



West Moors Middle School

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Dear Parents

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I am writing to let you know about how you can support your child with their learning in mathematics and specifically developing their numeracy at home. **Helping your child feel confident about maths now, gives them a head start.**

Numeracy means understanding how maths is used in the real world and being able to apply it to make the best possible decisions. It's as much about thinking and reasoning as about 'doing sums'. It means being able to: interpret data, charts, and diagrams; process information; solve problems; check answers; understand and explain solutions; and make decisions based on logical thinking and reasoning.

It is essential that every child has the opportunity and support at home to develop high levels of numeracy to enable them to make the best progress they can with their learning in Mathematics.

### How you can help your child with their learning in Numeracy and Maths at home:

1. **Be positive about maths.** Try not to say things like "I can't do maths" or "I hated maths at school" – your child may start to think like that themselves. Instead talk about how useful maths is and why we need it. Parents and students having a positive attitude towards their learning in Maths does make a difference in improving student confidence and outcomes in Maths.
2. **Point out the maths in everyday life.** Include your child in activities involving numbers and measuring, such as shopping, cooking, and travelling. Talk about telling the time, for example encouraging them to work out how many minutes are left until dinner or their favourite programme on the television. When you're in a shop, help them to work out how much the items you are buying are, and how much change you should get when you pay.
3. **Praise your child for effort** rather than for being "clever". This shows them that by working hard, they can always improve. Encouraging them to keep trying. Our abilities are not fixed: we are not born good or bad at maths and we can get better by being brave and working hard.

Teaching methods today are often different to the way that you may have learnt when you were at school. Sometimes this can hold parents and carers back from helping their children with maths. They worry that they will confuse their child or that they won't know how to answer a question. But even if you don't know the newer methods, you can still support your child with maths. If you don't know the methods your child is using you could try:

- Asking your child to explain their method – get them to teach it to you.
- Explaining that with maths there is often more than one way to solve a problem. Show each other how you do it – and remember, neither of you is wrong!
- Asking your child's teacher if they can share an explanation of the methods with you.



Head Teacher: Dr D Craddock PhD MA BSc (Hons) NPQH



Whatever the method, remember that being positive about maths is just as important in supporting your child's learning! Make sure you talk positively about maths and how you use it in real life – this will help your child stick with it.

### **Times Tables:**

Your child should be confident and proficient with their multiplication tables. This is essential to enable them to utilise their working memory for learning and practising new or more complicated mathematical concepts, rather than having to think too hard about standard multiplication/division calculations. All children should fluently know their times tables up to at least the 12 times tables and be able to correctly answer every calculation within 6 seconds without using their fingers, a calculator, or a multiplication square.

Ask your child how confident they feel with their times tables. If your child needs further practice to increase their competence with their times tables then this is something you can help them with at home, even just spending 10 minutes a day testing them and helping them become secure will make a massive difference!!

Every student at West Moors Middle School has a log-in for [Times Tables Rock Stars](#). They can practise specific times tables they find difficult and play games designed to help them learn and consolidate all their times tables. [MyMaths](#) also has timetables booster questions and worksheets. Students will be given their log-in details for Times Tables Rock Stars and MyMaths at the start of term and should ensure these are written in their Planners so they can log-in independently at school and at home.

### **Helpful Maths Websites:**

Here is a list of other useful free websites for consolidation of classwork:

[BBC Bitesize KS2 Maths](#)   [BBC Bitesize KS3 Maths](#)   [Corbett Maths](#)   [Maths is Fun](#)

### **Helping you with your Maths:**

We know and understand that many adults do find Maths and numeracy difficult. There is an extensive range of really helpful resources on the [National Numeracy](#) website. There are resources you can use to help your family improve their numeracy, as well as information about support you can access, should you wish, to improve your confidence and ability to work with numbers.

If you have any queries regarding helping your child with their Numeracy and Maths, please contact your child's class teacher who will be able to advise you.

Thank you for your continued help and support

Kindest regards



Mrs Claire Stalley  
KS3 Teacher of Mathematics