



# IMPROVING MATHS

*Working together to help our children succeed!*

Maths is essential for everyday life and understanding the world around us. Parents/carers can play a really important role in developing their children's ability to do mathematics. Helping children to become confident in maths is also crucial to them developing positive attitudes to this subject.



## SO HOW CAN YOU HELP?



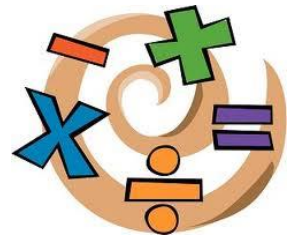
### 1. PRACTISE THE TIMES TABLES

It is vital for the children to practise their times tables at home as often as possible. By the end of Year 2 the children should know the 2, 5 and 10 times tables. By the end of Year 3 they should know the 3, 4 and 8 times tables and by the end of Year 4 they are expected to know up to and including the 12 times table.

### 2. PLAY MATHS GAMES

All the children have been given an active learn, mathletics and times table rock stars user name and password. These websites help to consolidate what the children have been learning in class. It is important for you to help your children with these games.

[www.trockstars.com](http://www.trockstars.com)    [www.mathletics.co.uk](http://www.mathletics.co.uk)    [www.activelearnprimary.co.uk](http://www.activelearnprimary.co.uk)



### 3. TELL THE TIME

Try to find opportunities to discuss the time with your children using both digital and analogue clocks. Whenever possible, ask them to tell you the time to the nearest 5 minutes.

Also ask:

- What time will it be one hour from now?
- What time was it one hour ago?

Time your child doing various tasks, e.g. getting ready for school or tidying their bedroom.

Ask your child to guess how long they think an activity will take. Can they beat this time when they do it? You could also look at bus timetables, train timetables and TV guides with your children to initiate discussions about time.

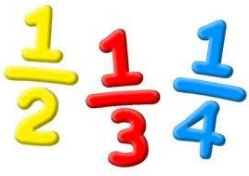
### 4. GET CONFIDENT WITH NUMBERS

By the end of KS1 pupils should be able to recite number bonds to 20 with confidence and be able to say all doubles and halves of numbers up to 20, and even up to 100. If children are secure in basic numbers by the end of KS1, they will be confident in maths going into Year 3. Useful websites for number bonds (number facts) and times tables are:

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>

[http://www.mathplayground.com/ASB\\_GrandPrixMultiplication.html](http://www.mathplayground.com/ASB_GrandPrixMultiplication.html)





## 5. PRACTISE FRACTIONS

Using 12 buttons, paper clips, dried beans or any other object

- Ask your child to find **half** of the 12 items.
- Then find one **quarter** of the 12 items.
- Then find one **third** of the 12 items.

Repeat with other numbers

Fractions can also be written as percentages and as decimals. Challenge your children, and yourself to convert between the three. Next time you are out shopping ask your children to work out what 10% of an item is. Try 20 %, 25% or repeat with other percentages.

Common Fraction and Decimal Equivalents

Fraction	Decimal	Percent
1	1.0	100%
1/3	.333	33.3%
1/4	.25	25%
1/5	.2	20%
1/8	.125	12.5%
1/10	.1	10%
1/2	.5	50%
2/3	.666	66.6%
3/4	.75	75%
2/5	.4	40%
5/8	.624	62.5%
9/10	.9	90%

## 5. USE EVERYDAY OCCURRENCES AS LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

When parents/carers show an interest in and enthusiasm for maths around the home, their children are more likely to be enthusiastic themselves. There are opportunities for mathematics everywhere and turning everyday activities into opportunities for mathematical reasoning is a great way for you to help your child with maths.



### 5.1 Supermarket Shopping

Estimate how much the shopping will cost. Then compare the actual cost with your estimates.



### 5.2 How Much?

Once a week, tip out the small change from a purse. Count it up with your child.

### 5.3 Measuring weight

You will need some kitchen scales that can weigh things in kilograms.

- Ask your child to find something that weighs close to 1 kilogram.
- Can he/she find something that weighs exactly 1 kilogram?
- Find some things that weigh about half a kilogram.

Cooking also presents chances for weighing ingredients and timing dishes!



### 5.4 Measuring volume

You will need a 1 litre measuring jug and a selection of different mugs, cups or beakers.

- Ask your child to fill a mug with water.
- Pour the water carefully into the jug.
- Read the measurement to the nearest 10 millilitres.
- Write the measurement on a piece of paper.
- Do this for each mug or cup.
- Now ask your child to write all the measurements in order



### 5.5 Measuring length/distance



- Use a tape measure that shows centimetres.
- Take turns measuring lengths of different objects, e.g. the length of the sofa, the width of the table, the length of the bath, the height of the door.
- Record the measurement in centimetres, or metres and centimetres if it is more than a metre, eg. if the bath is 165 cm long, you could say it is 1m 65cm (or 1.65m).
- Write all the measurements in order.

If you would like a copy of the curriculum overview for KS1 and KS2, which shows how we teach maths at Pakeman, then please access this on our website at <http://www.pakemanprimary.co.uk/curriculum-and-ethos/maths/>, or ask Layla in the office for a copy.