









Raising the game in reading and maths

SuccessMaker

School name:	 Bruce Grove Primary School	School type:	 Community Primary (nursery to Year 6)
Region:	 London	Ofsted rating:	 Good (Dec 2012)
Area type:	 Urban	Pupil premium %:	 41%
Number of pupils:	 450	EAL %:	 73%

Why SuccessMaker? At Bruce Grove, standards of achievement in English and maths is a high priority; they turned to SuccessMaker to help them in their quest to raise these standards.

Key points to take away

- Timetabled, regular use **for pupils who are in danger of falling behind**
- **Used less regularly and more informally by pupils of all abilities**
- **Straightforward organisation;** teachers direct pupils to work-stations so that every space and computer is utilised
- Nominated **administrator helps to support teachers** with reports and resourcing.

These targeted pupils access SuccessMaker every day of the week, with sessions lasting 15-25 minutes. They access both reading and maths but the ratio of the sessions depends on individual learning needs and is decided by the class teacher; the choice and the organisation is the teacher's entirely and the staff at Bruce Grove welcome this flexibility.

Phil explains that SuccessMaker pupils never complain about their time on the computer and in fact remind him when they're owed a turn! "They don't seem to mind if they're working on computers in the corridor or laptops at the back of the classroom - they just want to get to it!"

“ There is a great impact on results and levels and this pushes them on quickly. ”



Background

Bruce Grove Primary School in Tottenham has a high turnover of pupils and a significant number have English as an additional language.

The school had used an earlier version of SuccessMaker, but with the introduction of the 2014 curriculum and the bar being raised in what children are expected to achieve, senior managers were keen to implement the latest version of SuccessMaker, which has been written with these expectations in mind.

Who, what, when?

Class teacher, Phil Brett, explains that staff identified pupils who were not necessarily the weakest, but at danger of falling behind. "We could see that a number of pupils had the potential to make expected outcomes but clearly needed additional support."

“ The children think it's funky... and they're hooked. ”



The staff at Bruce Grove have responded to this pupil enthusiasm and try to ensure that pupils of all abilities use SuccessMaker. They use it as frequently as possible and with as many children as possible, even beyond 'the targeted ones'. The resource gets used thoroughly, a wide range of pupils benefit and school space and technology is in constant use (with laptop trolleys, ICT suite, PCs in corridors and in classrooms).

“ SuccessMaker quickly establishes the level the children are on. ”

SuccessMaker assesses both reading and maths over seven strands and the links to the 2014 National Curriculum are obvious. It's easy to see why then teachers at Bruce Grove are opening SuccessMaker up to as many pupils as possible, and not just those at risk of falling behind. As Phil says, "yes, of course we need to prioritise some pupils over others and ring-fence their SuccessMaker time, but really the whole class can make good use of this."

“ SuccessMaker adds to the children's learning without loading more on me as a teacher. It seems to bring a second or third teacher into the room... it just happens to be metallic! ”

The results are in

During a 12 week period, 60 pupils from Years 5 and 6 at Bruce Grove worked independently on SuccessMaker. Even within this short time frame, the figures summarising 'new skills mastered' were impressive. For example, in maths alone, 96% of the new skills that pupils were directed to were mastered!

For Phil and Ian - and of course their pupils - the individual stories are just as encouraging. In reading for example, one Year 6 pupil made a gain of 9 months in the 22 hours she spent at the computer during the 12 week period, and she mastered 83% of the reading skills she tackled. In maths, a Year 5 boy made 5 months progress in just 8 hours of use and mastered 100% of the new skills he tackled.

Whilst this kind of success data is proving useful to the Senior Management Team at Bruce Grove, SuccessMaker reports can be extracted very easily by the teacher or administrator to also pinpoint specific areas of difficulty that pupils need to work on.

Phil thinks this is a win-win situation: he acknowledges that the data is excellent for informing his classroom planning, but at the same time he doesn't have to get bogged down in redirecting the computer. "The programme works out for itself the level the children are on and then either downgrades them or upgrades them accordingly."

The outcome: happy teachers, excited learners

The staff like the fact that SuccessMaker brings an extra dimension to the classroom without increasing teacher workload: "It needs one person to administer it and then it just kind of runs itself," explains Phil.

Teachers can also see more confidence and enthusiasm in learning across the wider curriculum from those pupils who are using SuccessMaker. Phil is quick to acknowledge that whilst pupils may perhaps miss out on 15 minutes of another curriculum area in order to work independently on SuccessMaker, the pay off, he says, is 'huge'. "That embedding of key skills does wonders for their confidence across the whole curriculum. In observing our pupils, I can see that they are more willing to tackle questions and concepts which they would have previously avoided had it not been for SuccessMaker."

Find out more

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