

Good ways to use the website in school, bearing in mind that

- credits are valid for up to 2 years
- the website's resources support numeracy 'for' learning since good at numeracy = better at maths (and usually more able to 'make connections')
- **a 'Designated Person' (DP) within the school registers as a website user and have the schools credits credited specifically to their account.** The DP can then download practice sheets and/or videos on behalf of all the teachers. Remember, once any practice sheet or video is downloaded it's available for use in the school forever. The DP can also distribute credit allocations to staff to allow them to use the on-line Wee Red Box flash cards.
- **the DP could download all the items available in the free downloads, including the mental agility progressions.** Every teacher could have a copy of the progressions in order to help promote consistency in a key area of the curriculum.
- **the DP could download all the practice sheets for any given level, or, for particular key skills through all the levels, perhaps targeting classic weak spots such as subtraction, division or fractions.** The assessment sheets will be especially useful towards the end of session, since if they are used diagnostically then any numeracy skills they show as being weaker will have practice sheets available on that topic. Any practice sheet can be displayed on an electronic board and used as a basis for an interactive lesson, with pupils volunteering to do any of the sums and share with their peers how they're doing it.
- **the DP could download all the videos for any given level, or, for particular key skills through the levels, perhaps targeting classic weak spots such as subtraction, division or fractions.** A video can be watched as often as required on an electronic board with whole class, or small groups or individuals. The teacher can pause the video at any time to allow discussion. About 50 of the videos show Tom Renwick using the 100+ board and actual Wee Red Box flash cards and if your school has a 100+ board then these videos are actually an excellent CPD opportunity in themselves. Many pupils are visual / concrete learners and they will appreciate the visualness of the 100+ board, and, the simplicity of approaches taken in these films, especially those for \times and \div , \div with remainders, and fractions.

• **the DP could set up individual teacher accounts for them to use Wee Red Box flash cards as a basis for interactive teaching.** Mental agility is perhaps the best context for interactive teaching and being mentally fluent (accuracy with speed) = good at numeracy (doing sums in jotters) = better at maths. The flash cards are an old fashioned technique which help to promote working memory and processing speed, both of which are essential ingredients for effective learning, not just for numeracy (eg reading). Teachers can log into a set of Wee Red Box flash cards and use with whole class, perhaps having the children use 'boards up' techniques, and take a consensus answer. The teacher could type in the consensus answer and then get another flash card, till all 20 have been done. The website will then automatically mark the answers and give a feedback. The pass mark for any set of Wee Red Box flash cards is 20/20 (you either know it or your don't). The set is available for 1 hour so you can click do the same skill again (though you'll possibly get a different set of flash cards) and the only way the class can get better is to still get 20/20 but do it faster - the website times the performance and keeps a note of the fastest time for that user (or in this instance, class). A small group or individuals can then stay with the same skills set till the 1 hour at no further usage of credits.

The website can also be used at home and many children take pleasure in building up their portfolio of 'well done' when they get 20/20. There are 80 Wee Red Boxes spread through levels 1, 2, 3, 4 of Curriculum for Excellence (20 for each level), and anyone getting a 'well done' on each means they're pretty excellent at numeracy!

If you have any questions on my numeracy CPD supports (eg school visits to work with classes + twilight for teachers later in the afternoon and/or evening talks for parents on how they can support their children with their numeracy), or the website, please do e-mail tom@mathsontrack.com

Let's get excellent!

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