

Maths Fluency

One of the areas we are focussing on school this year is developing the Mathematical Fluency of all children.

What do we mean by Mathematical Fluency?

Fluency in Maths means that children have a solid foundation of Basic Skills which they can then apply to other areas of Maths.

When we talk about fluency in maths we mean having an accurate recall and understanding of numbers, number bonds and multiplication tables.

If children are fluent they are efficient, accurate and flexible.

Efficiency implies that children do not get bogged down in too many steps or lose track of the logic of the strategy. An efficient strategy is one that the student can carry out easily, keeping track of sub-problems and making use of intermediate results to solve the problem.

Accuracy depends on several aspects of the problem-solving process, among them careful recording, knowledge of number facts and other important number relationships, and double-checking results.

Flexibility the knowledge of more than one approach to solving a particular kind of problem, such as two-digit multiplication. Students need to be flexible in order to choose an appropriate strategy for the numbers involved, and also be able to use one method to solve a problem and another method to check the results.

Why is Mathematical Fluency important?

- It builds children's confidence and resilience.

Having good mathematical fluency allows children to tackle more complex problems with greater confidence and resilience. Because the basis facts are instantly recallable, their working memory has been freed up to focus upon the problem itself.

- Maths becomes easier if you know your number bonds and times tables.

Without an excellent grasp of number bonds and times tables, children struggle with accessing the curriculum within their year group and in the future. They are unable to apply this knowledge to other concepts and, it does hold them back in their understanding, progress and attainment. Therefore it is essential that all children at Emersons Green become fluent in these skills as they form the foundation to other areas of Maths. For example, knowing your tables means that written multiplication and division, percentages, fractions, area, ratio and algebra are easier to access.

- Allows the children to maximise their potential in the statutory assessments in primary school.

At the end of KS1 and KS2 the children are assessed to monitor progress and attainment. One of these assessments focuses on arithmetic skills. At the end of Year 4 all children are required to complete a Multiplication Table Check – a timed assessment of their table knowledge, the expected standard is 100%.



How do we teach Mathematical Fluency?

In school we regularly teach, recall and practise these skills during our Maths lessons and they are revisited throughout the year.

We have also ensured that all children have a login for Times Table Rock Stars and Numbots. Little and often is the key to practise at home, it is recommended that children practise for 3-4 minutes five times a week. All children in Emersons Green have this set as part of their homework and should be practising at home.

During this term, we want every child to ensure that they can log on to either TTRS or Numbots in readiness for Term 2. If your child has forgotten their login, please contact the office or speak to their class teacher during learning meetings.

During Term 2, every child is expected to visit TTRS/Numbots throughout the week. If your child is unable to do this, they will be given the opportunity to do so in school to ensure they do not fall behind their peers.

We cannot stress how important it is for all children to be doing this and know you will support your child in their learning.

