

PortadownTimes

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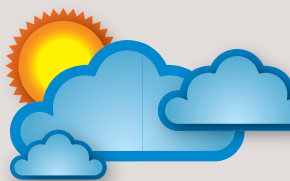
- WEATHER OUTLOOK -

THURSDAY

Max/Min Celsius

8/2

We're in for a dry but cold spell over the next few days - nice to be out in but take a coat!



| FRI | SAT | SUN | MON |
|-----|-----|-----|------|
| | | | |
| 6/1 | 5/1 | 5/0 | 4/-1 |

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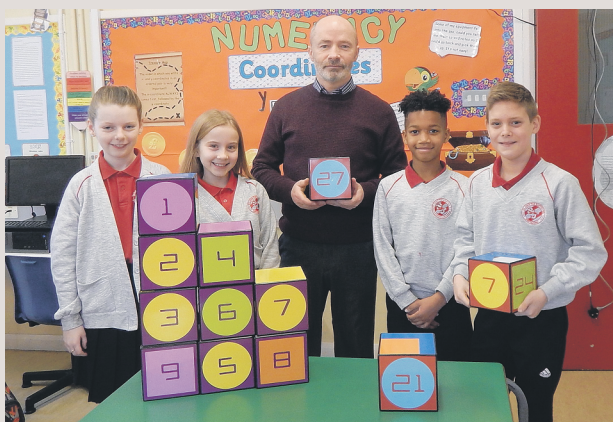
Maths is now fun at St John the Baptist

By CARMEL ROBINSON
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Teaching maths as a fun game aims to lead to a new batch of whiz kids at a Portadown primary school - and already they are seeing results.

Some pupils suffer from a mental block when it comes to maths but St John the Baptist PS is aiming to transform that mind set with a unique new tool.

Teacher Martin Hagan says introducing the innovative learning tool Izak9 is changing how children view maths and helping to overcome a fear of learning the subject. "The secret is that the kids see it as a game and therefore fun rather than a



Martin Hagan, of St John the Baptist PS, with pupils using Izak9.

maths activity," Mr Hagan said, who also shares work with Edenderry PS.

Izak9 is made up of 27 cubes displaying different combinations of colour, number and shape. Studies

have found it increases pupil performance through a practical learning approach.

Now a regular feature in maths classes for Key Stage 1 and 2 pupils, it's being credited with "enhancing the

maths outlook".

"I believe Izak9 breaks down the barrier of fear and allows children to achieve success which would otherwise be impossible if they were constantly exposed to routine pencil and paper exercises," said Mr Hagan.

He says the resource encourages children with an 'I can't do maths' mind set to adopt a more open-minded approach to the subject.

Creator Franz Schlindwein, a former maths teacher from NI, said he was delighted to see its positive impact at the school.

"St John the Baptist Primary's willingness to innovate in the classroom is testament to the school's ethos and desire to empower and enrich the lives of its pupils."

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