



William Gilbert Endowed (Church of England)

Primary School & Nursery

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29th September 2023

Dear Parents

Maths Whizz and Homework Update

Andy Clay, UK Lead Education Success Partner from Whizz Education visited school last week to share the latest software updates with pupils from Year 1 to Year 6, some of which included a global Hall of Fame and shiny new crowns to reward consistent achievement in topic challenges. We were very excited to see a William Gilbert pupil in the global Hall of Fame already!

Following the updates, we have reviewed the way in which we use Maths Whizz, and I am writing to communicate this with you.

Maths Whizz remains our primary tool for home learning. The programme delivers a bespoke learning experience that is tailored to your child's needs. It complements and reinforces the mathematics teaching in school, and we see measurable learning gains for those pupils using it consistently.

Pupils earn gems as they complete lessons. Previously, we have asked pupils to complete four blue gems per week for homework. However, following the introduction of topic challenges and the new Hall of Fame, we have revised our homework expectations, and they are as follows:

How many gems does my child need to achieve?

All pupils in Years 1-6 will be expected to complete three blue gems per week for homework.

The blue gems represent new learning in a variety of different topics.

Pupils may also complete three red gems in addition to the blue gems. The red gems revisit and consolidate previous learning and play an important role in developing mathematical fluency and confidence. Pupils earn the red gems by completing topic challenges.

If your child completes three blue gems and three red gems per week, they will have a place in the Hall of Fame for that week, and they earn a crown for their avatar. If your child continues to gain a place each week in the Hall of Fame, up to eight different crowns can be awarded and displayed on their avatar. The red gems have been developed to encourage pupils to achieve a balance between new learning and revision of previous learning. Therefore, if your child would like to achieve more than three blue gems on Maths Whizz in one week, we would recommend switching to topic challenges, (red gems) rather than completing more blue gems.



How long should my child spend on maths homework?

We are mindful of screen time and monitor the data closely. Whizz Education recommends **approximately 60 minutes of screen time over a week**, and alerts teachers if a pupil is spending more than the expected time on Maths Whizz to complete lessons.

Will my child be rewarded?

We recognise that achieving red gems in addition to blue gems and a place in the Hall of Fame, demonstrates significant commitment to learning in maths. Pupils achieving both blue and red gems are laying the foundations for strong study habits, something that will benefit them considerably as they move onto secondary school. Pupils in the Hall of Fame will be rewarded with team points in Key Stage Two and in Year 2, pupils' achievement will be celebrated in line with the class lion reward system.

Year 1 pupils, who are just starting on their Maths Whizz learning journey, will be rewarded with coins to spend in the class shop for completing three blue gems per week.

Further information can be found on the Maths Whizz website, whizz.com.

Year 3 and 4 parents are welcome to attend the Maths Whizz Open Morning this Friday 29th September, and Year 1 and 2 parents on Friday 10th November. Parents of Year 5 and 6 pupils, who have not attended previous Maths Whizz information sessions, should contact the school office if they wish to attend either of the presentations by Andy Clay on these dates.

Finally, our warmest congratulations go to Zac in Year 5, the first UK pupil to achieve the highest online reward-the top crown! Well done Zac. You are leading the way and we are very proud of you.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs L Tipping
Mathematics Lead