

# PRIMARY MATHS UPDATE

March 2025



## WELCOME TO THE PRIMARY MATHS NEWSLETTER!

We are delighted to introduce our brand-new **Primary Maths Newsletter**—a dedicated space to celebrate, support and elevate maths teaching across our borough’s primary schools. Each edition will highlight best practices, success stories and expert insights to strengthen maths provision and ensure the best outcomes for every pupil.

Expect key updates, inspiring case studies and professional development opportunities designed to empower educators and enhance maths teaching across all settings.

This newsletter is for you, and we’d love to showcase the brilliant work happening in your schools. Whether it’s an innovative teaching approach, a standout pupil achievement, or a creative maths initiative, we invite maths leaders & teachers to share their stories and inspire others. Get in touch with [info@the-partnership.org.uk](mailto:info@the-partnership.org.uk) and be part of the conversation!

### In This Issue:

- **Spotlight School** – *Showcasing Maths At Marner Primary School*
- **Interschool Competition** – sign up in the Summer for Year 6 Problem Solving.
- **Technology** – *AI for maths.*
- **Professional Development** – *Upcoming CPD opportunities, training sessions, & networks.*
- **Book Recommendation** – *for teachers and leaders of mathematics.*

# CELEBRATING MATHS AT MARNER



At Marner, our approach to teaching and learning with regards to maths is inspired by the Education Endowment Foundation. In particular, we focus on the three tiers: high-quality teaching to improve attainment for all pupils, targeted academic support (e.g. interventions and Mastering Number) and wider strategies (e.g. parent workshops), including work on mathematical mindset.



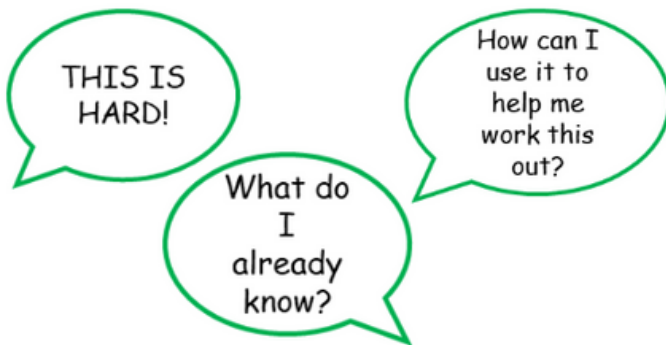
**High-quality teaching** to improve attainment for all pupils:

- White Rose Maths SOL (curriculum)
- Maths T&L – how we deliver the curriculum

**Targeted academic support** across the spectrum of achievement:

- Maths interventions, Mastering Number and whole-school focus on counting, number facts and arithmetic

**Wider strategies** includes work on mathematical mindsets - Marner Mathematicians, parent workshops



From Nursery to Year 6, we follow the White Rose Maths Scheme of Learning to provide us with the small steps that inform our planning, as well as taking task design inspiration from resources such as I See Reasoning and Nrich. From September, White Rose was new to EYFS, where they previously used Mastering Number for their whole class learning. By doing this, there is a clear progression from Nursery to KS2.

We believe that the key to mathematical success is giving the children an opportunity to work on their mindset at the beginning of each term. Working on the key principles of Jo Boaler, the goal is for the children to become resilient mathematicians, who understand that mistakes are a good thing, and not something that determines whether we are 'good' or 'bad' at maths.

## Catch-Up Intervention Programme

Until this year, we were lucky enough to have two maths specialists who developed a catch-up intervention programme from Year 1 to Year 4, that we have continued with the help of our amazing HLTAs. It is designed to be a hands-on intervention that focuses on number, fluency and language development.

In addition to this, in Upper KS2 we also run times table and arithmetic interventions to fill the gaps, where needed.

Extra to this, whole class interventions, such as NCETM Mastering Number, also run in EYFS to Year 2.

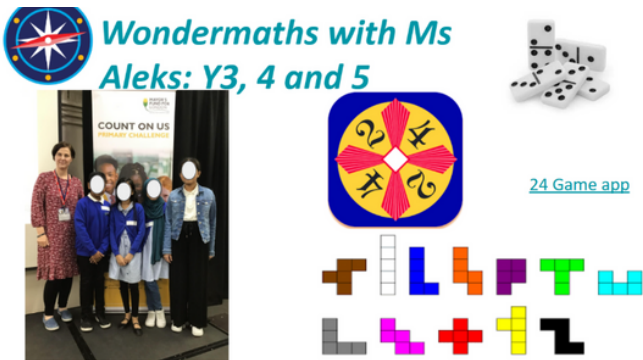
# Making Maths Fun

Recently, we celebrated NSPCC Number Day. Across all three key stages, the children came dressed as their favourite number and completed problem solving style activities. In the afternoon, they then had the chance to class swap with children from another year group and share their findings.

Wondermaths clubs run during lunchtimes and after school in preparation for competing against schools across London.



Celebrating children's mathematical successes in assemblies each week.



# Parent Engagement

As part of our regular Parent Coffee Mornings, we invite parents in to learn a little bit about how we teach maths at Marner and engage the children with support for parents who lack confidence in the subject.

Additionally to this, when particular important assessments are coming up, such as the Year 4 MTC and the Year 6 SATS, we invite parents to a meeting to discuss how they will run and what they can do to help their children, which includes sending home packs of hands-on times table resources for the children to practise with at home.



# Contact

For anymore information on the above please feel free to contact:

- [nadine.kirby@marner.towerhamlets.sch.uk](mailto:nadine.kirby@marner.towerhamlets.sch.uk) (EYFS and KS1 Maths Lead)
- [millie.woolcott@marner.towerhamlets.sch.uk](mailto:millie.woolcott@marner.towerhamlets.sch.uk) (KS2 Maths Lead)

# INTER SCHOOL COMPETITIONS



At Stepney Park Primary School, we run a competition that invites along primary schools in the borough to compete against each other. Children are given a series of challenging questions to work their way through with their team. Collaboration and resilience are key skills that are needed to be successful here as children must work together and tackle questions that challenge their thinking. It is a great opportunity for us to come together and enjoy maths! We have 8 schools taking part in this already. If you are interested in joining, please do get in contact as we have spaces for more schools to join. The competition runs 4 times a year and involves you sending along 4 exceeding or high expected children (2 boys and 2 girls) from Year 6 to each round. They will tackle a range of challenging word-based questions. Schools do not need to prepare anything for these competitions before they arrive. The dates for this year have almost all been completed so please let us know before the end of this summer term if you would like to join for next year. The first round will be held in September/October 2025.

If you are interested in joining, please contact the admin account at SPPS and draw the attention in the email to myself, Maroulla Miltiadous (maths lead).

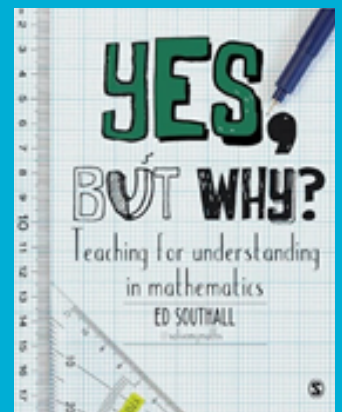
Email as follows: [admin@apps.stepneypark.towerhamlets.sch.uk](mailto:admin@apps.stepneypark.towerhamlets.sch.uk)

We look forward to welcoming as many schools as possible to take part in this great opportunity.

## BOOK RECOMMENDATION

### Yes, but why? Teaching for understanding in mathematics

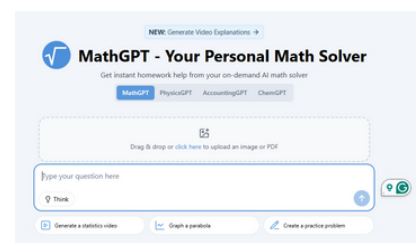
Getting the right answers in maths is only half the problem. Understanding why what you're doing works is the part that often stumps us. Ed Southall's book answers the burning questions we may have about maths such as; why do we have odd and even numbers? Why do two negative numbers multiply to make a positive? Yes, but why? answers all of your questions, and sheds light on the hidden connections between everything in mathematics at school.



## TECHNOLOGY: AI FOR MATHS

### MathGPT - AI Math Solver - Math Solver & Homework Helper

You've heard of ChatGPT, now check out MathGPT. Enter a calculation, a problem or an assessment question and generate a breakdown of how to solve step by step and even a video to support explanation. As with all AI tools, it is important to check solutions with your human mathematical eye!



# UPCOMING TRAINING

## Year 3 - 12th March

- 4:00pm - 5:30pm
- Online

## Year 5 - 20th March

- 4:00pm - 5:30pm
- Online

## Multiplication Tables Check - 26th March

- 4:00pm - 5:30pm
- Online



# ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A LOCAL LEADER OF MATHS EDUCATION?

London South East + Maths Hub have the following opportunities:

- Primary Mastery Specialist - for those who want to develop expertise in the mastery approach to maths and gain leadership skills to support teachers within their own school and others to develop teaching for mastery.
- Professional Development Lead - for those who lead professional development for teachers of maths.
- School Development Lead - for those who want to develop their approach to leading change in schools other than their own.

Applications are closing soon at **5pm on Friday 14 March**. If you would like further information please contact [admin@mathshublondonse.co.uk](mailto:admin@mathshublondonse.co.uk)