What does a Mathematics lesson look like?

A Prep Maths Lesson

Tool Time: Counting practice and a game revising known skills such as ‘Sit down Sunday’

Main Activity: Problem Solving

There are ten new Preps starting at our school next week. I wonder how many are girls and how many are boys? Children are encouraged to display their knowledge using a variety of problem solving strategies.

Reflection: Gallery Walk

Students put their work on their table and admire their peers’ work as they walk around the room.

At St Thomas the Apostle we foster a love and understanding of Mathematics through a variety of approaches. We meet the needs of each child through a differentiated curriculum and continually track students’ achievements with the use of pre and post assessment for each topic studied.
The Way We Teach

We believe it is important that children recognise the manner in which Numeracy is applied in their everyday lives.

Each week our Mathematics lessons focus on number skills, (for example: counting, addition, subtraction and other processes) as well as the application of number skills through a variety of different contexts (for example: measurement, data and geometry). Students have the opportunity to further explore their mathematical skills through regular, open-ended problem solving activities which allow them to naturally extend their learning.

Topics are studied in unison across all classes in each level.

Problem Solving

Students are encouraged to tackle the solving of problems using a range of strategies:

- Act It Out
- Make a drawing or diagram
- Write a number sentence
- Construct a table
- Guess and Check
- Finding all possibilities
- Look for a pattern
- Working backwards

Basic strategies are introduced in Prep and are built upon as students move through the school. Strategies are taught in a sequential manner as students gain a greater understanding of number. These strategies provide choice and reflect students individual learning preferences when investigating problems.

Extra-Curricular Maths

We offer many varied opportunities for the students to engage in mathematical activities and events both within and outside the classroom. These include:

- Chess Club—Interschool competition for interested students
- Australian Mathematics Competition—students between Years 3 to 6
- State Mathematics Games Days—selected students from Years 3 to 6
- Celebration of the Prep’s first 100 days of school