



**Literacy and Numeracy Notes to  
accompany the Passport**

## Literacy Challenges

### Literacy challenge 1 - spelling - learn five words

Some people find spelling difficult; the only way to get better is a lot of practice. Try to learn these five words and complete spelling tests on these five words at home. Repeat the spelling tests until you are confident that the spelling of all 5 is accurate all the time. Try and use them in your school work.

- Library
- Decide
- Similar
- Thought
- Believe

There are different ways to learn spellings. Try these methods out and see which works best for you:

- (a) Mnemonics: a memory technique to learn a spelling pattern. For example, 'business people *bus in* to work'.
- (b) Acronyms: treat the spelling as a word formed from the initial letters of other words: Never Eat Cress Eat Salad Sandwiches And Remain Young (necessary).
- (c) Rote learning: spelling out the word aloud over and over again until you have firmly remembered it.
- (d) Visual recognition: writing the word out over and over until you are sure that you know what it 'looks like'.
- (e) Phonetic pronunciation: saying the word, aloud initially, in the way that is spelt: sep-a-rate.

How many spelling tests have you completed? \_\_\_\_\_

What was your score /5 in the last test? \_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature:

Student signature:

## Literacy challenge 2 - reading - read twice a week

Reading makes such a difference to your academic outcomes. Often students claim they don't have time to read. If you have time to play computer games, then you have time to read. Use the library to borrow books - if you don't like a book you can just take it back and get a different one with no cost!

Start reading for twice a week, for about 20-30 minutes at a time. You could read with your child but if they insist on reading independently then they should expect you to talk to them about their reading afterwards.

These are some questions and question stems you could use to discuss their reading:

- Can you summarise what has happened so far?
- Who is the main character? How do you feel about the main character and why? (like, dislike, ambivalent)
- What is the setting for this book? What was the world like at this time?
- What you would predict for later on in the book?
- Were there any words that you haven't come across before?
- Which is your favourite line in chapter.....?
- Do you like this book? Why/why not? (if the answer is, "It's boring!" probe why and if they were writing it, what would they change to make it more engaging?)
- What do you think the writer was trying to say to readers/make readers think and feel?
- How do you think/feel about.....?

What book(s) have you been reading? \_\_\_\_\_

How often are you now reading? \_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature:

Student signature:

### Literacy challenge 3 - writing - write a short story

Writing is such a crucial life skill. The sooner you master the key ideas about writing, the easier you will find your GCSE exams.

Try writing a Halloween horror story. Keep the plot simple: beginning, middle and end.

If you are really stuck for an idea use this:

- Beginning - A group of children set off to trick or treat
- Middle - A ghoulish creature (witch, skeleton etc.) appears and chases them
- End - The children reach one of their houses and creature seems to have disappeared

Read your child's story with them and talk about the following things:

- Could there be any better description in places - the weather is always a good thing to describe
- Are there any spellings that need to be double checked on the dictionary app on the ipads?
- Are there any sentences that don't quite make sense?
- Is punctuation used accurately?

Did you write a story? \_\_\_\_\_

Did you share it with your parents? \_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature:

Student signature:

#### Literacy challenge 4 – writing – using complex sentences and commas

It is important to try and use more advanced sentences.

The simplest way to write a complex sentence is to make sure you use one of these words/phrases in your sentence: even though; who, while, after, despite, nevertheless, as, unless, which. There are other words that can help you make a complex sentence but this should be enough to complete the challenge.

Write 10 complex sentences with commas in the correct places.

If you are unsure about commas, read this and look at the examples:

Commas are also used to separate clauses in a complex sentence, or to separate off additional information.

For example, if we take the simple sentence 'The cat sat on the mat', we could extend it using commas and additional clauses or additional information.

The cat, **who was fat and fluffy**, sat on the mat.

The cat sat on the mat, **plotting against the neighbour's dog**.

The cat, **Felix Whiskerington**, sat on the mat.

The cat sat on the mat, **which was surprising as he normally preferred to sit on the bed**.

Did you write out 10 complex sentences and try to use commas? \_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature:

Student signature:

### **Literacy challenge 5 - writing - about you and your life**

The thing that some people most enjoy about writing is the chance to 'get things off their chest'. Diary writing has always been a popular form and one of the most well-known diaries is Anne Frank's. It is a great book to read.

For this challenge you don't have to show your parents the details in the diary. You just need to quickly flick through your work with them so they can see you are doing it. It is fine if your diary has things that you wish you had done today or what you'd like to do in the future - it is about what you are thinking in your head.

Keep a diary and try to write in it at least once a week.

Have you kept a diary? \_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature:

Student signature:

## Numeracy challenge 1 – Play a game with Mathematics

Playing games are a fantastic way to enjoy mathematics. Most board and card games involve a lot of logical thinking and problem solving skills. These are fantastic tools for your numeracy skills.

For this challenge pick at least one of the options below.

- 1) Play a board game. Monopoly is fantastic for practising mental arithmetic skills and for analysing your budget and what you can afford to purchase. PLYT- this is a new numeracy game which is sold on Amazon. It has been recommended by the National Numeracy. We have a couple of boxes of this at school so you can borrow one to play at home or during lunchtime/ after school KS3 drop in session with your friends (see Mrs Dupasquier).
- 2) Make your own board game with clear rules and play with your family or friends.
- 3) Play an interactive game on your iPad. Below are links to a couple of Maths games but there are many about.

<http://mrnussbaum.com/dolphins/>

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/maths/shape\\_space/angles/play/popup.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/maths/shape_space/angles/play/popup.shtml)

### 4) Create a Magic Square

Magic squares are amazing things. If you aren't sure what a magic square is, it's a square grid of numbers containing all the numbers 1, 2, 3 and so on, each one exactly once. What's more, each row, column and diagonal of a magic square must add up to **the same number**! An example is shown here :

2	7	12	13
16	9	6	3
5	4	15	10
11	14	1	8

Notice the sum of the rows are all the same :

- $2 + 7 + 12 + 13 = 34$
- $16 + 9 + 6 + 3 = 34$
- $5 + 4 + 15 + 10 = 34$  as well, and
- $11 + 14 + 1 + 8 = 34!!$

Also, the two diagonals each add up to 34 :

- $2 + 9 + 15 + 8 = 34!$
- $11 + 4 + 6 + 13 = 34$  again!!

As do the four columns!

- $2 + 16 + 5 + 11 = 34,$
- $7 + 9 + 4 + 14 = 34,$
- $12 + 6 + 15 + 1 = 34,$  and
- $13 + 3 + 10 + 8 = 34!$

This number 34 is called the Magic Number of the magic square.

The link below gives you instructions on creating your own magic square

<http://www.dr-mikes-math-games-for-kids.com/magic-square-puzzles.html>

## Numeracy challenge 2 - Tracking Time

We are constantly using our numeracy skills when looking at time. How long til hometime? When do we need to leave to get to school on time? How long will it take to drive destination? The following challenges all involve calculating with time. You can use a calculator for these challenges. The key is break down the problem into smaller steps, you may need to make assumptions.

Choose at least 2 of the following challenges.

- 1) How long do you spend in a year brushing your teeth?
- 2) Plan a day out using public transport as your method of travel. Look at timetables to construct the day's itinerary.
- 3) How much time do you spend in lessons over a year? Remember not to count weekends and holidays.
- 4) On a digital clock showing 24-hour time, over a whole day, how many times does a 5 appear? Is it the same number for a 12 hour clock over a whole day?
- 5) How many minutes is there until Christmas Day 6am?
- 6) On a digital 24 hour clock, at certain times, all the digits are consecutive (in counting order). You can count forwards or backwards. For example 1:23 or 5:43. How many times like this are there between midnight and 7:00? How many are there between 7:00 and midday? How many are there between midday and midnight?



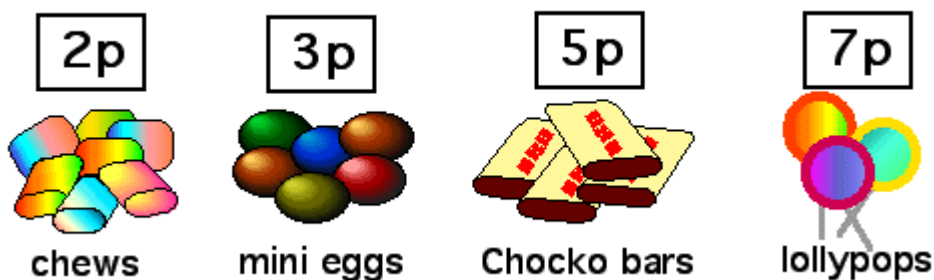
### Numeracy challenge 3 – Solving problems with money

Money is a key part of our everyday life and learning to feel confident in solving problems with money is a valuable tool for your future.

Choose at least two of the challenges below.

- 1) At the shops estimate the total cost of what you are buying.
- 2) Find an offer at the supermarket and work out how much you save.
- 3) If you have a mobile phone, Look for the best plans; Does your network sell any extras that would make texts or calls cheaper? Is it cheaper to text or use Skype, Snapchat or WhatsApp?
- 4) Solve a problem: Josie has these coins in her purse: £1, £1, 20p, 20p. She spends half of her money on a comic, and also she gives 20p to her sister. How much does she have left?
- 5) Solve the puzzling sweetshop problem below

Puzzling sweetshop: Rosie went into the sweet shop with 10p to spend. There were chews for 2p, mini eggs for 3p, Chocko bars for 5p and lollypops for 7p.



What could she buy if she wanted to spend all her money?

Alice, James, Katie and Henry went into the shop too. They each had 20p to spend and they all spent all of their money.

Alice bought at least one of each kind of sweet. Which one did she have two of?

James spent his money on just one kind of sweet, but he does not like chews. Which sweets did he buy?

Katie bought the same number of sweets as James but she had 3 different kinds. Which sweets did she buy?

Henry chose 8 sweets. What could he have bought?







### Numeracy challenge 3 - Measurement challenge


Many jobs require the skill of accurately measuring - builders, carpenters, decorators, chef etc. It is a part of everyday life when cooking a meal or doing Do-It-Yourself jobs around the house.

Choose at least one of the challenges below.

- 1) For the muffin recipe how much of each ingredient do you need to make 18 muffins?



1.

 225 g	 1 tsp	 50 g
Self-raising Flour	Baking Powder	Brown Sugar
 175 ml	 75 g	 1 Egg
Milk	Butter (melted)	


 Mix in a bowl until there are no lumps.

- 2) Make the muffins, measuring out all the ingredients carefully.

2.

 200 g Fruit (chopped)	 Mix in the fruit. Spoon into tins.
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3. Bake at 200 °C for 15–20 minutes or until golden brown.



- 3) Measure the key pieces of furniture and mark in all the measurements in a plan of your room.
- 4) Draw a model sketch of your bedroom.
- 5) Can you estimate how tall your home is? What information would help you?
- 6) Find out how many miles it is between your home and school? How long does it take to get there?

## Numeracy Challenge 5 – practise your timestables

The more confident you are with your timestables the easier every aspect of Maths is as you can work out any multiplication problem using your timestables skills. The key is to practise these skills regularly

Choose at least two challenges below.

1. Play TT Rockstars – how much money can you bank?
2. Loud numbers: For this activity, you'll need to work with a partner, so the first thing to do is find a friend!

Together count from 1 up to 20, clapping on each number, but clapping more loudly and speaking loudly on the numbers in the two times table, and quietly on the other numbers.

Now clap the five times table together up to about 30, so this time you are clapping more loudly and speaking loudly on the multiples of five and quietly on the others.

If one of you claps the twos in this way and one of you claps the fives, at the same time, can you predict what you would hear?

Which numbers would be quiet?

Which numbers would be fairly loud and which would be very loud?

Now try it - what did you hear?

Were you right?

Choose another pair of tables and repeat what you have just done.

How about the twos and tens?

Why not try the fives and tens?

Each time predict what you will hear before you clap - which numbers will be loud, which fairly loud and which quiet?

3. **Play Fuzz Buzz**

Count to 100. Every time you get to a number that's divisible by seven (7, 14, 21) or that has a seven in it (17), say "Buzz", instead of the number.

To make it even harder say "Fuzz" for every number with a three or that's divisible by three. If you make a mistake it's the next person's turn. The first to get to 100 wins.