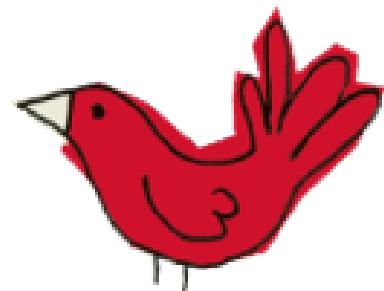
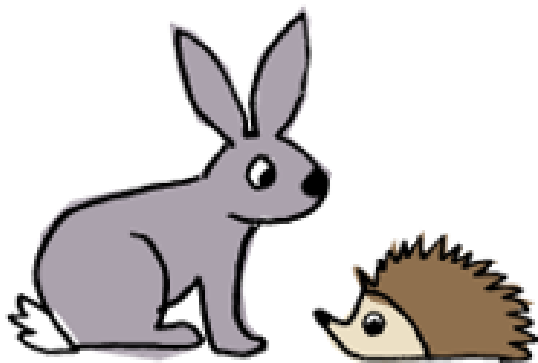




Prior Park Schools
**THE PARAGON
SCHOOL**

How can I help
my child with
mathematics in
Reception?



At The Paragon, we make Maths come alive by showing how important it is in everyday life - a vital tool in working out how long it's going to take to save up for that new computer game or measuring the ingredients for a chocolate cake.

We strive to develop a positive attitude to Mathematics as an interesting and purposeful subject in which all children can gain a degree of success and pleasure.

“We need to help learners shift from thinking ‘I can’t do this’ to ‘I can’t do this yet’; to encourage, in all learners, a ‘can do’ attitude. Developing an ‘I can’t do this yet’ disposition means being comfortable with getting stuck on some mathematics.” - Mike Askew

An important role of any parent is to support this positive attitude towards Maths. In this way, pupils at The Paragon can develop a secure understanding of Mathematical concepts and processes, combined with a genuine procedural fluency and joy in the subject.

Always begin by asking your child what they already know. It is important that children are learning with consistency whether at home or in school. If you are unsure of how to best support your child’s understanding of a mathematical concept, class teachers are more than willing to answer any questions.

Counting on

Begin by exploring physical resources, counting sets and then combining two sets.

Count on in 1s, putting the number 'in our pocket' and using our fingers to count on.
e.g. $8 + 3$ as '8 in our pocket, 9, 10, 11'

Record addition as a number sentence:

$$8+3=11$$

Multiplication



Taking away

Begin by exploring physical resources, counting sets and then taking some away. How many are left?

Count back in 1s putting the number 'in our pocket' and using our fingers to count back.

e.g. $11 - 3$ as '11 in our pocket, 10, 9, 8'

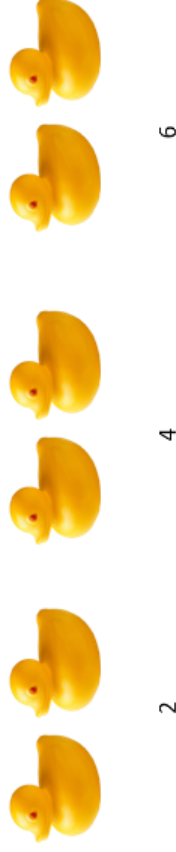
Record subtraction as a number sentence:

$$11-3=8$$



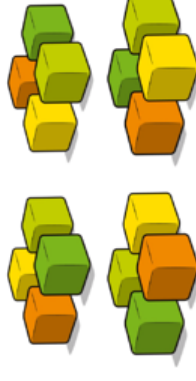
Clever Counting

Begin to use visual and concrete resources to 'clever count', counting in 2s, 5s and 10s. Exploring this with 'groups of' objects.



Sharing

Begin to use visual and concrete objects to share. Begin by exploring 'half' as sharing between two. Explore odd and even numbers.



Division

Props Around Your Home

Ideas taken from Maths for Mums and Dads Eastaway, R. and Askew, M. (2010)

- A prominent clock- Place it somewhere where you can talk about the time each day.
- A traditional wall calendar-Calendar help with counting days, spotting number patterns and
- Board games that involve dice or spinners-helps with counting on and exploring difference.
- A pack of playing cards- Card games can be adapted in many ways to learn about number bonds, chance, adding and subtracting
- Measuring Jug-Your child will use them in school but seeing them used in real life is invaluable.
- Dried beans, Macaroni, Smarties or other small manipulates- for counting and estimating
- A tape measure and a ruler- Let your child help when measuring up for furniture, curtains etc
- A large bar of chocolate (one divided into chunks)- a great motivator for sharing (division) work!
- Fridge magnets with numbers on- can be used for a little practice of written methods
- Unusual dice- not all dice have faces 1-6, hexagonal dice, coloured dice, dice from board games all make talking about chance a little more interesting
- A dartboard with Velcro darts- Helps with doubling, adding and subtracting.

By the end of Reception most children will be able to:

Numbers: Count reliably with numbers from one to 20, place them in order and say which number is one more or one less than a given number. Using quantities and objects, they add and subtract two single-digit numbers and count on or back to find the answer. They solve problems, including doubling, halving and sharing.

Shape, space and measures: Use everyday language to talk about size, weight, capacity, position, distance, time and money to compare quantities and objects and to solve problems. They recognise, create and describe patterns. They explore characteristics of everyday objects and shapes and use mathematical language to describe them.

In school, we use Ten Town, a scheme designed to improve number recognition and formation. Do make sure to keep an eye on the Bulletin for other details of our weekly learning.