

Supporting your child's learning in... Mathematics

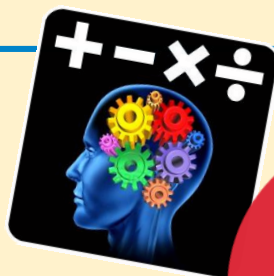
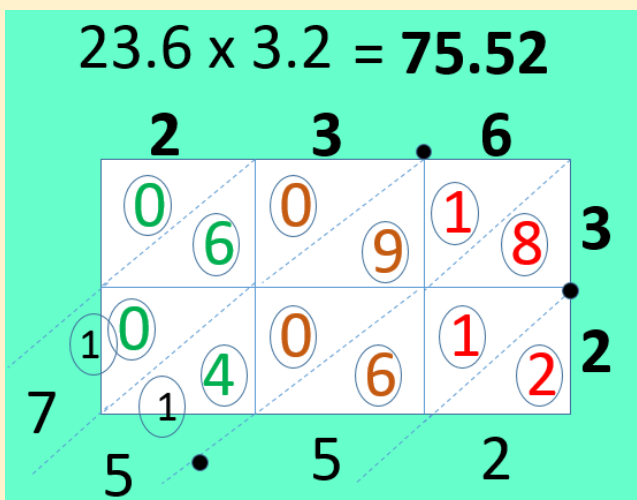
Welcome to the second "Supporting your child's learning in..." supplement. This fortnight we will be looking at mathematics.

Practise, practise, practise! The best way to improve in Mathematics is to practise the skills, the more opportunities to use them the better they will be. Mental arithmetic is a key tool in Mathematics and confidence in this will help all areas of the subject. The other key tool to work on is how the communication of the solutions. It is vital students show every step of their working out and work through each step to check their final answer is correct. Ask your child to explain their answer and encourage them to set out each step carefully.

Mental Arithmetic

At all levels and years good mental arithmetic skills is an important tool and one that needs regular practise to feel confident in. It is important to have fun with Maths. It is often a subject that the mere mention makes me people wince but it's important to realise you can have fun with the subject. Play games at home: card games, board games, scrabble, monopoly etc. There is new numeracy game which is now available: (<http://www.plyt.co.uk>). This is recommended from the Numeracy Mathematics Programme.

We use a uniform approach to multiplying called 'the lattice method'. Ask your child to show you how to do it! We have students who use this approach are far less likely to make errors in their calculations.



Everyday Maths

In exams students are required to apply their skills more and more to problems found in everyday life and this is to give them the skills they will need in the future. Look for opportunities where Maths is used every day and involve your child in breaking down a problem into smaller steps. Opportunities for this include:

In shops **look for offers and deals** and ask your child to look for the best offer - they may be surprised!

Planning a birthday party/event. If you are planning an event / meal / Christmas involve your child in planning it. **How much of each ingredient do you need? How do we ensure it stays in budget?**

Following a recipe, involve your child in cooking a meal/baking a cake. Students will need to look at the timings to ensure all components are ready at the same time. They will need to look at measurements and work out whether they have enough of every ingredient.

Going on Holiday? Involve your child in converting between currencies.

Time - ask them to work out how long before you need to leave to arrive somewhere on time. Encourage them to plan their time outside of school to help their organisation for homework.

Decorating/DIY? Involve your child in measuring and calculating areas and perimeters.



Homework

Homework is a key part of students' success in mathematics. Homework is given every lesson and forms part of the learning in the following lesson. The aim of these homework tasks is to either consolidate, extend or link to the next lesson. Students also keep an Action Plan which is in their exercise book, it contains Hegartymaths tasks for students to improve on skills assessed in their lessons. Hegartymaths is a fantastic resource which supports students' progress by allowing them to watch tutorials and try a variety of questions



Quick Maths Games

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.

PIG! – You will need one dice.

Players roll a standard dice as many times as they like and keep a running total BUT if they land on 1 they lose current score and record zero (which can easily be turned into a pig's face). This is called getting the PIG. Players can hold their current score by passing on the die to their opponents. An advanced version is to roll two dice and multiply the two numbers.

Happy numbers!

Maths teaching... has it changed?

Finally a lot of parents tell me that maths in schools has changed a lot over the last few years and although the content has not changed teaching styles and methods continue to evolve to give students the best opportunities to succeed. Rob Eastaway has written a very popular book which you may find helpful called Maths for Mums and Dads. The more positive you can be about Maths the more positive your child will be about Maths.

