

Early Mathematics

A good understanding of number and the language of number is essential to help children make progress with maths learning.

In school in Foundation Stage, we follow the EYFS Statutory Framework 2021 for maths. In both nursery and reception classes, the adult's role is key when responding to the children's learning and their mathematical thinking to allow them to develop their reasoning skills. Maths is taught every day across the week through focussed adult-led tasks and through informal interactions with children during Child Initiated Play (CIP). CIP time provides many opportunities for children to consolidate their mathematical thinking, knowledge and understanding. The wide variety of resources available to children ensures a broad experience from counting and pattern making to measuring.

Our maths teaching is structured by following the Herts for Learning Publication 'Essential Foundations for Counting' programme in nursery, which focuses on pre-counting skills. In reception, the children follow the 'Herts Essential Maths' programme, this builds on the work in the nursery and helps children explore a range of maths concepts in a range of contexts.

What you can do to support your child at home:

Above all make maths fun; spending time with your child playing board games, doing puzzles and counting objects - think about just laying the table! Play hide and seek with a teddy and use the language of position, up, down, on top, next to, behind and in front. Talk to your child about the days of the week and months of the year.



Look for numbers everywhere!

Help children explore numbers with you; show them the numbers in your bills, use money with them, look for 2d and 3d shapes around the house and garden. Get them to help you measure to put up a shelf or to help you work out how long a journey might take. Playing with containers in the bath can help children with concepts such as capacity.

Cooking and sharing (dividing) food are great ways to help your child develop an understanding of capacity, division and time.

Above all, keep counting and looking at numbers around you. Talk to them about what they can see and what they are thinking. The more children are encouraged to explain their thinking and explore and experiment with numbers, the deeper their understanding.