

Maths – Mrs Tomlinson



My name is Caroline Tomlinson and I am maths lead at Hanwell Fields and I also work as a Mastery Specialist and Senior Leader in Education supporting other schools in the developing of teaching mathematics.

At school I felt I was not a mathematician, maths made me feel nervous! I am sure there are many of you who can appreciate this, teaching methods at that time focused on one method you were given to work something out. Before becoming a teacher, I sold haberdashery (buttons, wool, lace, elastic etc.) and maths was a big part of my job, so I learned mental strategies and started to feel more confident

When I trained to be a teacher, I recognised maths fear in other children and this was the driving force behind adopting a mastery approach to teaching mathematics.

There is no such thing as a maths brain! Everyone can (and should) do maths and I am incredibly passionate about giving children this confidence.

2 phrases that I use when working with children, are, "**I am not interested in the answer.**"

This reduces the cognitive load on the brain and often helps them to recognise where they have gone wrong.

And..." **I don't know it, yet...**"

The "Power of Yet" is best highlighted with this trip to Sesame Street!