

Sissinghurst Primary School Mathematics Newsletter

November 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the first termly Mathematics Newsletter where we hope to let you know what we are doing in school to develop the teaching of mathematics. At Sissinghurst, we are committed to nurturing your child's mathematical development, and we're excited to share the latest updates on how we are working to enhance our mathematics curriculum.

Collaboration with Jason Horne from Maths Hubs

In our pursuit of providing an outstanding mathematics education, we have embarked on a journey of collaboration with Jason Horne, from Kent and Medway Maths Hubs. Jason's expertise in primary school mathematics has been invaluable in helping us elevate the quality of education we provide.

Together with Jason, our staff has been diligently examining and refining mathematics lessons across all year groups. Jason and I have visited each class to look at the mathematics learning and talk to the teachers. We then met with several teachers across both key stages to discuss a lesson in detail and find out how it was planned, and how the learning will be developed. Our collective aim is to improve the progression of our students within the subject and maximize our use of manipulatives to make mathematics both enjoyable and understandable.

The Power of Manipulatives

Manipulatives are physical tools that help students understand and visualise mathematical concepts. These hands-on tools are key to making maths engaging and accessible to all students, and they play an essential role in our teaching approach.

Tens Frames and Subitising

One manipulative that we have highlighted within school recently is the 'Tens Frame.' A Tens Frame is a grid with ten slots designed to facilitate subitising. Subitising is the ability to quickly recognize the quantity of a small group of objects without counting them one by one. This skill is foundational for building a strong mathematical understanding. For a brief over view on how to use a tens frame and what they are for, you may wish to look at the following short video: [Teacher Math Lesson: Ten Frames Introduction - YouTube](#)

Practical Applications

Here are some ways Tens Frames and subitising are integrated into our lessons:

1. Rapid Recognition: By presenting students with various Tens Frame arrangements, we help them develop the ability to recognize quantities without the need for counting.

2. Addition and Subtraction: Tens Frames are incredibly effective in illustrating addition and subtraction problems. They provide a visual aid for students to grasp these fundamental operations.
3. Place Value Understanding: Tens Frames aid in comprehending place value, a critical concept for understanding multi-digit numbers.

Ways to help at home

We believe in the power of a strong partnership between the school and parents in promoting your child's mathematical growth. To this end, we encourage you to support your child in the following ways. For Key Stage 1 pupils, a priority is becoming more familiar with number bonds facts. In school, we have carried out number bond checks with all children in Year 2 and your child's teacher will be able to let you know if your child is on track or needs a little more practice at these skills. All children in Years 1 and 2 should have a NumBots login and should be practising the games on this site at least three times per week.

In Key Stage 2, a priority is recall of times tables. The curriculum demands that all pupils should know all times tables facts to 12x12 by the end of Year 4. Again, this term we have carried out a times tables check with all children in Years 3-5; your class teacher will be able to let you know if your child needs additional support in this area. We recommend pupils use Times Tables Rockstars at home at least three times per week to keep their skills fresh.

Starting this term, we are excited to announce that we will be organizing Times Tables Rockstars competitions, led by our House Captains. This fun and engaging platform will not only help your child become more confident with their times tables but also encourage healthy competition and teamwork within our school community.

Friday 17th November is World Multiplication Tables Day and we will be using this to begin our new Rockstars competition; join in at home on this day by having a look at some of the Rocking and Rolling resources available through this site: [Rocking and Rolling Numbers – Rolling numbers with a rock star twist](#)

We look forward to these exciting developments in our mathematics program and invite you to reach out if you have any questions or require more information about our initiatives.

Thank you for your continued trust and support as we embark on this educational journey. Together, we can help your child thrive in mathematics and develop the critical skills needed for a bright future.

Peter Boyles

Mathematics Lead