

Parent Council Head Teacher's Report

Wednesday, 29th November



Staffing

- Gail Middlemiss is being kept on as Acting HT at Dalmeny PS
- Andrew Gardner, has been Acting DHT but is on Paternity Leave in January.
- Kirsteen Ransom Cook is coming to join us from next week, as Acting DHT.



Staffing

- P3M – Niamh McGivern has left us for pastures new and we have Stephanie Garner in place on Thursdays and Fridays
- PSA Posts have been readvertised. We have 2 fixed term vacancies: one to Easter, one to Summer. These posts are currently being covered by supply staff.



Absence

- Most of our staff have excellent attendance.
- Any absence is covered with the needs of the children in mind.



Campaign of Shame!

- Our amazing P7s have been heading out to the gates at the end of the school day to try to stop any of the terrible and unsafe parking that has been reported.



Blackhall Values - Resilience



- In assembly today, we talked about resilience, how it is one of values and how important it is in life.
- We have some incredibly resilient children at Blackhall.
- We need to work together, as the adults in these children's lives, to keep encouraging this attitude and life skill.

Inclusion at Blackhall



- Safety Plans
- Keeping all children safe at Blackhall is our priority.
- “Waiting for something to happen” doesn’t happen.
- Our staff are extremely well informed, trained and supported in dealing with all manner of needs in our children.
- There is a presumption to mainstream for every child in Scotland. We are a mainstream school.

Vision for Outdoor Learning

All children and young people are participating in a range of progressive and creative outdoor learning experiences which are clearly part of the curriculum.

Block 4 – Winter festivals in RME and world soil day in December

	Lesson	Key E+O	Resources
1	Christmas decoration	EXA-02 I have the opportunity to choose and explore an extended range of media and technologies to create images and objects, comparing and combining them for specific tasks.	Yarn Natural Materials, sticks, holly etc
2	World soil day Explore what soil is actually made up from with this lesson	SCN-17 Earth's materials Through evaluation of a range of data, I can describe the formation, characteristics and uses of soils, minerals and basic types of rocks.	spade to dig some soil up
3	Christmas cards/ Hanukkah This can be delivered indoors if the weather is poor	TCH-12 Application of Engineering I explore and discover engineering disciplines and can create solutions RME-06 World religions I am developing an awareness of the ways in which followers of world religions celebrate different times of year and can relate these to my own life and community.	string twigs ferns paint card
4	winter solstice fire/ story Fire risk assessment example – ensure you update for your setting Ensure you are fire trained and check the insurance before proceeding. If you are not using fire, you could create art activities based upon the story, these are listed at the end of it	HWB-16 I am learning to assess and manage risk, to protect myself and others, and to reduce the potential for harm when possible. HWB-17 I know and can demonstrate how to keep myself and others safe and how to respond in a range of emergency situations.	fire kit string story

Reporting to Parents

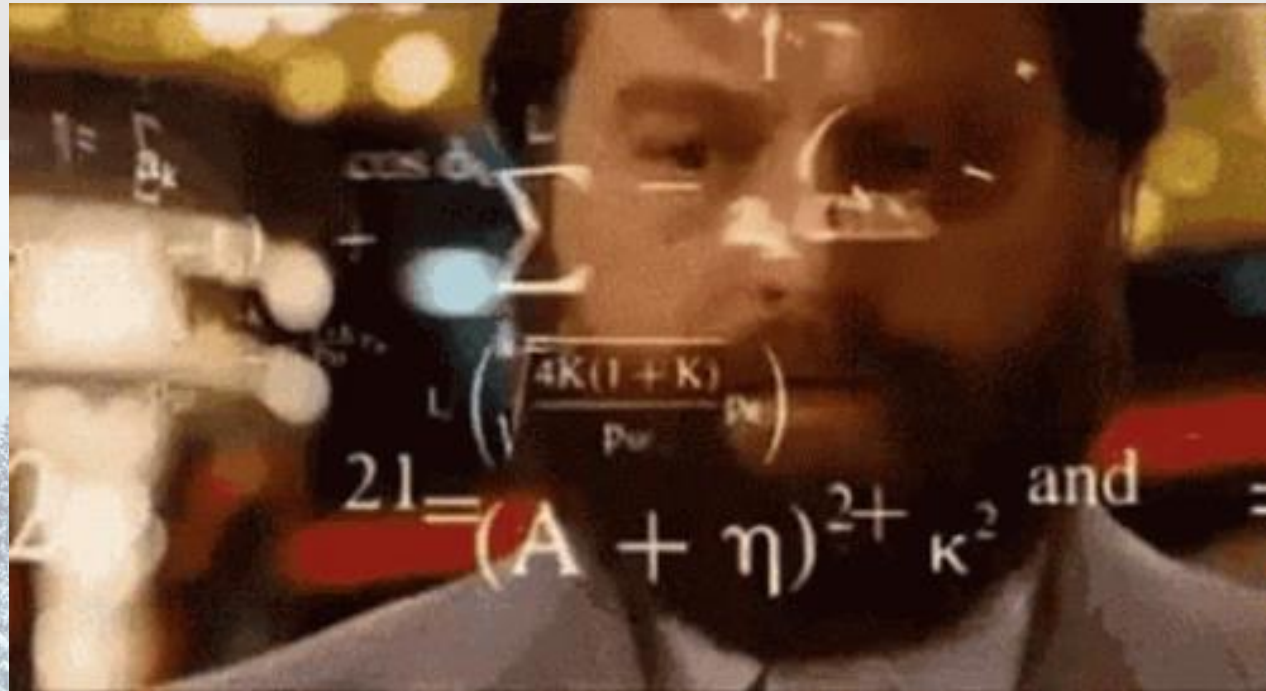


- We are currently looking at ways that we can share the written report electronically, to save paper.
- Teams may be an option.

How do we approach the teaching of Numeracy and Maths at Blackhall?

We are examining how we teach maths and numeracy across the school – part of Improvement Plan for this year.

Numeracy is taught across the curriculum – as are Literacy and Health and Wellbeing.

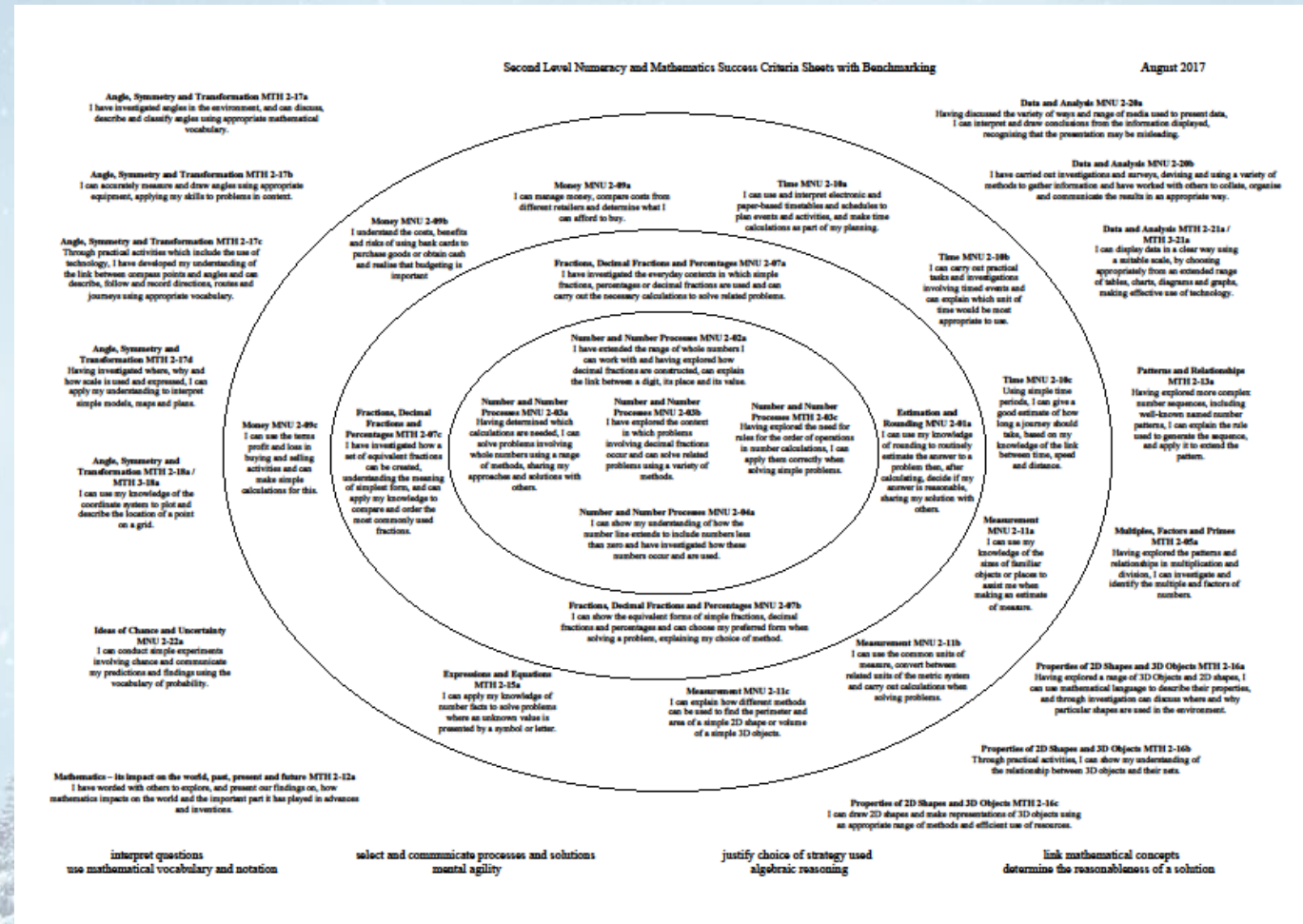


How do we approach Numeracy and Maths at Blackhall?



- P1 and P2 - SEAL (Stages of Early Arithmetical Learning)
- P3 and P4 - Some SEAL but moving on to more formulaic calculations.
- P5-7 – A Variety of approaches and formats

An example of a Second Level (P5-7) planner



















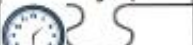



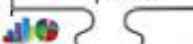
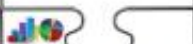
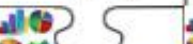


How do we deliver the learning outlined in the curriculum documents?

- Cross curricular learning where possible
- Different textbooks in school – TJ, Heineman
- Online resources
- Maths Week
- Numeracy Review
- Attainment Meetings
- Targeted support (ILaura Adam)
- High school links with RHS to support high achievers (KT last year, RD this year)












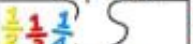




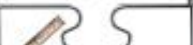
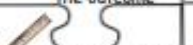


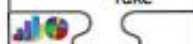
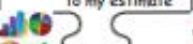





How do we measure attainment?

Primary 1 - Numeracy Benchmarks

 Compare the size, length, weight and volume of objects in relation to each other	 Use the amount of objects in 1 group to help me estimate the quantity in other groups	 Recognise and identify numbers to 20	 Say forwards and backwards number word sequences within 30	 Sequence numbers within 20
 Find missing numbers on a number line or numeral track	 Understand and use first, second, third and beyond in relevant contexts	 Say how many there are without counting in dice/domino patterns, pairs patterns to 10 and random arrays	 Work out how many items there are altogether in 2 collections when they are both screened	 Build doubles on my fingers to help me learn my double facts
 Share items into equal groups when I know how many groups I need	 Share items into equal groups when I know how many items need to go in each group	 Use the language of half when describing parts of an object which has been split equally in 2	 Count out the correct number of 1p coins to pay for an item	 Continue the pattern of the days of the week
 Know that the seasons follow a repeating pattern and can continue the pattern	 Tell the time on the hour e.g. 3 o'clock	 Use appropriate language to compare items by weight and volume	 Put objects in order according to weight, height, length and volume	 Estimate the length, height, weight and volume
 Organise objects and information I have collected and display my findings	 Use the information I have collected and displayed to help make decisions e.g. which game to play based on votes	 Choose my own criteria for matching and sorting, and can organise items using this	 Explain and justify the criteria I have chosen for matching and sorting	 Use signs and charts to help me make choices and decisions in my everyday life

Primary 7 - Numeracy Benchmarks

 Apply knowledge of rounding to real life situations and to find sensible solutions to problems	 Round whole numbers and decimal numbers to 2 decimal places	 Read, write and sequence numbers forwards and backwards to 1,000,000	 Sequence and order positive and negative whole numbers	 Apply my knowledge of addition and subtraction to solve real life problems
 Add and subtract 10,100,1000 mentally to and from decimal numbers	 Apply my knowledge of addition and subtraction of decimals to real life problems	 Use written strategies for solving multiplication and division problems	 Multiply and divide 3 digit numbers by a single digit	 Multiply and divide decimal numbers by multiples of 10
 Use written strategies to multiply and divide decimal numbers	 Convert between any simple percentage, decimal and fraction	 Begin to predict the results of probability experiments and see a pattern from the outcome	 Apply knowledge of time intervals and conversions to plan trips and events	 Order times measured, putting the quickest time first
 Make a good estimate of how long a journey should take	 Choose and use appropriate device and units to measure length, weight and volume and compare to my estimate	 Understand and demonstrate that different objects can have equal length, weight, area or capacity	 Apply my knowledge of converting units of measure to solve real life problems	 Apply my knowledge of finding perimeter, area and volume in real life problems
 Decide if the presentation of information is misleading	 Apply my knowledge of interpreting data to real life situations	 Apply my knowledge of collecting, organising and communicating information in real life situations	 Calculate the total cost of items bought taking into account hidden costs e.g. discount, VAT, postage	 Calculate the total profit or loss at the end of an activity

Maths Week

Monday, 4th – Friday, 8th



- We are taking a Storyline Approach to have an immersive week of Maths and Numeracy
- Teachers will launch a story with their classes and each day there will be a new problem to investigate and solve.
- There is a goal at the end of the week and the children use maths and numeracy to reach it.

Coming up...



- Winter Art and House Banner Art tomorrow and Friday!
- House Captains are busy Christmas Wrapping and Christmas Rapping..!
- Maths Week starts on Monday.
- Finance Committee Meeting on Tuesday, 5th December
- Open Morning and Winter Walkabout on Friday, 8th December
- Christmas Lunch on Tuesday, 12th
- P5 Enterprise – Wednesday, 13th

And the rest...

- Choir performing at Strachan House on 13th and Craigleith Shopping Centre on 19th
- P1 Nativity on Friday, 15th December at 9:30am
- Whole School to Church on Monday, 18th
- Whole School to Panto on Wednesday, 20th!
- P7s to Nativity Trail at St Columba's
- End of Term – 22nd Dec (normal finish)



