



The Parents' Guide to
The Revised Mental Maths Scheme
at Pirbright Village Primary School January 2012



Welcome to the guide to everything you need to know about the new mental maths scheme at Pirbright! Here you will find an explanation of the aims of the scheme, how it works and how you can support your child to meet with success in mathematics.

Maths is a subject which is fun, challenging, rewarding and useful throughout adult life. However, children can also find it difficult, confidence sapping and frustrating. For children to succeed in maths, they need to learn a range of strategies for calculating and learn how to apply these to the problem in hand.

The foundation on which these skills are built is quick recall of mental maths facts. When children are secure in their mental maths knowledge, their all-important confidence improves, allowing them to take on new concepts and ideas more readily. As such, at Pirbright we view mental maths as of the utmost importance in every child's development. The new mental maths scheme is a whole-school approach to ensuring every child leaves our school feeling that maths is a challenge worth undertaking.



Aims

- To improve the confidence of all children in mathematics.
- To motivate children to improve their mental maths skills.
- To provide children with the mental strategies and quick recall required for tackling more difficult concepts and solving problems.
- To provide parents with an understanding of their child's current ability and their next step.
- To help children recognise the language used in mathematical problems and understand which operation is required.



How the Scheme Works
















- The mental maths scheme will run between Year 1 and Year 6 and will take children from basic number bonds through to difficult application of their times tables knowledge.
- The theme for the new scheme is the 'Magicians Guild of Mental Maths Mastery'.
- Children will be able to rise through the various ranks of the wizarding world in both the Times Tables and Number Bonds departments.
- Children will be free to choose which of these departments they wish to focus on next as when they have reached a certain point in their number bonds, they will begin to find the initial ranks of the Times Tables department more achievable.
- The scheme will consist of a weekly 3 minute test carried out as part of the formal maths teaching. In order for children to complete a level and gain the certificate, they must achieve full marks on 2 tests in consecutive weeks. If they are successful, they will receive the certificate in celebration assembly.
- Children will continue to be quizzed on the inverse of problems eg. Division facts for times tables and missing number problems for number bonds. There will also now be tests involving words to allow children to become familiar with the language used in mathematical problems.


















How Parents Can Help

- First and foremost children need to feel that maths is important - celebrate successes!
- Find any opportunities to practise mental maths, whether it be while shopping, in the car, or even watching the weather forecast! Maths is everywhere!
- Support your child with their next step in the scheme with short timed quizzes and challenges.
- Play mathematical games such as memory pairs, snap or times tables table tennis!
- Get online - there are hundreds of great websites out there including Mathletics.

Outline of Levels – Number bonds

Hat	Level	Scheme Name	Tested on
	1	Apprentice	Number Bonds to 10
	2	Initiate	Multiples of 10 Number Bonds to 100
	3	Adeptus	Number Bonds to 20
	4	Illusionist	Number Bonds to 10 Words
	5	Enchanter	Multiples of 10 Number Bonds to 100 Words
	6	Conjurer	Number Bonds to 20 Words
	7	Alchemist	All Number bonds to 100
	8	Sorcerer	All Number bonds to 100 Words
	9	Witch/Warlock 1 st Order	Decimal Number Bonds to 1 (1.DP)
	10	Witch/Warlock 2 nd Order	Decimal Number Bonds to 1 Words
	11	Witch/Warlock 3 rd Order	Decimal number bonds to 10 (1.DP)
	12	Chief Witch/Warlock	Decimal number bonds to 1 (2.DP)
	13	Magus 1 st Order	Decimal number bonds to 10 (2.DP)
	14	Magus 2 nd Order	Mixed Decimal addition & Subtraction
	15	Arch Magus	Verbal Test High Lord Hart

Outline of Levels – Times Tables

Hat	Level	Scheme Name	Tested on
	1	Apprentice	2
	2	Initiate	2,10
	3	Adeptus	2,5,10
	4	Illusionist	2,3,5,10
	5	Enchanter	2,3,4,5,10
	6	Conjurer	2,3,4,5,6,10
	7	Alchemist	2,3,4,5,6,7,10
	8	Sorcerer	2,3,4,5,6,7,8,10
	9	Witch/Warlock 1 st Order	2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10
	10	Witch/Warlock 2 nd Order	2-10 tables in words
	11	Witch/Warlock 3 rd Order	Extension tables - multiples of 10 & 100
	12	Chief Witch/Warlock	Extension tables - decimals
	13	Magus 1 st Order	Extension tables - mixture inc unit fractions
	14	Magus 2 nd Order	Extension tables - mixture inc fractions and simple %
	15	Arch Magus	Verbal Test from High Lord Hart