematicians, we must provide opportunities for them to regularly apply their understanding through problem solving and investigation. We want pupils to have a clear vision of themselves as learners and to have choices in their learning; working at the right level and pace for them. Flexible groupings, engaging activities and an environment that embraces mistakes as learning opportunities, allow this vision to become a reality.

A.Taylor

Maths Lead

