
Harold's Cross National School

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Dear Parents,

We are delighted to be able to provide you with this booklet which will hopefully assist you in helping your child with his/her maths homework. These are useful tips which you can try out during the daily routine outside of school. Please keep this book carefully in a safe place as you will need it right from Junior Infants up to Sixth Class. It may be added to from time to time and you will be asked to return it to us for this to happen.

We hope you have lots of fun with your children - maths should be an enjoyable experience for you and for your child.

Have fun!

B. Kehoe
Principal.

PARENTS AND MATHS

- There are many ways that you as parents can help your children and support the work being done in school. The following show how Maths is related to the child's everyday life and give examples of how you can become involved.
 - ***Singing Number Songs*** e.g. "1, 2 Buckle my Shoe", "10 Green Bottles", "1, 2, 3, 4, 5 once I caught a fish alive".
 - ***Sing along Number Facts*** (tables) can be made fun at home.
 - ***Skip Counting*** e.g. 4, 8, 12, 16, 20
 - ***Games*** – playing board games e.g. Jig saws, Bingo, Connect 4, Ludo, Snakes and Ladders, Chess, Draughts. Card Games involving counting, recognising number, following suit, picture sequence working out how many more is needed. These games are incredibly vital to the child's confidence.

Search Engines / Websites

- Using the Search Engine **Google**, enter **Parents and Maths** and you will find a good selection of useful sites.

OPPORTUNITIES TO USE MATHS

AT HOME	
At the Table Baking /Cooking Bed Time Bath Time	
At the Table	Baking/ Cooking
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How many people are there? ○ How many knives / forks / do we need? ○ Do we have enough / too many? ○ Matching cups to saucers. ○ Where do we put them (right / left)? ○ Where do the cups go (in front / behind)? ○ If more people came, how many extra would we need? ○ How many spoons altogether? ○ Cutting a cake – fractions / decimals / percentages. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Which is full / empty? ○ How many cupfuls / spoonfuls do we need? ○ Shapes of tins / plates. ○ Counting the ingredients. ○ How much flour do we need? ○ Weight and capacity – compare standard weights. ○ Hand weighing – which feels heavier / lighter? ○ More than / less than – do we need more potatoes for everyone? ○ Do we have enough potatoes for each person to have 2 potatoes?
Bed Time	Bath Time
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Toys – how many altogether / how many eyes / if one teddy has two eyes, how many would two teddies have? ○ Lets count the stairs as we go up to bed. ○ How do we put on our pyjamas – one leg first, then the other. ○ Sequence the day – what did we do today? ○ Time – what time did you get up / come home from school / go to bed ○ How long until you have to get up again? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sinking and floating. ○ Up and down – brushing our teeth / drying ourselves. ○ How far do you think the water goes when we splash? ○ Is the towel big / small / big enough? ○ How many towels do we need? ○ Full / empty bottles /tubes etc. ○ Capacity of shower gel / toothpaste / shampoo. What does it say on the bottle/tube? ○ How much water do you think the bath holds? ○ How many capfuls to fill the shampoo bottle? ○ Litres and millilitres

OUT AND ABOUT

***In the Car
At the Shops
In the Garden
On the Street***

<i>In the Car</i>	<i>At the Shops</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How many kilometres to the destination? ○ Destination time – we leave at 11.30am and the journey takes 3 hours. What time should we arrive? ○ Signposts – keeping tally of distance travelled. ○ Petrol – cost per litre. ○ Value for money – compare petrol prices. ○ Capacity of fuel tank. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Do we need a big / small box of cereal? ○ What shelf are they on – top / middle / bottom? ○ How many bananas do we have? ○ 6 Apples for €2.40 – how much each? ○ What can I buy for 50c? ○ Weight / capacity of items. ○ Estimate how many items are in the trolley. ○ Keeping a running tally of costs as items are put in – estimate total. ○ Change: total cost = €75 – how much change will I get from €80 / €100?

<i>In the Garden</i>	<i>On the Street</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How many flowers / trees can you see? ○ Let us count the flowers on a shrub. ○ How long do you think it would take to run from here to there? Let us try it. ○ What shapes can you see – flowerbeds / shed etc. ○ Is there enough room on the swing for two of us? ○ Length / area of the garden – estimate and then step / measure. ○ How tall do you think the tree is? How could we work it out? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How many doors / windows can you count? ○ What shapes can you see? ○ If each house has four windows – how many could we see on the street? ○ How many steps from one end to the other? Count together or estimate. ○ How wide do you think the path is? ○ How many people could stand from here to the lamppost? ○ Reading dates / times from posters / advertisements – how long would the concert last? How much would tickets for two people cost? ○ How tall are the buildings? ○ Reading the telephone numbers in a telephone box – what is the biggest / smallest number?

LANGUAGE OF MATHEMATICS

Try to use these words and phrases in everyday conversation with your child

<i>Language of Size</i>	<i>Language of Space</i>	<i>Language of Temperature</i>	<i>Language of Weight</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Big – small ○ Big – little ○ Tall – small ○ Large – small ○ Tall – short ○ Wide – narrow ○ Taller - shorter ○ More - less ○ Long /est ○ Short /er/est ○ Same /different 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Over – under ○ Up – down ○ Above – below ○ Left – right ○ In – out ○ Front – back ○ High – low ○ Around ... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hot – cold ○ Warm - frozen ○ Boiling - icy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Light – heavy ○ Lighter – heavier ○ Lightest – heaviest ○ Equal – weigh ○ Float – sink

<i>Language of Capacity</i>	<i>Language of Shape</i>	<i>Language of Time</i>	<i>Language of Quantity</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Full - empty ○ Half full ○ Holds more - less ○ Floats - sink ○ Nearly full ○ Holds the same as ○ Pours ○ Spills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Round - circle ○ Square ○ Rectangle ○ Triangle ○ Sides ○ Corners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Early - late ○ Soon - yet ○ Yesterday - today ○ Tomorrow ○ Mealtime ○ Day time ○ Bedtime ○ Evening - morning ○ Night - day ○ O'clock ○ Days of the week ○ Months ○ Year ○ Christmas ○ Birthday ○ Old - young 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Most - fewest ○ Same - different ○ Equal ○ Few - many ○ Enough - too few ○ Many - a lot ○ Some ○ Not much ○ A little ○ Greater than ○ Less than ○ Pairs ○ Number