How we teach problem solving at West Lodge Primary

Using and Applying Curriculum Evening
A PROBLEM TO GET YOU STARTED...

Here are five number cards.

[Image of number cards: A A A B B]

A and B stand for two different whole numbers.
The sum of all the numbers on all five cards is 30.
What could be the values of A and B?
Why do we teach it?

- Uses learned mathematics in different contexts.
- Gives children the chance to explore interesting mathematics.
- Allows for the exploration of mathematical concepts in greater depth.
Often focused on shape or number.
Can be solved using different starting points.
Requires a systematic approach.

What colour is each shape?

Clues
- Red is not next to grey.
- Blue is between white and grey.
- Green is not a square.
- Blue is on the right of pink.
COMMUNICATING

- Uses mathematics as a language.
- Can be solved using a range of strategies.
- Often uses real life scenarios.

Anna has 50 pencils.
She puts 5 pencils in each party bag.

How many bags does she put pencils in?
REASONING

- Asks pupils to understand and test a general statement.
- Can be more than one answer.
- Is more open ended and a lot more challenging.

‘A number that ends with 2 cannot be divided by three!’
FINAL THOUGHTS

- Explore all areas of mathematics.
- Focus on the process rather than the answer.
- Make mathematics fun.
- Use resources on nrich.maths.org to help engage children in mathematics.