

Why we are passionate about teaching the Mastery Approach to maths at Acomb First School.

We have high expectations.

We believe no child should be left behind. We focus on children 'keeping up over catching up'. By making high expectations clear – and emphasising the high value of mathematics education – learners are encouraged to build confidence and resilience

We believe in developing a growth mindset

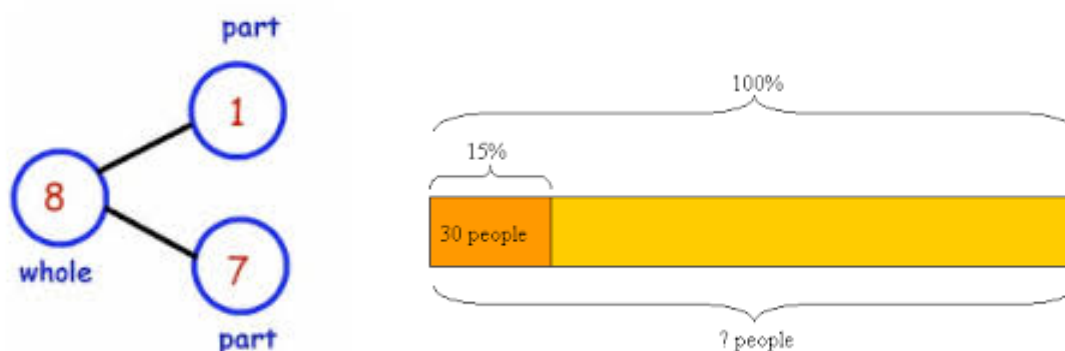
Children's 'abilities' are neither fixed nor innate, but can be developed through practice, support, dedication and hard work. 'Natural talent' is just a starting point and does not determine who has more or less potential to achieve. This belief encourages a love of learning and resilience that enables everyone to achieve.

We believe children learn best by using a Concrete, pictorial, abstract approach

When faced with a key new concept children learn best and build confidence by using this approach

Concrete- Use of concrete objects and manipulatives to understand what they are doing

Pictorial - By using pictorial representations children are able to build on the understanding gained by using concrete objects.



Abstract- Once foundations are firmly laid children should then be able to move to an abstract approach using numbers and key concepts

We believe in depth before breadth

All learners benefit from deepening their conceptual understanding of mathematics, regardless of whether they've previously struggled or excelled. We believe children must be given time to fully understand, explore and apply ideas - rather than accelerate through new topics. This approach enables learners to truly grasp a concept, and the challenge comes from investigating it in new, alternative and more complex ways.

We believe in a problem solving approach to learning

Mathematical problem-solving is at the heart of our approach. Children are encouraged to identify, understand and apply relevant mathematical principles and make connections between different ideas. This builds the skills needed to tackle new problems, rather than simply repeating routines without grasping the principles.

We believe in the importance of using Mathematical language

The way children speak and write about mathematics transforms their learning. We use a carefully sequenced, structured approach to introduce and reinforce mathematical vocabulary. We always ask pupils to explain the mathematics in full sentences (not just what the answer is, but how they know it's the right answer). This is key to building mathematical language and reasoning skills.