



MATHS NEWSLETTER



Welcome to Swalecliffe School's Term 5 Maths Newsletter

Welcome to the next issue of the Maths Newsletter! This term's newsletter is a little different with a particular focus on the importance of Maths at home.

IS MATHS REALLY THAT IMPORTANT AT HOME?

Parents have a great opportunity to develop their children's Maths skills at home by involving them in everyday activities. If your children can help you find the best deal for your car insurance or work out which supermarket deal is cheapest, then it's helping them understand Maths in real life. It also helps develop their basic Maths and problem-solving skills, which are really important in the UK primary curriculum.

Don't underestimate yourself, or the power you have as a parent getting involved in your child's learning. Ofsted have specifically stated that parental engagement raises pupil achievement.



So here are some tips and ideas to show how you can improve your child's Maths skills at home.

Positive Mindset



Quite often, it is easy to fall into the trap of using language such as 'I'm really bad at Maths' or 'I just didn't get Maths at school. This can actually create a barrier for children in their Maths learning as it suggests that it is too hard.

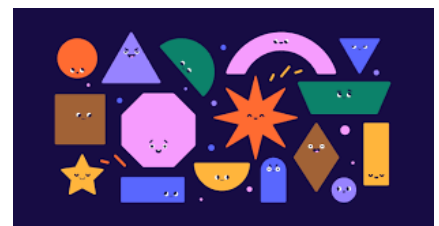
Instead, try to use language such as 'Don't worry, it's ok to make mistakes, we all do' or 'you can't do it yet, but we can learn it together'.

Positivity can go a long way to improving children's attitudes and readiness to learn in Maths.

Everyday Maths Talk – Reception and Key Stage 1

Talking about Maths is really important to your child's Mathematical development.

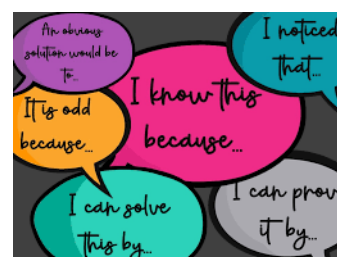
- This can be incorporated simply into their everyday play. For example... How many pennies are you holding? What shape is that object?
- Two easy concepts that can be developed are doubling/halving and addition/subtraction. Again, physical objects can be used, such as food. For example... If I doubled the number of chicken nuggets on your plate, how many would you have now? If I ate half the peas on your plate, how many would you have left? You have five bits of carrot and I have six, how many is that altogether?
- Play Maths Games – simple jigsaws can help develop children's logical and spatial awareness. Games such as snakes and ladders enable the children to count rolls of dice, moves across a board and patterns of numbers on a dice.
- Develop memory skills – memory skills are key to Maths learning, enabling the brain to make connections. You could encourage your child to remember a home phone number, nursery rhymes or quotes.
- Watch out for shapes – shapes are everywhere in the world around us e.g. car wheels, windows and tiles.



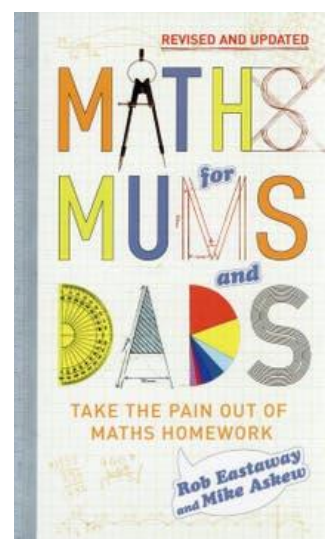
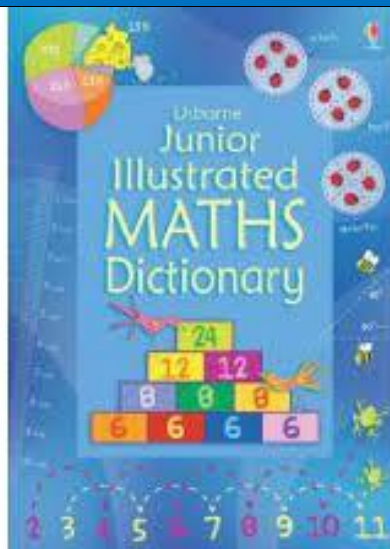
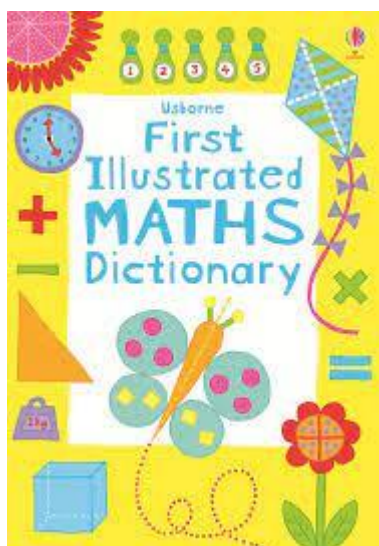
Everyday Maths Talk – Key Stage 2

Talking about Maths is really important to your child's Mathematical development.

- Play Maths Games – jigsaws can help develop children's logical and spatial awareness. Board games such as snakes and ladders enable the children to count rolls of dice, moves across a board and patterns of numbers on a dice. Other games that could help develop Mathematical skills are darts, scrabble and chess.
- Practise reading the time using an analogue clock. As we become more and more a digital world, children are exposed less and less to telling the time using an analogue clock. Incorporate this into everyday life as much as possible.
- Practise paying for items in shops using 'real money'. Again, an increasingly digital world is decreasing children's exposure to and recognition of notes and coins!
- Simple common fractions can be reinforced at home even if you're not too confident yourself! For example, a window split into four equal parts – what fractions can we find?
- Everyday problem solving – the KS2 Maths curriculum puts a significant emphasis on problem solving. Here are some examples of how you could incorporate this into every day life... What is the best deal at the supermarket? How much would your trousers cost if there was a 30% sale? Which internet provider has the best deal?
- Use open questions – next time your child needs help with their Maths homework try asking prompting questions to encourage Mathematical thinking and talk. Such as... Why did you write that down? How did you get that answer? What method did you use?



Recommended Reads for Parents



Thank you for taking the time to read this term's Maths Newsletter; I hope that you have found it useful. I am always here to answer any questions that you may have about your child's learning in maths and offer any advice, as are your child's class teachers.

Miss Fry
Assistant Head and Maths Lead