

## How to help your child at home with Maths

**One of the best things you can do with your children is talk to them about maths. Sometimes it is even more important that you listen and let them explain what they are doing and why.**



In **EYFS and Key Stage 1** children often draw pictures and diagrams to help them to understand their workings. A lot of emphasis is placed on asking the children to explain how they work things out; how they arrived at a particular answer.

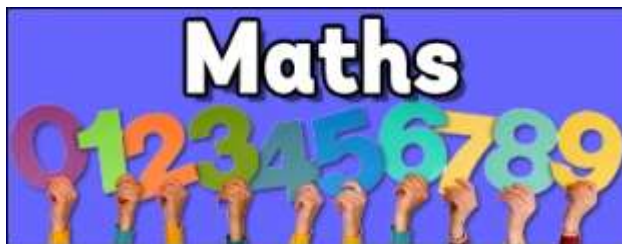
We acknowledge the children's' ability to use different approaches to the same sum, for example, when adding 18 and 9 some children will count on from 18 where as others may add on 10 then take away 1.

In the **Key Stage 2** years the children will do more work with written sums. If you don't recognise these methods please don't insist that your child carry out calculations in the way that you do them. There are often several different ways of calculating and each child will find the method that he/she feels most comfortable with and leads to a consistent level of accuracy. **(Please refer to our calculation policy that you can find on our school's website).**

## Tips to help your child be more confident about maths?

Make maths fun and play games together.

- Encourage children to have a go.
- Praise achievements, however small, in order to build confidence and competence.
- Encourage children to talk about how they work things out.
- Remember that asking questions is as important as finding answers.
- Work together for short sessions (little and often).
- Stop as soon as either of you has had enough!
- Play with numbers to develop a range of mental calculation strategies.
- Discuss maths in the media: looking at how graphs and numbers are used in the news etc.
- Use the internet for exploration of all things mathematical.



# Hollydale Primary School

## Maths Information



Information to help parents understand how we teach Mathematics at Hollydale.

## How we set and monitor Maths Homework.

On Friday teachers will set up **Mathletics** homework for each child. (Mathletics is a programme designed to motivate children and to support them in learning key skills as well as supporting speed and accuracy for mental maths activities.) <http://uk.mathletics.com/>

Homework set on Mathletics will be linked to learning being undertaken in class that week, and teachers will monitor weekly that the tasks set on Mathletics have been completed by each child.

Children may be given other 'home challenges' on Friday, linked to the numeracy learning from that week.

To improve children's fluency in reciting their Times Tables we subscribe to an online programme **Times Tables Rock Stars**.

<https://ttrockstars.com/>

Please check that your child has their Mathletics's and Times Tables Rock Stars cards, with login details in their homework book or reading record.

Parents should encourage their child to use those websites as often as possible.

### Useful websites

[www.coolmath.com](http://www.coolmath.com)

[www.primarygamesarena.com](http://www.primarygamesarena.com)

[www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/maths](http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/maths)

[www.mathszone.co.uk](http://www.mathszone.co.uk)

## What is progress in mathematics all about?

At all levels, **learning maths is about solving problems using key processes** such as:

- looking for patterns and relationships between numbers
- making sense of and checking information
- communicating and presenting maths using words and diagrams, eg: graphs and symbols
- reasoning and developing mathematical arguments.

Progression in maths involves using and applying these processes and skills in mathematics lessons across **the whole school curriculum and in everyday life**. To do this children need to understand key elements such as number, geometry, measures and statistics.

As a mathematical problem-solver, your child should learn and use skills such as:

- sorting
- ordering
- grouping
- measuring
- calculating
- comparing
- manipulating, organising and interpreting information

## Maths in everyday life!

Maths is an imaginative, creative way of thinking which is part of everyday living. Children learn maths best through tasks where they have to make choices in order to solve a problem or a puzzle. It helps them to practise skills, ideally in an enjoyable and engaging way, supporting the development of understanding as well as their confidence and competence. During their time at Hollydale, children will be encouraged to see mathematics as both a written and spoken language. Teachers will support and guide children through the following important stages:

- developing the use of pictures and a mixture of words and symbols to represent numerical activities;
- using standard symbols and conventions;
- use of pencil and paper procedures;
- use of a calculator.

At Hollydale Primary School we believe that it is important for all children to be confident in both their understanding and application of mathematical knowledge. In order to help develop children's fluency in Mathematics, they are asked to learn key number facts which they should be able to recall instantly.