

How can I help my Child?

Communication

Discuss with your child what they are covering in class and see if they can explain it to you. If they experience difficulty encourage them and explain the concept (if possible) or ask them to talk to their maths teacher at the next opportunity.

Units of Work

Read the summaries of the units to be covered for the appropriate year group. These illustrate the main objectives to be covered. In year 5 and 6 there will also be unit objective sheets stuck into your child's exercise book. In Year 7 and 8 there will be assessment reviews for each unit.

Be aware of the methods used. The development of calculations is shown on another document. Study books can also be purchased from Robert Bloomfield which contain important information and methods for both parents and students. There are also some useful web-site links on another document, the 'My Maths' web-site is particularly useful.

Equipment

It is very important that students come correctly equipped to maths lessons. It is essential that for every lesson they have a blue pen (not biro), pencil, ruler, rubber and pencil sharpener. It is useful if they also have a protractor and pair of compasses although they are used infrequently and can be borrowed during the lesson. Key stage 3 pupils need to have a scientific calculator. Various makes and models have different functions available and the order the keys are pressed and the position of the keys may vary. They will be at an advantage if they get familiar with their own. A particularly good model is the 'Casio fx-83GT PLUS' which will also be appropriate for GCSEs.

Homework

Homework is an important part of the work covered during a unit. It is set once a week and should take key stage 2 pupils 30 to 45 minutes and for key stage 3 pupils 45 minutes to an hour. Please try to provide your child with an appropriate place they can sit and concentrate for that period on time. It is impossible for any teacher to set a task that takes all the pupils in the teaching group the same amount of time due to their different abilities so once your child has spent the appropriate time please put a note at the end of their work and initial it. eg Spent 45 mins *initials*. If your child wishes to spend longer that is fine. Similarly no note is needed if the task has been completed.

If your child is very busy during the night the homework had been set or they don't have access to a computer/Internet at home encourage them to go to 'Study Club' which is available every lunchtime for key stage 2 pupils and Monday, Wednesday and Friday for key stage 3 pupils.

The homework task should always be written clearly in the homework diary.