

Early Years Maths Intent

Mathematics is essential to everyday life. A high-quality mathematics education therefore provides a foundation for understanding the world, the ability to reason mathematically, an appreciation of the beauty and power of mathematics, and a sense of enjoyment and curiosity about the subject. We aim for all children to become secure mathematicians and develop a love of learning.

In Early Years, Mathematics involves providing children with opportunities to develop and improve their skills in counting, understanding and using numbers in a range of ways, recalling number facts and describing shapes, patterns, routes, and measures. At Davyhulme Primary School, Mathematical resources are provided in all areas of the classrooms, indoors and outdoors to ensure children have ongoing opportunities to access Maths at all times. Practitioners are focused on making mathematics engaging and exciting and children's interests are followed to make their learning relevant and fun. Practitioners offer a balance of child initiated and adult led learning using continuous play and small group activities. Activities are multi-sensory and 'hands on' – providing the opportunity for children to explore and develop their thought process, which enables children to become excellent problem solvers.

Practitioners have high expectations and ensure there is no limit to a child's learning experience. Pupils who grasp concepts rapidly are challenged through rich and sophisticated problems before any acceleration through new content. Those who are not sufficiently fluent with earlier material are given time to consolidate their understanding, through additional practice, before moving on to ensure that all children are masters of maths.

Within both Reception and Nursery, we help children to develop a strong understanding of spatial reasoning through subitising games and activities, which enables the children to recognise quantities without counting. Gaining this skill, gives the children a firm foundation upon which all other mathematical understanding is based.

In Reception, we use the White Rose Maths Scheme of work and resources to guide our planning and teaching. Along with KS1, we also use resources and ideas developed within the 'Mastering Number' programme developed by the National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics.' Using this programme gives the children the skills to develop a deep understanding of number (number sense) and to become fluent in number facts.

In addition, high quality learning environments and meaningful interactions with adults, support children in developing mathematical thinking and discussion. Pupils learn through games and tasks using concrete manipulatives and pictorial structures and representations which are then rehearsed, applied and recorded within their own child-led exploration.

In Nursery, children develop a love of maths through games, songs, rhymes, and play using concrete manipulatives. There is a focus on the following counting principles; one to one correspondence, stable order and cardinal principle. Children's fine manipulative skills are a focus to develop 1-1 correspondence so children count each object only once.