

Cultural Capital – Maths

Cultural Capital is the essential knowledge that pupils need to be educated citizens, introducing them to the best that has been thought and said and helping to engender an appreciation of human creativity and achievement. As believed by French sociologist Pierre Bourdieu in the 1970s, the more 'capital' you had, the more powerful you were in society. Therefore, our aim is to give children the knowledge and skills to prepare them for what comes next in their lives. This includes the relevant vocabulary needed throughout their education and the opportunity to link maths to real-world problem solving. The children also enjoy learning about the work of famous key historical figures in the world of mathematics, such as Pythagoras, and how their work influenced the world in which we live today.

The National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics (NCETM) explains fluency as being the, *'quick and efficient recall of facts and procedures and the flexibility to move between different contexts and representations of mathematics'*. Power Maths lessons are designed in such a way that our children achieve this fluency. We aim to inspire the mathematicians of tomorrow through giving the children opportunities to learn in wider contexts enabling them to make connections. It is also important that we don't presume that children know things or have had certain experiences. Lessons begin with a 'Discover' element where the children see maths in various scenarios – often ones that the children have limited/no experience in.

In addition to learning about key, successful figures in the mathematical world, they get to experience 'winning' and being the best. Our children are given regular opportunities to participate in national competitions, such as the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge, designed for 10-14 year olds. As a school, we regularly achieve bronze, silver and gold awards in this event. In the world of media, our children have regularly featured on Louise Stones' 'No Fuss Eleven Plus' maths quiz on BBC Radio Stoke. Here they challenge the public to Year 6 SATs questions as well as meeting presenters and learning more about the jobs within radio.

Our school provides many opportunities and experiences which equip the children with essential knowledge and skills for their future lives. Links with the local high school, St John Fisher, enable the children to visit and apply their mathematical skills and knowledge in a challenging context as well as adapting to high school life. We also provide visits to Newcastle College and Keele University.

'Be curious. And however difficult life may seem, there is always something you can do and succeed at. It matters that you don't just give up' Stephen Hawking. This is the mantra that we instil within the children, not only in maths lessons but across the curriculum. Our children are challenged to leave their comfort zone and we believe that when they do, that's when real learning takes place. Within maths lessons, children enjoy deep conversations about why something is or, more importantly, isn't, rich challenges and collaborative investigations.

For those in receipt of The Pupil Premium, we provide extra 1:1 and group support groups to close attainment gaps and help the children to thrive. Our careers and vocations day also give the children access to aspirational people who have STEM careers. Children are free to ask them questions and learn more about what each job entails.