



Cardinal Newman Catholic Primary School

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Monday 4th October 2010

Maths evening for parents of children in Key Stage 2

'I CAN DO MATHS' Programme...A Parent's Guide:

What is it? – A daily programme of differentiated mental maths questions tailored to the ability of the individual child. The children sit an entry level test and are then allocated a book appropriate to their level. The books are colour coded and contain the relevant mathematical vocabulary to help children learn to 'talk' maths.

How does it work? – Children work through one 'test' per week. The questions are divided into 3 sections and get progressively more challenging. Section A is designed to be relatively straight forward and builds confidence & competence through repetition. Children feel good about their success. Section B requires a little more thought but again as questions are suited to the child's ability, this allows for more success. Section C challenges further with the element of 'using & applying' being introduced.

When will it operate? – Classrooms will be open for work from 8.40am Monday – Thursday and children will work until 9.10am. As we are opening the school from 8.40am, we would therefore like all children in class at their desk working by 8.50am. On Fridays there will be a review session in class where teachers will work through any problems with the children.

Why are we doing 'I can do Maths?' – We would like to help all children to become 'number happy' and confident in maths. We feel that regular practise and success will raise standards & enjoyment in maths and the children will feel proud of their success. The programme has had very positive results in many schools in the north of England. We also hope that a quiet, calm period of work at the beginning of the day will help create an excellent atmosphere for learning throughout the day.

Will it replace any other maths teaching? – No. This programme will supplement the maths teaching and support work that is currently delivered in curriculum time.

Will the children be supported? – Yes. Class Teachers will help any child who finds a question difficult. Children can also seek help from peers who are

working on the same book. Teaching assistants and parents (who currently hold CRB clearance) are also very welcome to join the class at any morning session to offer help (we would kindly ask that no younger siblings are brought into the school.) If you require any further clarification on CRB clearance, please check with the school office.

How is success celebrated? – Each week the children will total their score and record this in their book. Class teachers may celebrate progress/attainment within the class and some children will receive recognition in key stage/whole school assemblies. Staff are currently discussing further the most effective means of praise & reward in addition to this.

What happens if I can't get my child to school for 8.40am? – Obviously we hope all children can take part in the sessions every day however if there is a problem, children will be given the option of doing the work at lunchtime or at home that evening. The sessions are short, lasting no more than 25 minutes.

How can I help? – The keys to being confident number happy children lie in the very basic concepts of number bonds and times tables. Addition & subtraction to 20 is key. The sooner children have a solid grasp of times tables, the easier they will find all number work & concepts (including dreaded things like fractions!) Please encourage your children by playing number games, chanting or singing tables, testing number recognition eg 48...which times tables is it in? (or what are the factors of 48?).

Praise your children constantly and explain why maths is such a vital subject for life.

Come in and join in an early morning session if you are able. Discuss the work they have done in maths that day, use maths games on the internet...anything to show them maths is fun and nothing to be scared of!

Refer to your child's glossy, colourful maths study guide (voluntary donation of £2) if you want to see the key concepts, vocabulary and skills the children learn at key stage 2. (please make sure your child's name is on this book and they do their best not to lose it)

Where can I get further information? – To watch a short, informative video clip on 'I can do Maths', please go to www.schofieldandsims.co.uk/icando/
This is the film shown at the presentation evening for parents.

If you require any details or information about the maths levels your child is working at, please go to the school website (children & learning) and click on 'Maths levels' where you will find a chart showing the concepts/skills within each sub level from level 3 – 5.

Mr S Tindall (Deputy Headteacher)