

KEY NOTES FROM THE MATHS CURRICULUM EVENING FOR PARENTS HELD ON WEDNESDAY 25th FEBRUARY 2015

Revised Primary Curriculum - The DFE implemented a new Primary curriculum in September 2014 which has increased the challenge for children in mathematics. Many key concepts are now required to be taught and mastered much earlier. Teaching staff are working very hard and continue to deliver high quality maths teaching across the school. Child-friendly expectation sheets for each year group can be found on the school website under the curriculum - mathematics tabs. These sheets are also stuck into the children's books. Please take a look at what your child is expected to know & do by the end of the academic year. The sheets can be downloaded and pinned up at home if you need a nice bit of colourful artwork somewhere! Teachers will be assessing children's attainment and progress against these statements in the forthcoming year (unless your child is in Year 2 or Year 6 where attainment will still be given in levels).

Attitude and state of mind is everything in maths - as with most things in life, children achieve far more in maths when they feel confident about it. If they see maths as fun, enjoyable, non-threatening and relevant to everyday life, they will be willing to have a go and they have far more chance of progressing and attaining. At home, please re-inforce the message that maths is fun. Please re-inforce the message that it is not a disaster if you can't get it right first time. Play simple games that involve using number bonds and times tables...tapping into your child's interests is a good starting point for this eg shopping challenges, darts/golf/cricket with dice, playing a version of 'snap' where you try to make 10 by each pulling one card etc

Learning the basics in KS1 will really bring big dividends in KS2 - with so much of the maths curriculum based around a strong understanding of number, it is vital that young children have a good grasp of number bonds leading into addition & subtraction eg "if we are trying to make 20 and I have 13, what do you need to have?" These number pairs are the building blocks for later success. Work up from bonds to 10/20 in Reception to bonds to 50 then 100 as your child gets older and more confident. Use number lines to help children see how we count up or back and how we 'bridge' or go over a ten eg $16 + 7$ can be broken into $16 + 4 + 3$ to get 23. Learning times tables is also crucial - it takes a little bit of hard work and perseverance, but a child who is good at their tables has every chance of high attainment in maths. Regular, consistent repetition is the best way of doing this.

Maths is all around us...so use it to help your child learn - if you're out shopping in one of the local supermarkets, take the opportunity to do a bit of maths. Have a look down the confectionary aisle and you will see a ready-made lesson on 3-D shape. You will find cylinders (Smarties), spheres (chocolate orange) and triangular prisms (Toblerone) to name but a few. Ask your child to do some quick age-related mental maths to help you calculate how much you're spending eg "That's £3, that's £5 and that's £2.50...how much is that altogether?"

'Magi-Mixer' - This great little 'toy' can be purchased easily on the internet and is a brilliant way of getting children fully immersed in number work, particularly if your child enjoys competition. The toy features two black dice (one numbered 10-60 and the other 1-6) which set your target total. There are also 5 coloured dice (numbered 1-6) that you can use to try to make your target total. Depending on age & ability, you can use a range of strategies and skills to challenge your opponent and score points. If any parent is interested in finding out more about Magi-mixer, please speak to Mr Tindall for a very quick 2 minute demonstration...it will revolutionise your child's mental maths skills!

Demonstrations & strategies shown at the curriculum workshop - all the teaching staff were in attendance which meant we could run 6 separate learning areas. The areas/strategies covered were:

- Maths through stories
- How to use a number line
- Clever (and easy) long division
- Preparing for, and achieving success in, tests & assessments
- Grid multiplication and times tables
- Addition (including partitioning) in KS1

'My Maths' - This excellent online resource is free to all parents & children as the subscription is paid for through the school's maths budget. All children in KS2 have their own individual log-in details and children in KS1 will increasingly have the opportunity to use My Maths. An internet connection and suitable device is required to access the web-based programme (children working on a tablet, I-Pad or similar device will need to install the 'Puffin Academy' APP in order to do this). Class teachers may set specific activities or tasks for children to complete but children can also use My Maths at any time and try any activities they want simply by logging in. There are lesson tutorials, games and challenges that will help your child improve their understanding in maths. If you are having any problems accessing My Maths, please speak to your child's class teacher.