

Cultural Capital in Maths at Settle Primary School

Cultural Capital is the essential knowledge that children need to prepare them for their future success – in the world of work, in relationships forged throughout life and as a valued contributor to society.

With our firm belief that knowledge is transferable, our pupils are given every opportunity to participate in a wide range of learning experiences within and beyond their classroom. These experiences include trips to museums, theatres, adventure centres and community projects in and around our local area.

They are also given regular opportunities to participate in school workshops and competitions to encourage more positive attitudes towards Mathematics such as our Christmaths day, Easter Eggstravanza day and Yorkshire Maths Bus Stop challenge. All children across school participate in these, led by our maths lead and supported by staff across school. They are also given regular opportunities to participate in school competitions in Times-table Rockstars and Numbots celebration afternoons to encourage more positive attitudes towards Mathematics.

We take part in national initiatives such as National Number Day and creativity is encouraged through themed days/weeks such as maths in art or maths through stories, dependent on seasonal opportunities. We have a dedicated 'maths across the curriculum' area where we store maths story books, celebrate maths across the curriculum and store resources for our workshops etc. This has purposely been placed in a space frequently used for intervention work to encourage a love of all things maths to some of our more vulnerable pupils!

We have a big focus on incorporating STEM subjects together to enter national competitions (we were a Rolls Royce STEM finalist winner and twice Farmvention winner!) and maths is embedded in many of our projects. We have also recently installed a dedicated STEM studio in the school grounds through our Community Rail Partnership with the Settle-Carlisle line. We try highlight the maths across the curriculum and emphasise how widely maths is used in real life and different careers. We utilise STEM ambassadors and even have two of our own local STEM ambassadors - a local engineering apprentice and a governor who is a construction project manager (both of which have led assemblies and delivered class workshops to share the tools for success such as creativity, teamwork and resilience). These habits of mind are promoted in all our maths lessons so children learn to be active citizens prepared for the world of work.

When beginning their primary school journey in the EYFS, many children arrive to school with different and sometimes more limited experiences than others. 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. We completed the Mastering number programme in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 and now have sessions embedded in these classes. The nursery class also utilise many of the Numberblocks resources to develop a love of maths as soon as children start school. We do all of this as we recognise the importance of securing good number sense early as a key predictor of later academic success.