

# Haslingfield Endowed Primary School

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Dear Parents,

In light of the new Maths Curriculum being much more rigorous than the previous curriculum, there are a number of things with which we would appreciate your support at home. Some concepts that children were previously taught at the start of secondary school, have been moved into the new Primary Curriculum and similarly throughout the different year groups, many elements are now being taught in younger years. This has generated a multitude of challenges across the country for all schools as the new expectation for each age group is significantly higher. To support the children in achieving these new expectations, we are implementing a number of new ideas, listed below.

The new Maths curriculum revolves around three fundamental principles: fluency, reasoning and problem solving. To develop children's mathematical fluency, we will be introducing Key Instant Recall Facts (KIRFS) to each year group in addition to using two websites: Conker maths and Mathletics. Aligned to the new objectives in the new curriculum, KIRFS are a set of fundamental mathematical facts that underpin most calculations and consequently help solve a range of problems. In schools that have introduced these KIRFs, a significant improvement in children's confidence and fluency with these facts was recorded.

The majority of children are expected to be working towards the year group KIRF targets however it might be necessary to work on previous year group's KIRFs if your child has some gaps in their knowledge. Children are expected to practise these facts at least three times per week. If your child is struggling to recall facts, please concentrate on a smaller number and practise more frequently.

KIRFs are designed to support the development of the mental skills that underpin much of the maths work in schools. They are particularly useful when calculating, be it adding, subtracting, multiplying or dividing. To encourage independence, the children could use the website, Conker Maths which has a variety of quizzes on these KIRFs.

In addition to this, we will also continue to use Mathletics to help the children's fluency. From our discussions with the pupils, it is clear that over the last year they have enjoyed using this resource and they have found it helpful to their learning. Mathletics is recognised across the world as being an instrumental tool to supporting the speed and accuracy alongside fluency of number facts.

Furthermore, we would very much like your support in creating a positive attitude towards maths and help us to ensure the children see maths in our everyday lives. Research has shown that if parents talk negatively about maths, their children can automatically feel similar towards the subject

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Learning and achieving excellence in a safe, happy environment

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which in turn affects their learning. This research has also proved that with positive parental encouragement in this subject, a child is more likely to succeed. To support this, we will be asking the children to complete some 'Maths at Home' activities as homework which will involve them seeing how maths is involved in our everyday lives.

We will provide you with a number of different ideas that could be done, such as measuring out ingredients, working out the cooking time for a specific weight of food or predicting/calculating the time you will arrive after a journey. Any activity that extends the children's understanding of abstract maths into reality is hugely beneficial- the more experience they have of these real maths activities, the easier the abstract becomes.

Once the children have completed a Maths at Home activity, we would simply like them to describe the activity to us in their homework book but they might like to show us some calculations they have solved or draw us diagrams to display the mathematical problem.

All of these initiatives will help the children in developing the three fundamental aims of the maths curriculum and so your support in helping us to achieve these, is very much appreciated.

If you have any concerns regarding your child, please discuss them with your child's class teacher. Equally, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me via the school office.

Yours sincerely,

Victoria Petty

Maths Co-ordinator &  
Deputy Headteacher

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