GLOW Maths Hub

Primary MathsFest26

Thursday, 12 February

Workshop brochure

MATHSHUBS GLOW

Primary MathsFest26 - Maths4All

Join us for a day dedicated to Maths4All, exploring what truly effective maths teaching looks like and how schools can lead change that improves attainment for every child.

Packed with opportunities to deepen your subject knowledge, **MathsFest26** is the perfect chance to reflect on your practice and collaborate with teachers from across the GLOW region to improve maths for all learners.

Event details
Date: 12 February 2026
Time: 09:00-15:30
Location: The Pavilion, Cheltenham, GL51 6PN

Register your free place!
All sessions, workshops and refreshments (including lunch) are provided free of charge.

Registration is open until 2 February 2026. Places are limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. MathsFest26 is open to teachers from primary schools in the GLOW region that have ever taken part in our Teaching for Mastery (TfM) programme.

Click here to register for Primary MathsFest26

Improving mathematics

Drawing on the Education Endowment Foundation's (EEF) 'Improving Mathematics' guidance, plus research on high-quality curriculum, teaching and inclusion, Mathsfest26 will focus on:

- securing strong mathematical foundations
- building knowledge sequentially
- adapting teaching to meet diverse needs
- ensuring all pupils, particularly disadvantaged and SEND, can access and succeed in a well-designed maths curriculum

Workshops

On the day, we'll be running a selection of practical workshops – exploring ideas and sharing tools/strategies to take back to your classroom. An overview of each workshop can be found on the following pages.

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Workshops A

A1: Maximising the impact of Teaching Assistants (TAs) in primary maths. Presenters: Helen Bowen & Denise Smith
This workshop explores evidence-informed best practice on training and deploying TAs in primary mathematics. Drawing on EEF guidance, it examines TA roles, classroom use, interventions and links to inclusion.

A2: Preparing for success: Strategies for the Multiplication Tables Check (MTC). Presenter: Sue Jones
Practical guidance for teachers and leaders on preparing pupils for success in the MTC. Explore building automaticity, maintaining a positive learning environment, addressing common challenges and embedding fluency into everyday practice.

A3: Designing coherent maths lessons: Building connections for deeper understanding. Presenters: Matt Bailey & Jen Thomas
Explore practical strategies for designing maths lessons that promote conceptual understanding through logical progression and strong connections. Drawing on research into cognitive load and classroom practice, it focuses on sequencing tasks to balance fluency, reasoning, and problem solving.

A4: Harnessing Variation: Designing tasks that deepen mathematical understanding. Presenters: Sarah McKenzie & Matt Wheeldon
How to design maths tasks that build conceptual clarity alongside procedural fluency. Participants will examine different types of variation, structuring examples and non-examples to support reasoning. Through practical activities and classroom-ready tasks, you'll leave with strategies to deepen pupils' mathematical understanding.

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Workshops B

B1: Inclusive mathematics – applying the EEF 'Five-a-day' principles for SEND support. Presenters: Denise Smith & Helen Bowen
This workshop introduces the EEF 'Five-a-day' principles for SEND support and explores how they can be embedded in primary maths teaching. Participants will examine practical approaches to lesson design and task adaptation, focusing on reducing barriers while maintaining high expectations.

B2: Building mathematical fluency: Strategies for secure and flexible understanding. Presenters: Glen Bickle & Sam Stacey
Explore how mathematical fluency goes beyond speed and accuracy to include efficiency, flexibility, and deep understanding of number relationships. Participants will examine intelligent practice and retrieval strategies that strengthen automaticity while supporting reasoning.

B3: Developing mathematical talk: Using stem sentences to deepen understanding. Presenters: Matt Wheeldon & Sarah McKenzie
Why talk matters in primary maths and how stem sentences can effectively scaffold reasoning. Participants will examine ways to embed structured talk into everyday teaching, fostering classroom culture that values precise mathematical language and supports all learners.

B4: Making mathematics tangible: Effective use of concrete resources in KS2. Presenters: Jen Thomas & Matt Bailey
How effective use of concrete resources can support understanding and progression in KS2 mathematics. Drawing on the Concrete, Pictorial, Abstract (CPA) approach, participants will consider purposeful use of manipulatives, avoiding over-reliance on equipment. Through practical examples and hands-on activities, you'll leave with classroom-ready ideas to strengthen learning.

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Workshops C

C1: Inclusive mathematics – applying the EEF 'Five-a-day' principles for SEND support. Presenters: Denise Smith & Helen Bowen
This workshop introduces the EEF 'Five-a-day' principles for SEND support and explores how they can be embedded in primary maths teaching. Participants will examine practical approaches to lesson design and task adaptation, focusing on reducing barriers while maintaining high expectations.

C2: Choosing effective representations: Building mathematical structures for understanding. Presenters: Sam Stacey & Glen Bickle
Explore how to select and sequence representations that reveal underlying mathematical structures rather than distract or confuse. Participants will examine principles for purposeful choice, identify common misconceptions, and consider strategies to ensure representations support reasoning and problem solving.

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C4: Making mathematics tangible: Effective use of concrete resources in KS2. Presenters: Jen Thomas & Matt Bailey
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