



Dear Parents and Carers,

Please find attached below information about maths with your child at home.

At this age, it's worth having conversations around what your child finds difficult and easy in maths.

Everyone struggles with maths at some point, but if you can ask for help, you're much more likely to succeed. With the introduction of several completely new topics, now is the time to work through any misunderstandings and avoid them building up into a bigger issue.

[Maths tip 1: De-mystify the relationship between fractions, decimals and percentages](#)

The relationship between fractions, decimals and percentages is one that puzzles many 10-year-olds (and in fact, a lot of adults too!).

When children first encounter fractions at school, there's no mention of decimals or percentages, so it's no surprise that it comes as a bit of a shock later on. The important thing to remember is that fractions, decimals and percentages are just three different ways of showing part of a whole.



One tried and tested technique that is used by teachers and parents across the land is to bring many children's favourite food, the trust pizza, into the mix here. If you are splitting the pizza into four, why not ask the question of how much each person is getting as a fraction, percentage and a decimal?

By being able to visualise the mathematics taking place in front of them, children are better equipped to work out the answer, and of course, they get some pizza too! This is a fantastic way to help your child with maths at home.

[Maths tip 2: Get the protractor out \(whenever you can\)](#)

Protractors have a funny way of muddling most young mathematicians, and it certainly doesn't help that there are two rows of numbers to contend with!

That being said, it is a crucial part of a mathematicians pencil case, so try to have one on hand and use it wherever possible to measure angles accurately. Your child will snap up a few extra marks on the exams with this, so it's worth keeping an eye on. This is a great way to make an otherwise dull trip to the DIY shop for your child exciting, as they help you to measure the all-important angles on everything from tins of paint through to planks of wood.

At this age, the curriculum offers plenty of challenges for 10-year-olds.

[Maths tip 3: Challenging your Year 6 child with maths at home](#)

Being able to recall equivalent fractions, decimals and percentages will stand your child in good stead, and if you are looking to challenge your child then these are the topics you should do it with.

Quick quizzes on converting decimals into their equivalent fractions are a good way to encourage learning on these topics, and you can easily incorporate them into everyday life. Examples could include:

I've filled this glass of water up $\frac{1}{2}$ to the top. How much room is left in it in decimals?

We've walked 25% of the way to school. How far is that in a fraction?

$\frac{1}{5}$ of your dinner is made up of vegetables, how much is this in percentages?

There will be a lot of other examples that come up in your everyday life, but these ones are just there to inspire you!

[How to prepare for SATs](#)

With exams looming it can feel like a mad dash to the finish line, but you have to remember one simple thing.

Don't panic!

Just remember that there's plenty that you can do in a short amount of time to boost your child's confidence in maths.

Begin by taking a look at practice [SATs papers](#) or [sample tests](#) together as this is one of the best ways for both of you to find out which questions your child finds easy and which ones need a bit of work.

Bear in mind that it is normal for children to react differently to exam papers than to the work they see day-to-day, so try to build a positive experience around exams to relieve the pressure (the promise of a trip to the park after completing a sample test is a good way of doing this).

[Maths tip 1: Practise taking KS2 tests the fun way](#)

The best way to get your child on board with practice test papers is to take them together.

Don't worry about getting the answers wrong – by showing your child that mistakes are the first step in plugging knowledge gaps and growing, you're teaching them to be more resilient in the face of a challenge.

The best bit?

You can ask them to teach you how to correct your mistakes, which will help to consolidate their own learning in the process. If you don't have the time to sit and take the whole test, you can do one question a day together for a strong, steady build-up of skills. Slow and steady definitely wins the SATs race.

[Maths tip 2: Never neglect the basics!](#)

A common mistake is to focus on the plethora of new concepts, leaving basic skills like mental arithmetic to stagnate.

Strong foundations in basic maths make the harder stuff more accessible; if you're getting nowhere with the tough questions, go back to the basics.

A good grasp of place value, times tables and mental arithmetic will help when you revisit those difficult questions later on.

[Maths tip 3: Challenging your Year 6 child with maths at home](#)

Once your 11-year-old has the basics down and feels confident with exam technique, you can stretch their learning by introducing very simple algebra.

Confident mathematicians will enjoy the novelty and challenge of working out what the letters mean in simple equations. Keep things simple to begin with and work your way up to more difficult equations in the future. Examples of some equations you could start with include:

$$a + 3 = 7$$
$$17 + b = 5$$
$$3 \times 6 = c$$



"Can you tell me what number a, b and c represent?"

Equations are never high on most children's to-do lists, but they do become increasingly important as school life goes on, so beginning to secure this knowledge at an early age is only ever beneficial.

Please also look on the maths page of the school website for KS2 videos on how to support with the four calculations and games to play at home.