

Transcript – Maths Whizz

Ok, so I hope you can all see that now. Thank you very much for joining today. What we're going to do in today's session, as I said we're just going to go through with you a bit of a presentation about what Maths Whizz is because I know a lot of the children that you are looking after at the moment are using it. And obviously they are not in school at the moment as well so a lot of what they are doing will be done at home. Just so you have an idea of how it works. And, as I said, you'll be able to ask any questions just so we can make sure that all the children that are using it are really getting the most out of their accounts.

So, just a little bit about us. This is kind of the ethos that we work to at Whizz Education. We're all about making sure that each child gets a learning experience that really caters to their individual needs and pace of learning. So, all of the children that are using the Maths Whizz accounts will have gone through an initial assessment to get a base line level for them. Then, what the platform will do is as the children go through it, it will automatically adapt to their needs and show them topics that are going to be most beneficial for their maths progress.

It will start at their...first of all start at their chronological age but then as they work through it and as they do the assessments, if they are working ahead, it will stretch and challenge them. But equally, if they're working behind, it will go back and fill in any gaps, just so they have that really solid foundation to move forward through their maths career if you like.

So, what is Maths-Whizz? It is a virtual tutor that the children will use online and as I said, it will adapt to each child's individual needs as they work through it. And it works...the point of the Maths-Whizz platform is that it simulates a human tutor.

I'll go through in a minute, but it will work through each part of the topic and to start with, they'll get support, scaffolded support for the different exercises so they can be introduced to a topic and really get that learning in and then there'll do regular tests in each topic so that the platform can check whether they are able to apply the knowledge that they're learning independently as well. It really does simulate exactly what they would be doing if they had a human tutor sitting next to them at home.

And, we also really aim to build confidence and general enjoyment for maths. A lot of the children that we work with in the schools that we work with, we sometimes have conversations with the teachers about how it's not moving forward quick enough or sometimes they feel like the work's a little bit too easy for them or they've been doing the same thing on Maths-Whizz for a while. A lot of the reason for that will be because the platform is just really working on building their confidence and making sure they are really confident in a topic before they move forward. So, that's just something to bear in mind when you're watching the children do it if you do feel like they've been doing the same thing for a while.

What happens first when they log in as I mentioned every child will do an initial assessment which should last for around about 60 minutes. All of the children who are working with Virtual School Kent are at different stages so some of them may have already done this, some may not have – you may see this, you may not. Uhm...so, as I said, it will last about 60 minutes and it will take them through a variety of different topics in maths, all mapped to the National Curriculum and what they should be doing at school, just to test their ability in all the different strands.

They'll see a learning journey here that you can see in the top right corner and that little play button there will move along the learning journey so that you'll be able to see how far along the assessment they are. If you are in a position where you and the child that you are with is doing their assessment at home, please make sure that they do these completely independently. It's really important that in this part of the platform they don't get any help. Just because if they do get any help then the maths age that they come out with at the end will not be reflective of their true ability.

There is an option for them on there to click the 'Don't Know Yet' button. It's really important that they use this because obviously the platform can register that they're not sure about this topic at this particular level that they're seeing and it will adjust it accordingly.

At the end, it will tell them that they have finished the assessment and that they are then going into the normal tutor. Then they will have a base line maths age. As I said, really important that they do these independently. Some of the time, they can get...if they lose concentration or whatever, they can come out of it and go back in and complete it in two sittings if they want to. They just need to make sure that they have completed a topic and come back to this learning journey screen. If they log out in the middle of a topic, it won't save. So, again if you are doing it at home with them, just make sure that they do come out to this homepage first before they log out.

And then, once they've done the assessment, as I say, they'll have a base line maths age which will be completely independent to them and their ability and the work that they've done in the assessment. Then each time they log in after that, they'll have a screen that looks like this. They can personalise it a little bit, so it may look slightly different to this one. But again, they will see a learning journey and it will have three gems moving along that journey. They represent their three progressions. We recommend that the children are using the Maths-Whizz platform for at least 60 minutes per week and aiming to get at least three progressions in order to see that accelerated progress. So, as you can see this box here, that's highlighted in the yellow circle, will move along as they reach their progression. It will be quite obvious when they reach a progression, it will flash up on the screen.

Once they've done their three, that's the minimum we recommend for a week. They can keep going and do more if they want to but three is the minimum. In each topic, to earn a progression, as I mentioned earlier, they'll go through the main input, so

the teaching of the topic. They'll then do an exercise which is between 5 and 10 questions based on the work that they have done and based on the topic that they have been introduced to and they'll then do a test. In order to earn 1 progression, they'll need to complete the exercise and the test for the topic. They'll need to get at least 70% in the exercise and 60% in the test in order to get that first progression.

So, again we sometimes have questions from parents and carers saying well, they did complete the exercise and the test, but they didn't get their progression. It will be because they hadn't quite met the minimum scores that they need to, so something to keep an eye on there as well. When they are working on it at home, when they're doing the exercises or the teaching and they do, if they do need a bit of support, please feel free to help them. They shouldn't need it because the platform will automatically provide them with scaffolded support if they get stuck but if you do want to help them in the teaching or the exercises, you are more than welcome to. In the test again, make sure that the tests are done independently because again this is a way of testing that they are able to independently apply their learning and if you are helping them with the test and it moves them forward too quickly, you'll find that the work that they are doing next time they log in will be too difficult for them. So, again just making sure that they do that really independently.

In terms of the rest of the student experience. It's pretty self-explanatory from there. As I said this, box will move through, and it should be quite obvious when they've completed a progression and when they've got to the end of the minimum requirements for the week. There are other things they can do from the home screen. As you can see here, they've got a little avatar that they will earn coins and they can buy clothes for their avatar and personalise it, just to keep them engaged in it.

But the main part, where their lessons will be, will be in the box here with the play button on it so just make sure they are clicking in there each time they log in. In terms of the exercises, just an example of what it will look like. This is quite a simple example but as you can see here, the exercises are really interactive. Uhm..It's much more colourful and uhm...once...if they get the question wrong as you can see here, it will give them that scaffolded support and give them a bit more of a visual prompt and give them the opportunity to have another go at the question.

That's the exercises. As I said, you are able to support them with this if you feel like they need support. If you ever have any issues with any of the lessons at home, the green button in the bottom left-hand corner is the lesson code. If you click on that, there'll be an option for you to send an error report through to our technical team. So, if you ever have anything like it freezes, or the children can't click on the right answer or anything like that, please click on that and send that through and the technical team will support with that.

This is an example of a test so as you can see it's more plain, much more...I guess it's simulated to a test that they would normally be doing in school. So, they'll just get again 5 – 10 questions on the topic that they're just completed, and they'll have to answer those independently with no scaffolded support.

Ok, and the last part in terms of the student experience. If they click on the Burger Menu in the top right-hand corner, there are other options for them that they can use and that you as parents and carers can use as well.

So sometimes, they might get messages from their teachers or from the people who are working at Virtual School Kent who are kind of managing their account. They can send messages to the children through the platform which they can access here. The children can't message anyone back, but they may receive stickers or certificates and things like that through the account so it's good to check in there, in that messages option there.

The buddies and the leader board is if they have people in their class or other people that they know who are using Maths-Whizz, they can add them as buddies and then have competitions between themselves about who's getting the most progressions. If they want to use that, they can. The leader boards will show them where they are compared to the other children who are using Maths-Whizz. We're got children all over the world using it so they'll be a leader board on there so they can see where they compare if they want to.

And, then the Topic Challenge is where all of their exercises are stored, and they can go back and have another go at them if they want to. So, again if you're working with children at home and you feel like they need a little bit of extra support in a topic, they can click in this Topic Challenge button and go back and have another go at something they have already done as extra practice. Something to note here, is that I wouldn't recommend going on here until they've completed their three progressions for the week. Just use this as an extra revision tool if the children want to do more Maths-Whizz....excuse me...throughout the week.

The Topic Challenge looks like this so as you can see all of the exercises that this child has completed is saved in here with their times that it took them to do it. So, they can go back in and try and beat their times if they want to. But as I said only use this as a revision tool if the children want to do extra work or if they need extra support in a certain topic.

Ok, so then in order for you to keep track of what the children are actually doing on the Maths-Whizz platform, there is an option for you to sign up to a parents and carers dashboard and for you to have your own account that you can log in and link with the child's account so that you can see the progress that they're making. So, if I just go back to this page here. You need to set it up through the child's account so once the child's logged on, you can see here in the bottom right-hand corner, there's a parents' button. So, if you click on that, you will get this registration form. Then all

you need to do, is put your name and your email address, and create yourself a password. You have the option then to sign up to our newsletter if you want to and then your account will be created and automatically linked to the child's account. Once you've done that, what you can do is go to our website and use the log in details that you've just created here and you will be able to log in and see everything that the child's been doing on Maths-Whizz, the progress, their maths age, and things like that. So, if you do want to keep track of it...again it's not mandatory that you have one of these. The child's account will still work without you being registered to a parent account but if you would like to, it's a really nice way of keeping track of what they're doing on the system.

As I said, once you've done it once through the child's account, you won't need to keep going back through, so you'll be then able to log in automatically at our website, Whizz.com just in the same way that children log in to their accounts. This is what the parent dashboard looks like. You will have access to a lot of the same information that the teachers have access to just in slightly less detail. So, you'll be able to change the time frame so if you just wanted to see what they had been doing for that week, you can. You can look at how many progressions they've earned, how much usage they've done. You can also send them stickers and messages as well if you want to keep them motivated. And what you can also have a look at is their current activity that they will be looking at the next time they log in but also the activities that they've done previously as well so you can just keep track of what they're doing obviously if you're not sitting with them the whole time that their doing Maths-Whizz at home.

And, then this just shows you kind of the average improvement that we see. So, it really does work and the children really do make progress if they're using it for that 60 minutes a week. Obviously, it doesn't really need to be said but the more time they're on it, the more progress they will make. But I would just really encourage especially while they're not at school...I know they've probably got a lot of other things to do with virtual lessons and everything else that the schools are rolling out at the moment but that 60 minutes a week is really what we recommend to aim for and those three progressions in order to see that accelerated progress.

Ok, so then, how can you help at home? What can you be doing? As I said, just making sure that you are really scheduling in that 60 minutes a week for them to do the Maths Whizz work. It doesn't have to all be done in one go if they find it difficult to sit down and concentrate for 60 minutes at a time. They can do it in three 20 minute chunks or however works best for them and really just aiming for those three progressions to make sure, as I said, that progress is there. Monitor the data if you can, so making sure that you are logging into that parent dashboard and just monitoring what they are doing and keeping up to date with it.

Then, if you do need any support there are lots of avenues that you can take, obviously discussing it with your contacts at Virtual School Kent, the children's

teachers will also have some insight and I believe the staff at Virtual School Kent are liaising with the teachers as well so the class teachers will know what they have been doing on Maths-Whizz but please ask if you get stuck or if you have any questions. Obviously, the staff at Virtual School Kent will be able to speak to us and we'll be able to answer any questions as well because we have access to the data of all the children that are using the platform.

And, we also have our fantastic support team, which are available at all times as well. So, if you do have any questions or any any feedback at all, please contact the support team. They are amazing and they're available 24/7. So, please send any questions into us directly if you need to.