



Hi, my name is Kate Davenport. I am the year 6 teacher at OLOTA, and amongst lots of other roles, I am responsible for leading maths across the school.

I think maths can be a bit like marmite – you either love it or hate it! I have been teaching for nearly 20 years and the primary maths curriculum has changed a lot in that time: it has become more challenging in terms of the content that the children have to learn, how quickly they have to learn it and the variety of ways in which they are expected to apply it. I think unfortunately that this sometimes causes the children to become disengaged with maths because they think they can't do it.

We are all working really hard here at OLOTA to try and turn this around: more resources have been bought for the classrooms so that the children can gain a concrete and practical understanding of their maths; a new maths scheme is being followed which allows the children to explore elements of maths in more detail before rushing them on to new learning; pre teaching groups have been set up to give some children extra support in accessing the lessons; working walls are being designed to provide focused examples that the children can use to help them with their work. I feel very proud of all the positive changes that have been happening in maths and know that we will be able to 'hit the ground running' once the school opens again.

My aim is to try and help all of our children feel really positive about maths!

In the meantime, I thought I would send out this maths newsletter from time to time, with any useful information or resources that may be of benefit during school closure and even when we reopen. I will also be asking for feedback on how we can provide you as parents with any support you may want or need (more details to follow in the next newsletter).

Doodle

Doodle maths and tables is an excellent way of practising, over-learning, reinforcing and developing maths skills!

Well done to class 1 and 2, who had the highest number of children on track to reach their target over the last couple of weeks, and also to classes 4 and 5 who earnt the highest number of stars! Amazing work everyone – keep it up!

Support with home learning

Teachers are accessing maths from the White Rose Maths Hub site during school closure. This is the scheme we follow in school, so it is great that the children are also able to access this at home. They provide videos with every lesson to talk the children through their learning. If you feel that your child ever needs a little bit more information with regards to a particular aspect of maths, then try www.mathsisfun.com as there information is usually clearly explained with diagrams and specific examples to support understanding.

Just for a laugh...

Are monsters good at maths? Not unless you count Dracula!