

MATHS IN THE PRIMARY SCHOOL

2018 -2019

- Curriculum & assessment
 - An introduction to using 'Mastery'
 - Reporting to parents
 - Helping your child at home
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WHAT IS MASTERY AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

The National Curriculum was reviewed by the Government between 2010 and 2013; many high performing countries across the world were studied. The results found a common theme among them, that primary school age children studied fewer things but in greater depth.

Children secured deep learning in central concepts and ideas. As a result of these findings, assessment will now focus on whether children have understood key concepts within their year group expectations.

These changes to assessment are about the concept of 'mastery', which means gaining a depth of learning and applying it in different contexts and not moving on to a new concept or the next year group's expectations without gaining a deeper understanding.

Concrete, pictorial, abstract (CPA) is an approach to teaching that develops a deep understanding of maths in pupils.



REPORTING TO PARENTS:

Your child will be assessed in Mathematics as needing support (S) working towards (W), meeting (M) or exceeding expectations (E) for their current year group. This is what will be reported to you as parents.

During parent consultation evenings, you will be told whether your child is on track to meet these year group expectations or to exceed them. If they are exceeding them then your child will be applying and using their knowledge in new contexts through depth and mastery learning. If they are not on track, discussions will take place as to the steps we, as a school, and yourselves as parents, can take to help them meet their age related expectations.

HELPING YOUR CHILD AT HOME

- ✓ Use objects at home to help children understand difficult concepts
- ✓ Talk to them about the methods they have been learning in school.

Help! I don't know the answer to my child's Maths problem...

- ✓ Read through the problem with your child. Discuss what the question is asking you to figure out and ensure you both understand it. Approach the problem as something to work at and solve together, whilst encouraging your child to talk through how/what they've been taught at school. Always value the effort your child has put in over whether they get the question 'right'.

MATHS LEARNING CAN HAPPEN ANYWHERE!

Maths is all around us and problem solving is at the heart of the mastery approach. Look for Maths problems you can solve together, making connections between what your child has been learning at school and the world around them.

- Follow a recipe: work together to find out the quantities needed, ask your child to weigh the ingredients, discuss how you'd halve or double the recipe and discuss the ratio of ingredients.
- Talk about the weather forecast: is today's temperature higher or lower than yesterday's? What do the numbers mean?

- Going shopping: talk about the cost of items and how the cost changes if you buy two items instead of one. Let your child count out the coins when paying and discuss the change you get back. Use coins to explore addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.
- Planning an outing: discuss how long it takes to get to the park, and so work out what time you need to leave the house. Encourage your child to work out the best solution based on the time and distances. Discuss what shapes you see when you get there.