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## Schools & Families Programme

### Frequently Asked Questions

We've provided some answers to some Frequently Asked Questions about different aspects of the Schools & Families Programme.

#### Family Maths Activities

##### What's inside the Family Maths Toolkit?

- Over 200 'everyday' maths activities for children and their families to do together.
- Full year group packs, with one activity per week in term time, for reception through to Year 6.
- Information sheets for parents and carers about boosting their own confidence with numbers, and supporting children to develop positive attitudes towards maths.

##### How should the scrapbooks be used?

Every participating pupil will receive a scrapbook from National Numeracy. The Family Maths activities can be stuck into the scrapbook. We recommend printing activities in either A4 or A5. The scrapbook consists of blank pages. This is to encourage different forms of recording. Unlimited space gives the pupil the opportunity to develop perseverance.

##### Do teachers need to mark the activities?

There is no expectation for teachers to mark the activities, but an acknowledgement (small effort comment or sticker) can go far when encouraging parental engagement.

National Numeracy have provided schools with a certificate to give to participating pupils. This could be used in weekly celebration assemblies.

## **National Numeracy Challenge**

### **What if I don't have access to a computer?**

If you have a smartphone or tablet, then you can use that to access the National Numeracy Challenge.

### **What if I find it too hard?**

The quick check is adaptive, meaning you will get questions of varying difficulty depending on how you answer. So, if a couple of questions are too difficult for you, the questions will get easier. Or, if you're getting lots of answers right, you'll be given harder questions.

If you don't know the answer, it's better to choose the 'I don't know' option than to guess.

If you're worried about finding it hard, it's worth remembering that making mistakes is part of the learning process and the quick check is there to help you understand your starting point – it's not a test!

### **Can I use a calculator?**

Yes – using a calculator is not cheating! It's absolutely fine to use a calculator when learning or during the assessment, just as you would in everyday life. Numeracy isn't all about being able to do sums in your head – it's just as important to be comfortable knowing what to enter on a calculator and estimating if the answer is correct.

### **Does it tell me which questions I got wrong?**

Yes – when you've finished the quick check, your Home Screen will list the questions you answered incorrectly. You'll be pointed towards resources to help you improve your skills and understanding in these areas of numeracy.

### **How long will it take me to improve?**

This depends on how often you visit the learning pages, but you will be surprised by how much you can improve just by doing a little bit of learning every day. Allow yourself time to learn at a steady pace.

## **'Help Your Child Love Maths!' workshop**

### **How long is the workshop?**

The workshop should last 45-60 minutes in total.

### **What do I need for the workshop?**

You will need to download the presentation slides and workshop plan. You can also use the editable poster and messaging templates to inform parents and carers about the workshop.

We recommend delivering the workshop in either a hall or classroom with a screen to present the slides.

### **What do I need to tell National Numeracy about the workshop?**

National Numeracy need to know the date of the workshop(s) and the number of parents and carers who attended.

Please email this information to [schoolsandfamilies@nationalnumeracy.org.uk](mailto:schoolsandfamilies@nationalnumeracy.org.uk) as soon as possible after the workshop.

## **Forums**

### **When are the Forums and are they online?**

All Forums will be online.

You can find the dates of the Forums in the programme calendar.

### **What do I need to prepare for the Forums?**

Ahead of each Forum, you will be sent a questionnaire to complete about recent activity in your school.

## Volunteering

### What activities can the volunteers deliver in schools?

Volunteers from our corporate partners can deliver two sessions that inspire children to see the value of maths in the real world.

#### 'My Maths Story' assembly

In a 15 minutes KS2 assembly, volunteers will share their own numeracy journey, what their job entails, what they do in their spare time and how it all involves numeracy. They will also encourage the children to think about how they use numeracy every day.

#### 'Maths in the Real World' interactive classroom session

This 50-60 minutes UKS2 lesson is designed to be teacher-led and supported by two or three volunteers. Children will meet characters, some in real life and some fictional and explore the maths they use in their jobs and hobbies. Children are split into small groups and take part in a carousel activity, with each group looking at the different characters in turn. A short reflective activity follows the carousel.

### What training have volunteers completed?

All volunteers will have undertaken training that covers:

- Numeracy issue in the UK
- Maths anxiety
- How to support number confidence
- Supporting children to develop positive attitudes towards maths
- Safeguarding
- Activity delivery

Please note our volunteers are not DBS checked so need to be accompanied at all times.

If you have any further questions about the Schools & Families Programme, please email [schoolsandfamilies@nationalnumeracy.org.uk](mailto:schoolsandfamilies@nationalnumeracy.org.uk).