

## Burlish Park Primary School, Stourport-on-Severn

### Background

This is a larger-than-average primary school, where almost all the pupils are White British. An average proportion of pupils have special educational needs and/or disabilities. This includes places for 10 pupils with statements of special educational needs for speech, language and communication disorders, in specially resourced provision managed by the school. In 2011, Ofsted described the school as 'outstanding', and it has won many awards, including the Leading Parent Partnership award.

### How the school uses 'I can do maths'

We introduced the Schofield & Sims **Mental Arithmetic** books in 2009 to target mental agility with number and embed the pupils' understanding and use of mathematical vocabulary. We follow the **I can do maths** method fairly closely but with some differences. Emphasis is placed on displays to help learning and we have also created a 'Maths Monster' booklet, where each pupil keeps his or her **I can do** pack, to encourage independent learning.

The **Mental Arithmetic** books are used in short 15-minute sessions on four days of the week. For the first day or two, pupils complete the tasks independently, covering all the questions they can without help. In the remaining sessions, they can ask an adult for support or sit with a partner who is working on the same book and discuss the questions they are finding tricky. The pupils are trained to explain their methods rather than to share answers or to copy. Once a week we have a marking session, where the pupils split up and go to the teacher marking their level of book. These lessons have real pace and include sharing methods for answering the trickiest questions and looking ahead to those likely to cause problems in the next test.

We award 'Maths Monster' certificates and badges each week to those working the hardest. For struggling pupils we alter the pace and format: these pupils complete one or two sections of a test each week, often as a group with adult support. Each session is a mini-marking session and the pupils can see their success instantly.

### Comments from Ofsted

According to Ofsted, 'the rate of progress has increased a great deal in the last two years and is now outstanding in both key stages'. Ofsted also commented that, 'rigorous preparation, based upon thorough and accurate assessment, ensures that all groups make as much progress as possible and that learning is tailored to each individual's particular needs'.

### School details

**Pupils:** 462

**% of EAL pupils:** 1.1

**% of SEN pupils:** 10.4

**% free school meals:** 12.0

### Testimonials

*The impact of **I can do maths** on standards has been impressive. Our maths results have consistently out-performed the local authority and national average since we introduced it, with 61% of pupils achieving Level 5 in 2012 (our highest ever!).*

**Lesley Jones**  
Headteacher

### Key Stage 2 maths SATs results

