

Maths Mastery in Early Years

The first few years of a child's life are especially important for children's mathematical development. It is vital that all children develop firm mathematical foundations, in a way that is engaging, fun and memorable.

We follow a Mastery approach in EYFS, using the Maths Masters scheme, which enables children to have a deeper knowledge and understanding of number. We continue this approach in Key Stage One to ensure a secure understanding and greater knowledge of Maths.

We aim to introduce the children to numbers through the use of concrete, pictorial and abstract methods, to give the children a deeper understanding of how mathematics works. It will encourage children to develop a strong sense of number and place value, which will enable them to understand numbers they encounter in the world around them.

For example, it is not only important to recognise the digit 2, but also to understand the 'twoness' of it; to know the stories of 2 and recognise many representations of the same number.



Children will develop familiarity of number sequence through daily counting, rhymes and songs, but this doesn't mean they understand what each number means. This is often rote learning. It is our aim that our children acquire the basic skills of mathematics and a thorough understanding of mathematical concepts, so that they may build upon their knowledge through the school, and in future years. Although your child may be able to already recognise numbers, Maths Mastery is about a deeper understanding of each number, how it is made up, how it can be separated, and how to apply its value.

We will also be learning these skills alongside Numberblocks and the Numicon resource. Numberblocks encourage the children to break the numbers down and see them in an interactive way. They help children make connections with addition and subtraction, and eventually with multiplication and division. Numicon helps children visualise a number and its value through shape.

Each Numberblock character is made of the relevant number of blocks, e.g. three is made from three blocks. This structure means that they can transform into other numbers.

For example, the characters 3 and 2 can combine to create the character 5.



How can you help at home?

- Talk to your child about their daily learning and what their Maths lessons were about.
- Discuss numbers all around you; door numbers, clock numbers, bus numbers, car number plates etc.
- Encourage your child to predict what the next number is in a sequence – ‘What is the next door number?’
- Cooking and shopping with your child – getting them to weigh ingredients; using language such as ‘more’ and ‘less’. If I have one more/less how many will I have?
- Focus on understanding the number rather than just counting. ‘How can I share out 4?’ ‘What is half?’ ‘How do you know?’
- Guessing games – ‘Can you estimate how many apples are in the bowl?’
- Sharing tasks – ‘Can you share out the popcorn/sweets/grapes, so you and your brother have the same?’ What about if there are 3 people – how will you share them equally?’
- Play games such as snakes and ladders/hopscotch/cards.

