

# Maths Newsletter Spring Term

Dear Families,

We are often asked how you can help your child with your maths at home.

Here are some simple things you can do without any preparation that will help your child develop a mathematical brain.

Have fun!



## Start With a Positive Mindset

Do you ever hear yourself saying "I'm really bad at Maths"? It's only small, but your children can pick up on negativity towards subjects and, unfortunately, this can be a real barrier to their learning. We advise parents to try using positive language around your children when talking about Maths. You may not mean to be negative, but your children may take it to heart. Your positivity may well improve their Maths attitude!

## Play Maths Games Together

Many games use mathematical and logical skills that your children will need in later life - plus they're fun!. Games like jigsaw puzzles help children to develop logical & spatial awareness skills. Board games with dice develop children's counting skills. Other games that may help develop your child's Maths skills are darts, scrabble, and chess. Get playing!

## Practise Reading the Time

As we move into digital, many children are growing up not reading analogue clocks. Make sure your child practises reading analogue clocks in everyday life, as this is part of the Maths curriculum. It's as simple as reading the clock you may walk past on the side of a building, otherwise how will they ever be able to read the iconic Big Ben?

## Use Fractions in Daily Life

Fractions can be simple for you to practise with your child. Simple common fractions can be reinforced at home even if you're not too confident with fractions. Stick to fractions you know such as  $\frac{1}{2}$  or  $\frac{1}{4}$ . See a window split into four coloured panels? Ask your child "what fraction of the window is coloured in blue?" You don't have to use rounded shapes such as cakes and pizzas to practise fractions, just make sure the separate parts of the shape are all the same size.

## Times Tables: Practice Practice Practice!

As everybody knows, it's essential for children to learn their times tables in order to access harder Maths questions. This is an easy thing to practise with their children - sneak it in when they're bored! Make car journeys go by faster, or distract them on the bus by asking times tables questions. Challenge them to say their times tables backwards if they get bored of reciting them.

## Involve Them With Problem Solving

The KS2 Maths curriculum requires pupils to be able to problem solve in Maths. As parents, you can help your children practice these skills every day. You can ask your child to tell you which is the best deal at the supermarket or how much their pair of trousers are worth when there is a 30% sale on in a clothes store, or which internet provider has the best deal when you need to switch.

We are always willing to help anyone of you with ideas and suggestions.

Just ask your child's teacher.