

Maths Week

Holy Family Catholic Primary School celebrated a Maths Week with the aim of raising the profile of Maths and telling everyone that Maths is Fun! The dual focus was on Maths around Us and Developing Financial Capability. We really wanted the children to see just how much Maths is used in everyday life.



The week started with a Maths Hat Parade, with children and staff creating a hat with a Maths theme, which were all paraded at a special assembly to mark the start of the week, with prizes handed out for best idea in each class, judged by our Chair of Governors. The hats were then displayed on the 'public' display boards around the school, with other work being added during the week.



Classes went on Maths trails, around the school grounds and the local area, looking for Maths! Y6 went on a Maths walk around school, seeking out where Maths had been used to construct. They devised a question based on what they had seen, then completed an investigation to find an answer to that question. Consequently, they now know how many bricks it took to build our classroom, how much wood was needed to make the playground picnic benches, and the maximum number of cars that would fit in the school car-park, (although they realised this would involve picking them up and dropping them in!).

Each class teacher had planned a week of activities around the themes above, using Maths in as many different ways as possible. KS1 classes had role play areas based on shops and cafes, all classes planned lots of investigation and problem-solving work, and lots of Maths games were not only played, but invented by the children, then made and played! KS2 classes tried to 'spend' exactly £1000 in an Argos catalogue.





Teachers were very creative in finding ways to use Maths across the curriculum; lots of cooking, Maths in Art, PE, and other languages and cultures. We didn't leave out the parents; the week before we sent home Family Challenges for everyone to get involved in; things like 'virtual' shopping in a catalogue to furnish a room or house; choosing and costing a day trip or family holiday. The children brought in this work and we added it to the public display boards during the week.

We booked World of Maths for a day and all the classes visited. From YR to Y6, every child got a lot from this day, and some of the staff felt challenged by the Y5/6 range of puzzles!

On another day we organised a Careers Day for Y5/6, where people who use maths in their jobs were invited in to school to talk to children about their work and let the children try out a task. We had eight people in for the day, and the children moved around the workshops through the day. The level of engagement was high all day, despite there being some very challenging maths work to do in each workshop, ranging from building a Maths Village with an architect, carpet laying, calculating speed, time and distance to port with a ship's captain, working out quantities and costs for school dinners, measuring materials for cushions and curtains, laying foundations for a new shed, to complicated calculations on both a golf course and to find best value blister packaging for some pharmaceutical products. Everyone was worn out by the end of the day!

