

September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

We are writing to let you know the exciting new developments we have planned for the Maths Curriculum, which will start from September 2021. We will be moving away from Abacus and Active Learn to the White Rose scheme. We feel this will provide the children with better opportunities for challenge as well as offering support where needed, through the use of concrete and practical resources as well as abstract thinking strategies.

As a school we adopt the principles of teaching to mastery, giving all children the opportunities they need to learn new concepts, revise existing ones and put their understanding to practical use. They will have the opportunity to revisit topics through the year, as well as maintaining a weekly focus on arithmetic skills. This will include weekly maths homework for all children, allowing the children to consolidate and show off their maths knowledge.

The changes that will affect you at home relate to there no longer being Active Learn games that the children can access from home. However, there are still plenty of resources for you and your children to use. The White Rose scheme has a whole section dedicated to parents and carers. This includes lots of information about the curriculum and how your child will access, use and apply maths in school, some useful resources should you choose to use them and even video lessons that can help you and your child revisit specific methods. These sessions "Maths with Michael" became quite a hit during lockdowns, as it is often specific methods that can be a barrier between learning at school and home. As parents/carers, we have all probably uttered the words 'They didn't do it like that when I was at school'. We hope these links go some way to assist everyone break down these barriers.

<https://whiterosemaths.com/for-parents/>

Key Stage 2 children will also have a direct login to Times Tables Rockstars. This app can be played on computers or tablets and is a great resource to encourage children to learn and revise all times tables. It also enables them to develop the ability of quick recall, which is particularly required for the national assessment planned to take place for Year 4 pupils in the summer term.

We hope you all enjoy exploring the new scheme and encourage your children to take part in some of the great online opportunities. If you have any further questions, don't hesitate to get in touch: year4@purleigh.essex.sch.uk

Mrs Shepherd and Mrs Garrett
(Maths Coordinators)

