

## Marvellous Maths Day 2024

This week we enjoyed Marvellous Maths Day 2024, a whole-school celebration designed to develop pupils' mathematical thinking, financial awareness and real-life problem-solving skills. We were thrilled to welcome Jane and Hilary from the HSBC Education Team, who delivered high-quality workshops to each class, tailored to the children's ages and stages of learning.

Their sessions covered a wide range of essential financial concepts including:

- understanding our money system
- saving and spending choices
- budgeting for food shopping
- planning costings for family outings and sporting events
- identifying wants vs needs



These workshops not only enriched our maths curriculum but also supported pupils' understanding of life skills, financial responsibility and economic wellbeing.

### Hedgehog Class – Hands-On Maths Exploration

Hedgehog Class had a wonderful day full of practical, high-energy maths challenges that promoted early mathematical reasoning, problem-solving and teamwork.

Activities included:

Tallest Tower Challenge

Children experimented with different construction materials to see who could build and measure the tallest tower. They discussed stability, height, balance and how to compare lengths accurately.



Capacity Investigations

Using the water tray, pupils explored capacity, estimating and measuring how much different containers could hold. They used vocabulary such as *full*, *empty*, *half full*, *more than* and *less than*.

Free the Numicon” Challenge

A favourite activity of the day! Children searched for hidden keys around the classroom and outdoor area. Each key opened a labelled padlock, but only if children matched the correct numeral, Numicon piece or number bond. This challenge supported number recognition, early algebraic reasoning and perseverance.



### Squirrel Class – Challenges

Money Challenge: “Plan a Mini Day Out!” (Coins)

Children were given a simple menu of items for a “mini day out,” using toy coins. The challenge was to find as many different combinations of coins as possible to make the same amount.

Rocket Challenge “Blast Off! Fill the Rocket with Numbers”

Each child had a **rocket**-shaped recording sheet with several sections or panels (like windows, boosters, flames). Children had to complete a set of challenges, filling each part of the rocket with different maths answers.

iPad Challenge: “Maths at the Fair!”

The children rotated through short iPad tasks linked to fairground maths

### Fox and Owl Classes

Pupils in Fox and Owl were challenged to plan every aspect of *Fun at the Fair*. Working in small teams, they discussed ideas, selected resources, designed signage, and decided on clear mathematical elements to include -such as scoring systems, tally charts, measuring distances, counting throws, or adding totals. They tested their games beforehand, refining their instructions and adjusting rules to ensure the activities were fair, fun, and accessible for younger pupils.

This planning process gave the children valuable experience in collaboration, problem-solving, leadership, and creativity, as well as opportunities to apply mathematical thinking in a purposeful, real-life context.



## Fun at the Fair

The highlight of the day was undoubtedly our 'Fun at the Fair' sessions, organised and run by pupils in Fox and Owl Classes.

Fairground stalls included:

**Hook-a-Duck** – recognising numbers, adding totals, comparing scores

**Crazy Golf** – measuring distances, counting strokes, estimating angles

**Hoopla** – tallying scores, working with multiples, predicting outcomes

**Shooting Stars (Nerf Gun Range)** – calculating points, comparing results, strategic aiming

Fox and Owl pupils showed maturity and responsibility as they demonstrated, supervised, and supported Hedgehog and Squirrel Class throughout each stall. Running the stalls for Squirrel and Hedgehog pupils encouraged the older children to communicate clearly, demonstrate patience, and act as positive role models. They modelled excellent behaviour, kindness and teamwork, reflecting the nurturing ethos of our school. The activity strengthened their confidence and sense of responsibility, while reinforcing the message that maths is active, social and meaningful.

The younger children absolutely loved taking part, and the laughter and excitement across the hall and playground were wonderful to see.



## Whole-School Impact

### Marvellous Maths Day 2024:

- strengthened pupils' mathematical fluency, reasoning and problem-solving
- introduced key aspects of financial education in an age-appropriate way
- demonstrated clear progression of skills from EYFS to KS2
- developed pupils' confidence to apply maths in real-world contexts
- promoted collaboration, leadership and peer-to-peer support
- showcased creativity, curiosity and a genuine enjoyment of mathematics

The day highlighted our commitment to making maths meaningful, engaging, and fun. Staff were immensely proud of the children's positive attitudes, enthusiasm and teamwork throughout the day.

On top of this, we also ran a TTRS/Numbots Challenge throughout the day. The winners for the most correct answers are:

Year 1 – Harry

Year 2 – Matilda

Year 3 – Esme

Year 4 – Max

Year 5 – Laila-Beth

Year 6 – Harry