



Mathematics – information for parents

Dear parents,

The educational programme in the Early Years Foundation Stage statutory framework states:

Developing a strong grounding in number is essential so that all children develop the necessary building blocks to excel mathematically. Children should be able to count confidently, develop a deep understanding of the numbers to 10, the relationships between them and the patterns within those numbers. By providing frequent and varied opportunities to build and apply this understanding - such as using manipulatives, including small pebbles and tens frames for organising counting - children will develop a secure base of knowledge and vocabulary from which mastery of mathematics is built. In addition, it is important that the curriculum includes rich opportunities for children to develop their spatial reasoning skills across all areas of mathematics including shape, space and measures. It is important that children develop positive attitudes and interests in mathematics, look for patterns and relationships, spot connections, 'have a go', talk to adults and peers about what they notice and not be afraid to make mistakes.

Mathematical development starts when your child notices you leave the room and they cry – or you take a toy away from them – their amazing brains can already recognise that something is missing. The main elements of our maths curriculum cover number, patterns and connections and spatial reasoning (shape, space and measures).

Counting by rote – saying a line of numbers – is only a very small part of number knowledge. In the setting, we teach your child to use numbers in real life, so they see practical applications for their learning. We sing number songs and rhymes, read number books, play with finding a total, learn maths vocabulary, learn about money in a role play shop, use a number to describe ourselves (I am 3) and much more.

Children learn about patterns and connections when they match numbers, pictures, objects etc and spot and make patterns. We sing songs and read books which help them to spot connections and patterns.

Spatial reasoning is huge – it helps your child to recognise shape, space, measure, size, weight, volume and much more. We have lots of resources to support your child and we will continue to share information which you can use at home.

If you have any questions about how we support your child's maths or if you have concerns about your child's progress, please ask. Thank you.