



VERDICT: STREETS AHEAD

Go Maths jumps streets ahead of other Key Stage 1 resources currently available and looks like being the ace of spades in the maths pack for some time to come. Focusing on number, calculation and using and applying objectives it is brilliantly written and will fit into a teaching and learning approach dedicated to pupil talk, collaboration and the co-construction of ideas.

Go Maths



Price: Go Maths Year 1/P2 Workbook (Pack of 8) £15.00; Go Maths Year 1/P2 Teachers Pack £120; Go Maths Year 2/P3 Workbook (pack of 8) £15.00; Go Maths Year 2/P3 Teachers Pack £120

Key Stage: 1

Contact: www.harcourt.co.uk 01865 888000

Reviewed by John Dabell

Go Maths is a new resource for Years 1 and 2 written for the renewed framework. It focuses on number, calculation and using and applying objectives. The meat of the resource is found in the compact Teacher's Guide, which contains a teacher's file, CD-based activities, interactive teaching programmes for the Primary

Strategy and photocopy masters. There are also colourful activity books for the children. The website (www.heinemann.co.uk) invites you to test drive a sample pack of the resource for free. This includes a teaching sequence, wall chart, laminated number lines and bead string, which you can keep. This speaks volumes about the faith they

have in Go Maths. You might be cynical and see this as a marketing ploy, but the materials really do stand up to close scrutiny. Considerable thought has gone into this resource. It has been knowledgeably constructed and exceptionally well-written, adapting big ideas from some respected sources to shape its programme.

Using a highly visual approach, the Go Maths programme is built around models and images that help children see how maths works. It encourages us to apply the brakes when it comes to using empty number lines too soon, recommending a carefully ordered plan of attack starting with bead bars, then beaded number lines, structured number lines and, finally, children sketching their own number lines. This approach is similar to that already used in the Netherlands.

The Dutch influence behind Go Maths is clearly explained in the Teacher's Guide. These concise notes include just enough detail to help you understand the pedagogy without getting bogged down in theory. They also provide the firmest foundations from which to plan number and calculation lessons in line with the renewed Framework.

When you are on the go all day long you need something to pick up and run with. But wait. Take time to digest these notes before diving into the activities. It makes for fascinating reading and underpins the whole resource and its rationale. Go Maths is based on the principles of active learning and formative assessment, and so will fit into a teaching and learning approach dedicated to pupil talk, collaboration and the co-construction of ideas.



The Teacher's Guide achieves many things. It is a bolt-hole for support, common sense and practical instruction. It's well written, easy to follow and contains a supermarket of ideas to serve the whole class. It is also a shining light of inspiration because it helps challenge existing ways of working, places pupil talk centre stage and has been planned on the basis of raised expectations. Each work card in the Teacher's Guide is a joy to use. There are notes for the starter activity, main teaching, practising and applying, review and wrap-up. There are also plenty of thinking questions to consider.

The Go Maths programme can be easily slotted into existing maths planning. It is divided into blocks and stages usually made up of one and five sessions. This might make teachers who have been used to planning their maths sessions day-by-day over a period of weeks feel uneasy, but this approach allows for more flexibility and matches learning more personally to children's needs.