

## Diary

W/b 16/9/02

All set to start Springboard 7 club after school on Thursday for 45 minutes. This is aimed at pupils who did not reach a level 4 in the K.S.2 Sats. in June of 2001. There were 4 names (2 girls and 2 boys) on my list of starters, so it should be an intensive teaching session. I want it to be an enjoyable way of learning Maths, so have had to think of Maths learning through board games.

Unfortunately the club has to be cancelled due to the arrangements that have been made for the interviews for the new Head that are to take place on the Thursday and Friday of this week. New Head successfully appointed (our existing Deputy who is all in favour of Action research taking place in the school, she sees it as a way of improving teaching and pupil learning).

Spent the time preparing for the next 3 weeks.

W/b 23/9/02

Ready again to start Springboard 7 club.

Nobody turned up! Checked other clubs in the school and they were all poorly attended.

Spoke to the children concerned the next day and they didn't realise that the club was starting. They promised to be there the next week. This is one of the drawbacks to running a voluntary club after school – it is voluntary. I can't force children to attend; I can only make it enjoyable so that they keep coming back.

W/b 30/9/02

The 2 boys appeared today. We tackled a sheet on Arithmagons. I knew that the rest of the year group had investigated Arithmagons but the lower groups had not. I had a great time, but the session (45 minutes) was too long to be spent on the same thing. What made the worksheet really interesting was there was a mistake and we spent some time at the end trying to work out what it should have read when it was printed. The boys came up with a couple of suggestions, which we tried out and we found that one was the correct answer.

Next time I need to find 2 or 3 things to do in the session.

I spoke to the girls the next day, but they now don't seem all that keen to come to Maths after school.

W/b 7/10/02

The 2 boys came again. Started with a dice game. Maybe this wasn't such a good idea as one boy didn't like losing. I took over his goes until it looked as if I might be winning and then he joined in again – he still lost. Went on to work at brick walls, when we were joined by 2 other pupils who's club had been cancelled, due to staff absence. They joined in, even though they were younger. A lot of this sheet was mental arithmetic and it was based on quick and easy

ways to add or subtract integers. Sheets got progressively harder. They were tempted to use a calculator, but persevered using their brains.

Need something to round off the session. This is reminiscent of the 3 part Maths and Literacy lessons.

W/b 14/10/02

All clubs were cancelled on the Thursday evening because it was a Parents' Evening. Even though the children had been told that clubs would not run, some still turned up. They had to sit in the Library until 4 o'clock because their parents weren't expecting them home.

W/b 21/10/02

I am down to one boy now. We played a Baseball game, which he won. He then completed a sheet on number problems. We had to do this together so that the language could be explained.

At the end of the session we used a computer programme specifically designed to help teachers and consolidate work covered by pupils on Springboard 7.

W/b 4/11/02

Will have to cancel club, as I have to go on an Emotional literacy course. Will not be back in Salisbury in time to take class. Think I might have to open club up to other children, especially Year 6 that are borderline cases in the impending K2 maths. This could then be a booster class to enable children to reach a Level 4 in their KS2 Sats in May. Will need to talk it over with head of Maths. Thought of a drawback – will clash with Year 5 & 6 football training.

W/b 11/11/02

My one pupil did not turn up. He forgot. So I helped other pupils with their homework at the end of the day.

W/b 18/11/02

The second part of the counselling course clashes again with the After-school club. Spoke to Chris and Michael and came to the arrangement that if I was not in school then they should use the Bounceback program on the computer that is written specifically for Springboard 7 pupils. This they did on Thursday.

W/b/25/11/02

Used board games this week, which were very successful. Another pupil from Year 8 joined us to do her homework but then joined in the games when finished. I thought this was quite

successful and it broke the lesson up again into different activities. Continued with Bounceback 7 for the last 15 minutes.

W/b 2/12/02

Last week of my counselling course and Chris and Michael used the time to use Bounceback 7.

W/b 9/12/02

Will try some mathematical problem solving this week, as well as games and computer time. We only had time to play games, as they were quite complicated. Mind you we had good fun with number scrabble. Found a little time to work on the computer to help with decimal fractions. Have written a note to extend the club after Xmas to open it up to Years 5,6,7&8. Hopefully this will attract a few more people. The remit has also changed; to allow any one who also needs help with any Maths problems to attend. Last meeting for this year.

W/b 16/12/02

New After-school applications sent out to children for the start of the next term. Some children asked me about the club which is a good sign for next term. Because I had put down this term Springboard 7, many children did not know that that meant Maths.

W/b 6/01/03

Children now sending in reply slips for clubs. Promising numbers applying for the Maths, across the age range. Will start next week.

W/b 13/01/03

Lovely to work with a larger group. It couldn't get much smaller. Asked why they had signed up for extra Maths. Answers were that they needed help because they were poor at Maths, enjoyed the subject so they wanted to do more, help with homework when it was difficult, and one came along because her friend did. Started the session by playing board games. Two were running at the same time because there were too many pupils for just one. I sat between them so that I could help when required, but they seemed to manage fairly well – I just had to help with rules about fractions and decimals that one girl had problems with. Interesting to note that the boy from year 5 ran the matching number game because he was the quickest at mental arithmetic. Is this showing the benefits of Numeracy hour when the class does 5 to 10 minutes of mental activities before starting the main lesson? For the last 15 minutes we went into the computer room and used a variety of programs that the children knew about both on the internet and on the school system

W/b 20/01/03

The group all appeared which gave me a really satisfying feeling. They felt keen enough to come back. Played different games but the group decided that was what they wanted to do. Also at the end we went into the computer room. This time they loaded up Springboard 7 which is the program to back up the catch-up program for Year 7.

W/b 27/01/03

Prepared logic puzzles for this week. Put 18 counters on a grid 8x6 so that all rows and columns are even. The twins who come because they enjoy maths finished this very quickly so I gave them another puzzle about lampposts on straight streets. At the end of the session I had to help find the number pattern from their results. The children stuck at these problems through the whole session and the time flew past so fast that we didn't have enough time to use the computers. I promised that we would have extra time next week to make up. One of the girls had brought her homework with her and asked if I could explain and help. As I had said that I would at the first session there was no problem, although she did get side-tracked by what the others were doing she managed to finish the work set. Asked the group if they had enjoyed doing something different that taxed their brains and they all said yes.

W/b 3/2/03

Went back to playing board games with the promise that we would go into the Computer room for a longer period of time. 2 pupils wanted help with their homework and another 2 did their homework but didn't need any help. Others played games quite happily while I helped the others. As promised we stopped early and some of the pupils went into the computer room. However others said that they wanted to carry on working in the classroom. I was quite happy with that arrangement, as the pupils are a sensible lot that can be left safely.