



# ST JOHN'S C of E INFANT & NURSERY SCHOOL

## How To Help At Home With Maths

At St John's C of E Infant School we want to, **Encourage a growth mindset – *all children can achieve in mathematics!*** By doing this at home and at school, we can foster these beliefs as a community:

- Skill and ability can be increased over time.
- Instil a mindset that mistakes should be viewed as an opportunity to learn and develop.
- Perseverance – don't give up easily.

## Nursery and Reception

- Count - steps up the stairs, money into a money box, peas on their plate, anything you can touch or move!
- Sing songs and counting rhymes.
- Ask your child to say how many without counting (5 or fewer)
- Play games using dice/dominoes and encourage child to say how many spots without counting.
- Ask your child to set the table with enough knives, forks and plates for everyone.
- Spot numbers in the environment – on phones, microwaves, clocks, registration plates, doors.
- Ask your child to think of their own representations for numbers e.g. one of them, two hands, three bears, four wheels on a car, five toes, six sides on a dice, seven dwarves, eight legs on an octopus etc.
- Deliberately make mistakes. Children need to understand mistakes are normal and everyone makes them e.g. get mixed up when counting, muddle two numbers when ordering them. They love to spot this and correct adults!
- Go on a shape hunt at the park or while you're out and about. How many circles, squares, rectangles or triangles can your child find? Try getting your child to look for patterns.
- You can watch Numberblocks on Cbeebies. This programme is written by maths specialists to model maths concepts and represents number brilliantly. Also, Numberjacks is great for solving problems.
- Hide numbers around the house or garden for children to find.
- Play outdoor maths games like hopscotch and skittles. You can also, let your child make up their





# ST JOHN'S C of E INFANT & NURSERY SCHOOL

own games and decide how to score points.

- Read books with maths concepts eg Rosie's Walk, Fish Eyes: A Book You Can Count On, What's the time, Mr Wolf?
- You can use language such more/less, larger/smaller, wider/narrower, taller/shorter in everyday play.
- Ask questions such as "How many more?", "How many altogether?", "How many would I have if?"

## Useful links

- <https://nrich.maths.org/13372>
- <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/Search.aspx?Subject=16>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b08bzzns/numberblocks-series-1-one>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e0dJWfQHF8Y>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/nursery-rhymes-counting-songs/zn67kmn>

## Key Stage 1

- Sing number rhymes together—there are lots of commercial downloads and CDs available.
- Give your child the opportunity to count a range of interesting objects (coins, pasta, shapes, buttons etc.). Encourage them to touch and move each object as they count.
- Count things you cannot touch or see (more difficult!!). Try lights on the ceiling, window panes, jumps, claps or oranges in a bag.
- Play games that involve counting (e.g. snakes and ladders, dice games, games that involve counting objects).
- Look for numerals in the environment. You can spot the numerals at home, in the street or when out shopping.
- Why not make a mistake when chanting, counting or ordering numbers. Can your child spot what the mistake is?
- Pick a number of the week e.g. Practise counting to 5 and on from 5. Count out groups of 5 objects (5 dolls, 5 bricks, 5 pens). See how many places you can spot the numeral 5.
- Halve and doubling numbers, ordering random numbers, counting in 2s, 5s and 10s.
- Learning number bonds up to ten using your fingers. Give your child a number up to ten and ask your child to give you the different ways of making it e.g. 7 could be made by adding





# ST JOHN'S C of E INFANT & NURSERY SCHOOL

6 + 1 or 5 + 2 etc..

- You can throw two or more dice. Ask your child to find the total of the numbers (+) and the difference between (-). Can they do this in their heads?
- Use a set of playing cards. Turn over two (progressing to three or more) cards and ask your child to add or subtract them. If they answer correctly, they keep the cards. How many cards can they collect in two minutes?
- Play 'ping pong' to practise number bonds with your child. You say a number. They reply with how much more is needed to make 5, 10 and 20. Encourage your child to answer questions quickly, ***without counting or using their fingers.***
- Plan an outing during the holidays. Ask your child to think about what time you will need to set off and how much money you will need to take.
- You can use our county partners at Herts for Learning who also have a fantastic YouTube account with lots of fantastic games you can play. Follow the link below:
  - <https://www.youtube.com/c/HertsforLearningESSENTIALmaths/videos>

