



Teacher Tips for Success – Week 1

The first thing you need to do is to **generate enthusiasm**. The best way to do this is to get the children **collecting points and characters** – quickly!



Start by introducing them to one of the easy **owls**. Choose an owl with activities that you are confident that your pupils **will be able to do already** so the children can easily try them at home as well as in school. (You can then take your time introducing investigations on more challenging topics through class or group teaching in subsequent lessons.)

Your First Lesson

[For a more detailed explanation of this with video guides to help you, see the online teacher's manual.]

For your first lesson, work through a selection of pages in an investigation with everyone on the interactive board. Here is a check list of the things you will need to cover.

- What **equipment** you need (some investigations suggest equipment, others don't)
- How to move from page to page and the importance of **not skipping pages!**
- How to **answer questions** and **correct mistakes**.
- Different kinds of pages – some for **talking/thinking** and others that are interactive
- **How to self-assess** – green (fine), amber (worth doing again) or red (Help!)

- You may have a **quiz** to do if you assess yourself as amber or green. Quizzes should be **done on your own**. If you don't do well in the quiz, try the investigation again!

Set the pupils to work and circulate to check that they are all working effectively.

Let them Fly!

Maths Investigations is designed to be highly motivating. But a little help from you in setting targets for them will really get them fired up. Here are some ideas:

Challenge the children to **complete one of the investigations** in their first lesson and get **10/10 for the quiz**.

This will **get their names appearing** with green circles in the Shooting Stars section on the front page of the web site. The kids just love getting their names up on the screen for everyone to see and they have great fun trying to knock each other off!

Maths Investigations is also available at **home**. Show them the **My Things** section and challenge them to see **how many points and characters** they can collect before you next work on Maths Investigations with them in class. Who can be the **first to 100**? Who can be the **first to collect an owl**?

If they complete all the activities in the owl you have suggested, then they can explore the other sections of the web site and try some **other activities of their own choice**.



Teacher Tips for Success – Week 2

Once the children are up and running collecting characters with the owls, you can give them a more thorough introduction to the activities.

Investigations

Here are some things to cover at your leisure in the early weeks.

- Point out the **Champions and Stars** section below each activity. **How 'best in our year' works:** You can repeat an investigation as many times as you like. Each time you do it your score will increase. The person with the highest score on that activity will get 'best in year'.
- Give the children the experience of working in pairs with an ipad each, but both working on the same activity on the same page at the same time. Emphasise **the importance of talking** about things – the more confident one taking a tutoring role for the other [The best model is to have 2 children of like ability side by side, each working on their own tablet, both on the same page at the same time, with practical equipment to hand and discussing their work as they go.]

Quizzes and Stars

After one week, the children can start '**getting stars**' for some of their quizzes. The web site is set up so that, at certain intervals after getting 10/10 for a quiz you are encouraged to try the quiz again, to help with the transfer from short term to long term memory. After one week, you can try for your first star on a particular quiz, after one month your second, and after three months your third! Stars win a significant number of extra points.

Setting up your Own Activities

Once you have the children familiar with the owls, you may want to begin setting your own activities for them. This is easy to do and is fully explained in the online teacher's guide. Do take a look!

I recommend that you maybe **set up only 5 or 6** activities to begin with. If you wish, you can set different activities for different groups.



Teacher Tips for Success – Week 3

Setting Activities for Homework

Little and often is the key to success in Maths. The online activities will have their most powerful effect if children are working on them daily.

Setting activities for homework can really help with this.

Add the activity to the 'Our Activities' page for your class or group and then select it as *priority*, by putting a tick in the priority box. This puts a thicker border round it so it stands out from the others.



There are a number of help sheets which you may wish to send home with children so that parents understand how the activities work. These can all be found in the online teacher's guide.

- *Getting Maths Investigations at Home* explains how to find the web site and how to 'get the App'.
- *Maths Investigations: Guide for Parents* explains the different kinds of activities.
- *Guide to the Wise Owls* shows practical activities that parents can do to support their children's learning.
- *Tips for Helping with Maths at Home* is a page of general good advice.
- *Investigations: Helping at Home* gives specific advice on the investigations.



Monitoring Progress

If you are setting tasks (either in class or for homework), you will want to see how your pupils are doing. The *Progress Record* (accessed from the top of the main pupil page when you are logged on as a teacher) gives a list of all your children and shows how they are doing with each of the activities you have set up for them.

[See under *Admin Stuff* in the online teacher guide for more detailed information about this.]