

PRESS RELEASE

6th January 2020

Bridgelea primary has been awarded Advocate School Status

Bridgelea Primary School has been appointed as a *Numicon* Advocate School as a result of demonstrating good teaching and learning of the Numicon approach in 2019.

Caroline Cassidy the SENCO lead at Bridgelea said; "Bridgelea Primary School is a specialist provision for children with SEMH and a Primary Pupil Referral Unit. All our children have Special Educational Needs. The children who attend Bridgelea present with Social, Emotional Mental Health Needs (SEMH), many of the children have additional needs such as Literacy difficulties, Speech Language Communication Needs (SLCN) and Social Communication difficulties. We follow the National Curriculum at Bridgelea; however, this is adapted to enable our children to engage and reflects their barriers and difficulties. Lessons are often shorter and involve interactive, multisensory methods of teaching to support children's SLCN needs and working memory difficulties. Many of the children have attention and concentration difficulties so learning is broken into small chunks and opportunities to revisit and overlearn across the Curriculum.

Classrooms generally have a ratio of eight children to three staff. All staff are trained in SEMH, SLCN and access ongoing training to support them to understand the children's other SEN needs. Some children have additional adult support within this high ratio, as they need a more personalised offer.

We introduced the Numicon approach 2 years ago as we recognised the children respond well to the use of concrete apparatus when exploring Maths concepts. Class Teachers and TAs have accessed training through Oxford University Press to support them to use Numicon in the classrooms. Using Numicon has had a positive impact on the teaching and learning of Maths. Children are given the opportunity to extend their learning, and often work close to Age Related Expectations - generally, they are between 2 to 3 years behind. Children often make accelerated progress now that the Numicon approach is embedded. Teachers appropriately challenge children to master concepts through the CPA approach. Due to Numicon, our children thoroughly enjoy Maths and are developing into successful Maths learners."

Numicon develops procedural fluency by using a visual, practical base to develop conceptual understanding and fluent recall. The concrete-pictorial abstract approach is at the heart of *Numicon*. NCETM-accredited Numicon CPD programmes support schools to successfully implement the *Numicon* approach and transform mathematical teaching and learning.

Numicon Advocate Schools would be happy to welcome teachers from local schools during open mornings throughout the year, to observe their lessons and to see first-hand the impact *Numicon* has had on results, and pupil engagement.

Louise Pennington, *Numicon* professional development lead for Oxford University Press, says, "I am delighted that Bridgelea Primary has become a *Numicon* Advocate School. It has been a pleasure to see how this school's best practice in following the *Numicon* approach has developed the teaching and learning for staff and pupils."

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About Numicon

Numicon provides all you need to create confident mathematicians through your whole school, with research-based resources and rigorous teaching support from nursery to Year 6/P7.

- Exemplifies the principles of mastery with concrete apparatus and imagery to ensure deep understanding of abstract concepts
- A flexible programme which can be tailored to your class' needs with resources for planning, teaching, assessment and test practice
- Supported by sustained NCETM-accredited Professional Development

Numicon PD programmes will support you to successfully implement the *Numicon* approach; transforming mathematical teaching and learning throughout your school.

More information can be found at www.oxfordprimary.co.uk/numicon.