



Ways in which schools can encourage parents to support their children with mathematics

A booklet of ideas



*The National
Numeracy Strategy
in Cumbria*

This booklet contains a range of ideas and suggestions.

Many of the ideas may already be in place in your school but some may be new and may prove to be helpful.

If you have any further good ideas please let us know and we can share them with others.

The Cumbria Numeracy Team

DISPLAYS OR ASSEMBLIES

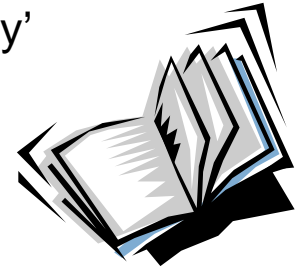
Assemblies

- Invite parents to congratulations or good work assembly
- Parent led class assembly talking about their job eg builder, architect, farmer
- Invite parents to class assemblies on mathematics
- Fun assemblies using nursery rhymes, counting songs
- Weekly show and tell assembly – mathematics focus
- End of half term to celebrate good work
- Involving plays, poems and stories using number
- Parents as children, children as teachers showing a daily mathematics lesson
- Assembly led by mathematics co-ordinator with number focus and presentation of mathematics certificates for good work, extra effort
- An assembly on a mathematical theme eg symmetry, shape
- Governors talk to pupils about their experiences of mathematics
- Involvement of the vicar, priest to talk about their experiences of mathematics
- Take photos of maths assemblies to build up display
- Use stories from the Bible involving numbers



Displays

- Parent notice-board highlighting numeracy
- Parents providing materials to focus a display eg bills
- Pupils of the week display
- Photos of pupils carrying out a task supported by explanatory text
- Large informative display on daily mathematics lesson with news sheets
- Interactive display of maths activities/resources
- Mathematical facts display – ‘Fact of the day’
- Mathematical vocabulary on display
- Mathematics in the local environment
- Termly/medium term plans displayed outside classrooms
- Use of video of pupils in mathematics lesson used at curriculum evening
- Involve items brought from home to support mathematics display
- A ‘Then and Now’ mathematics display
- Displays which show pupil jottings/working out as part of a maths challenge
- Exhibit targets for each year group with examples of work produced by pupils to support targets
- A board for parental ideas of activities and collate into a booklet to be discussed at parents’ evening

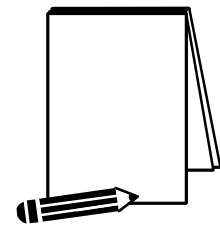


WRITTEN INFORMATION

- Newsletters to keep parents up to date with NNS - short, concise, eye catching and relevant
- Produce a pamphlet of suggested activities
- Specific information on NNS and numeracy in school prospectus
- Setting learning goals for pupils – an explanatory leaflet
- Home/school diaries for two-way feedback
- Prepared list of books containing numbers, rhymes and poems
- Questionnaires on mathematics followed by summary of responses
- Termly written explanation of mathematics to be covered with suggested help activities for parents
- Suggestions of programmes to use with PC at home
- Appropriate lists of mathematical vocabulary sent to parents
- Letter from Numeracy Governor to parents to create an extra point of contact



- A summary of teaching framework for each year group
- Information included in Annual Report from Governors
- Suitable handouts to support curriculum evenings
- Set up school website
- Pamphlet explaining standard algorithms
- A clear, concise homework policy
- A policy for home/school contracts is shared with parents
- A questions board where parents can ask about numeracy/mathematics
- Fact of the day/week displayed for parents to share
- Pupils write to parents to tell them what they are doing in mathematics
- Follow up sheets after parental workshops
- Newsletter including new methods of mental calculation, pupils' work, puzzles, quizzes and return slip for parental questions, suggestions
- 'How to help your child with



PARENTS IN CLASSROOMS

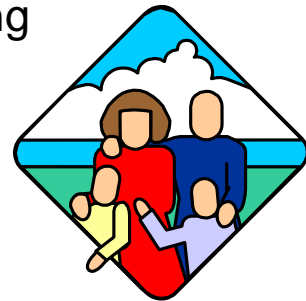
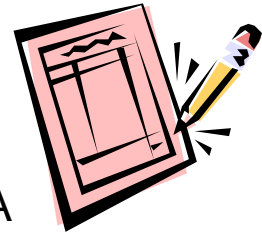
- Parents supporting a small group through an activity eg playing a counting game
- Observing a daily mathematics lesson to be able to talk to other parents
- Supporting individual pupils
- Making resources eg games
- Talking to a group of pupils about maths in their job eg builder, joiner, farmer
- Helping to establish a maths trail around the school
- Being involved in role play situations eg shopping and 'playing' with the younger pupils
- Shadow the teacher with a specific task in mind
- Regular support meetings in conjunction with Inset days focussing on parents
- Host NVQ Level 2 courses for helping in classrooms
- Parent help with ICT activities
- Maths activity afternoon
- Orienteering in school grounds
- Help to carry out traffic surveys
- Parents painting games/activities in school yard to raise awareness of numbers



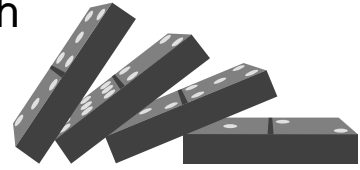
It was felt important that prior to being in classrooms there should be a meeting for parents to provide some training. Also to clarify their role, their expectations and school's expectations, some leaflets could be prepared to take home after the meeting.

MEETINGS OR WORKSHOPS

- Open evening for mathematics with pupils demonstrating activities
- Out of school clubs
- Invited speaker for parents' meeting eg LEA Inspector/Adviser, Numeracy Consultant
- Parents meet to make and trial maths games/activities
- Use PTA, Friends of the School meeting to focus on mathematics
- At home visits – nursery/reception stress on numeracy and learning numbers
- Annual meeting of parents/governors has focus on mathematics
- 'New' parents' evening with numeracy focus
- Using the 'Helpers in School' course
- Class or year group meetings for parents to discuss implications of NNS for them
- Family numeracy type activities – learning together
- Maths and computers evening
- A maths week in school
- KS1/KS2 SATs meetings
- Governor training
- An introduction to mental strategies
- Organise a mathematics trail around the school and introduce to parents at a meeting using pupils as guides



- Set aside half an hour one afternoon each week for parents to come in and play number games with younger children



- Make number sacks for mathematics library
- Meeting for pre-school parents to discuss number
- Invite parents when publisher representative visits school with books/equipment
- Introductory class coffee morning – class teacher and parents to discuss numeracy

INDIVIDUAL DISCUSSION

- Formal parental consultation
- Informal discussion before/after school
- Specific individual appointments
- Home visits
- New parents' evening as part of induction programme
- Homework diaries
- Telephone help line eg one morning per half term
- Open evenings
- Less formal 'surgery' time
- Inviting parents to observe their child in a lesson with focused discussion before and after
- Increase home visits until the end of Key Stage 1
- Meetings to explain child's difficulties and helpful solutions

