**Mathematical development – ongoing throughout the year**

**Why is it important to do Maths at home?**

Maths does exist in everyday life, so every opportunity your child has to develop their Maths skills is valuable. The more opportunities they are given to practise and reinforce skills, the more fluent and confident they will become. Remember ‘practice makes perfect!’ Even if you didn’t enjoy Maths at school, your child might love it! Don’t be scared of Maths: mainly it is solving problems and seeing patterns. It can be really fun!

The mathematics work your child does at school may look different to the kind of work you remember from when you were at school. The early year’s maths curriculum is split into five areas: number and place value, addition and subtraction, measurement, geometry and multiplication and division.

Many of you are already doing lots of mathematics at home with your child – often without realising it!

Here are some tips to get you started...

* It is most important that you talk and listen to your child it will help them if they have to explain to you. Remember, you are not expected to teach them new things.
* Share the maths activity with your child and discuss it with them.
* Be positive about maths, even if you don’t feel confident about it yourself.
* If your child is struggling speak to their class teacher for support.
* A lot of maths can be done using everyday situations.

Number and place value

* Look for numbers when you are out together. Read house numbers and those on buses.
* Practise chanting the number names and encourage your child to join in with you. Start from different numbers, and try counting backwards as well as forwards.
* Sing number rhymes together.
* Count different objects; coins, pasta, shapes, buttons etc.
* Count things you cannot touch or see such as jumps or claps.
* Play games that involve counting and rolling dice.
* Cut numerals from newspapers and magazines and encourage your child to place them in order.
* Look at the prices of items whilst shopping.
* Put family members in order, according to age.

Addition and subtraction

* When shopping decide which coins to use, and calculate the change.
* Work out the cost of a meal, using prices on a menu.
* Find the cost for the family to go on a trip to the cinema, bowling, swimming etc.
* Sort items around your home into different groups.
* When counting can you add one more or one less?
* Can you combine two groups of objects to find the whole?

Measurement

* Weigh fruits and vegetables whilst shopping. Which is best value for money?
* Talk about the capacity, weight and shape of different bottles and containers.
* Talk about different types of clocks; digital and analogue, those with missing numbers, roman numerals etc.
* Estimate how long it will take to walk to school, write your, name, make a sandwich... and then time how long it takes.
* Talk about events during the day; breakfast time, dinnertime, playtime, bath time etc. and put them in order.
* Talk about the months of the year. In which season does your birthday fall?
* Measure the heights of everyone in the family. Who is the shortest? Tallest?
* Weigh ingredients when baking.
* Play with plastic jugs and containers in the bath. Which holds the most water? How many cups can you fill from the large bottle?
* Measure a distance using hand spans or foot lengths
* Look at road signs, talk about the distances, speeds, heights of bridges etc.
* Work out the capacity of different containers; drinks cans, milk bottles etc.
* Weigh different toys to find the heaviest, two that weigh the same etc.
* How many cups of drink can you pour from a bottle? Estimate first.

Geometry

* Choose a shape, e.g. Square, and look for it in the environment. Can your child describe it?
* Play ‘guess my shape’. You think of a shape and your child asks questions to try to find out which shape you have chosen.
* Make a model using old boxes and containers. Describe the model in terms of the shapes used, how many corners etc.
* Look for symmetrical patterns or objects. Try to draw a symmetrical picture – a butterfly works well!
* What shapes can you see on local buildings? What shape are the windows?
* Look for repeating patterns. Can continue a pattern? Can you make your own pattern?

Multiplication and division

* When making sandwiches can you cut them in half? Quarters?
* Can you cut the cake to serve the amount of people at home?
* Can you share the sweets fairly so that everybody has the same amount?

There are many useful resources and games available on the internet.

<https://www.ncetm.org.uk/resources/51439>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/numberblocks>

<https://nrich.maths.org/early-years>

[www.ictgames.com/resources.html](http://www.ictgames.com/resources.html)

[www.primarygamesarena.com](http://www.primarygamesarena.com)