

# Brent Primary School

Achieving the aims of the maths curriculum at home and in school



## Introduction

### Jess Baker, Maths-Leader at The Brent Primary

The Brent Primary School is an expanding two-form entry primary school in Dartford, Kent. They pride themselves on the friendly, caring environment they have created for children and friends of the school, working in partnership with parents to benefit their children.

Like every school in the UK, Brent Primary is continuing to adapt to the demands of the revised National Curriculum, with its new emphasis on reasoning skills, problem solving and deeper mathematical learning.

Jess Baker, teacher and subject leader in maths, was kind enough to share her experience of working with Whizz Education.

## The challenge

### Adapting to the revised national curriculum

‘With the new curriculum coming in, we knew it was going to be a lot more challenging. It’s really important for us that children consolidate their learning in school, and we wanted them to be consolidating their learning at home too.

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‘We were successfully setting a lot of creative-based tasks, writing tasks, a lot of research tasks, but teachers were struggling with giving out maths homework.

‘It’s so hard for teachers to manage with the differentiation and dedicating time to marking it all. It’s just the pain of trying to fit it all into your daily timetable.’

The Brent Primary School are proud of their excellent relationship with parents, but sometimes help at home made things even trickier for maths homework.

‘Children were being taught age-appropriate methods, but parents at home were trying to help by teaching them other methods from their own past experience.

‘Children were just getting so confused. Before they are ready to move to other methods we need them to have a secure understanding of the basics, especially in the younger years.

‘We needed a programme that was going to be appropriate for all children, no matter what their ability, which helped the parents to be supportive but doesn’t need them to be too heavily involved.’

## The solution

### Maths-whizz at home and in school

‘We know a lot of schools have Mathletics, but Catrina, our maths subject leader at the time, felt that Maths-Whizz was absolutely perfect.

We partnered with the Brent Primary School to help them introduce Maths-Whizz as a homework programme, linking personalised learning at home with thorough reports and classroom resources.

'The way that the Maths-Whizz Tutor encourages children to build on what they already know, at the right level for them, grows both resilience and a love of learning. It is so personalised. Children can monitor and track their own progress and teachers can use the reports to understand every child's progress and plan ahead.

'It met all of the requirements we had to free up time for teachers and immediately differentiate lessons for each individual child, without hours of preparation and marking, giving the right lesson at the right time for every child.

'Maths-Whizz is so personalised for every child and their needs, and they can access just the right level of learning at home.

'Maths-Whizz was just what we needed for the children, and for staff.'



Natalie, the school's Customer Success Manager, helps Jess and her colleagues to make Maths-Whizz work within their broader approach to homework and the maths curriculum.

'I'm so pleased that Natalie comes into school to see us. By visiting us face to face she can really understand the way we use Maths-Whizz here at Brent Primary.'

'She's always there to support us; she has just recently offered to run a parent workshop, which is great. She's also been great at showing me personally all of the benefits I wasn't aware of such as Topic Focus, talking me through how to implement and use that in the classroom.'

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It just makes my life so much easier; the Maths-Whizz Tutor basically provides pre-teaching.

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## The results

### Increased progress and school-wide success

'Maths-Whizz has clearly supported progress in school. Our governors wanted us to show the impact of Maths-Whizz, so I did some number-crunching. I found that since the beginning of this academic year, all of the children that are on Maths-Whizz consistently show a clear difference in maths progress.'

'It just makes my life so much easier; the Maths-Whizz Tutor basically provides pre-teaching.

'When I come to teach a new topic, there are often children in the class that are familiar with it. They have prior experience through Maths-Whizz of such a range of mathematical concepts and they can support the others with their knowledge. 'They are so proud to say "I did this on Maths-Whizz!"

'Maths-Whizz has raised the profile of maths in our school, really supporting our whole-school focus on reasoning and problem solving.

'Particularly in maths I have found that children generally find it quite tricky, especially when learning new concepts. When you talk to children (and staff as well) at the moment, they talk so positively about maths in school.'

## What's next for Brent Primary?

As they expand to three-form entry, The Brent Primary School are working to keep their success going strong. Jess and her colleagues have built a growth mindset culture around maths, giving every child the opportunity to enjoy learning, to make mistakes and to achieve the expectations of the new National Curriculum.

As their Headteacher, Mrs Sue Nicholson puts it: 'Children made accelerated progress in all year groups last year. Our Brent children are a credit to themselves, their families and their school.'

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**Maths-Whizz is so personalised for every child and their needs, and they can access just the right level of learning at home.**

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## Contact us

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Discover what your school can achieve in maths.  
Speak to one of our Education Success Partners today:

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