

Play games

Take the time to play games that involve maths. For example, games such as 'Snakes and Ladders' will help your child practise adding and subtracting numbers in his head. The use of money in Monopoly – and using dice and spinners in any game – helps to practise valuable mental number skills.

Games help your child to compare, match and sort items. Use dice games, dominoes, marbles and jigsaws. Using construction sets will help your child to fit shapes together, follow a plan, make use of what he knows about shapes and experiment with ideas. In some games your child has to predict what another player will do and think ahead. These are all skills that help to develop an understanding of maths.

Build confidence

Be positive about maths, even if you don't feel very confident about it yourself. Build up your child's confidence by praising his mathematical skills when helping you, so that he enjoys using maths and will keep trying.

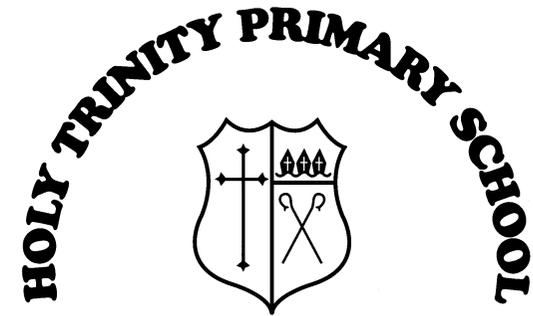
Talk to your child's teacher

Find out what maths your child is doing at school. Ask your child and his teacher if there is anything that he is finding very hard to understand. Use the homework diary, use this to 'talk' to the teacher every week about how your child is getting on.

I hope you find this guidance useful. If you have any concerns, comments or worries, please let us know. We are here to help!



Jon Smith
Headteacher



Helping your children with Maths!



**Help and Advice for
Parents and Carers...**

What can I do to help?

Use real objects with young children

Give young children under the age of eight real objects to count with. Anything that they can see, pick up and move around will be fine, for example, pieces of pasta or buttons. Having real objects helps young children to think. Sometimes older children can also be helped in this way.

Share the maths around you at home

Think about things you do at home that include maths, although this may not be obvious at first. Then include your child in these. Talk about what you're doing. Ask your child to explain what he is doing in the following situations, for example.

When cooking

- Work out how many minutes are needed to cook different parts of a meal. Add them up.
- Count out and weigh ingredients. This helps your child with volume and weights. Say what you think something might weigh before you weigh it, and check how close you were. This helps your child with estimating.
- Talk about the different temperatures that food cooks at. With young children there are lots of opportunities to practise using words such as 'more than', 'less than', 'how many', 'how long', 'how much' etc.
- Count out how many plates, knives and forks are needed with young children.
- Share biscuits, slices of cake, etc. 'fairly'. This will help your child with early work on division, multiplication and fractions.

When shopping

- Younger children can count items in and out of the basket or trolley. Ask them to name some of the shapes they see.
- Ask older children to keep a running total of what you are spending on a certain part of your shopping, for example, tins and packets.

- Look at the prices on the shelves. Ask questions such as 'Which is the most expensive...?' 'How much money could we save if we bought this cereal instead of that one?' 'How much more expensive is this one than that one?'
- Work out the change needed.

When doing DIY jobs

- Measure lengths, heights and widths together. Younger children can practise using the language 'longer than' and 'shorter than'.
- Write a list of everything that's needed and estimate the costs. When you buy the items, talk about the difference between your estimates and the prices.
- Older children can try working out the area of a wall to be painted by multiplying the height of the wall by its length.

When going on an outing or journey

Work out the time you need to leave the house to catch the right bus or train. Read the timetables together. Work out the costs of the fares and help your child to buy the tickets.

If you are going to have a packed lunch, plan it together. Talk about how many slices of bread, how many quarters of sandwiches, etc.

If travelling in a car, ask your child which way you should go as you approach signs for roundabouts. With young children talk about left and right. Older children can use the map to work out the direction in which you're travelling. Look for number plates that have odd and even numbers on them and ask your child to compare petrol prices as you pass different garages.

