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Maths at Rainow – The FUNdamentals

Now that the new Maths curriculum is embedded, we have evaluated the effect that this has had on our children's learning throughout KS1 and KS2. As a result, we have reconsidered our approach to homework in maths, stripping it back to learning and practising the key skills - things that can be learnt off by heart.

The *RAINOW FUNdamentals* are number facts that should be learnt so well that they can be automatically recalled **instantly** (no thinking time). Your child should just know them! Being able to do this will mean that the brain can focus on accessing the mathematics involved rather than being distracted by also having to work out these basic facts.

Even in Year Six, the children are required to recall and use facts learnt in Year One and therefore, constant repetition and revisiting are needed to ensure that they remain completely fluent. We often think that we know something if we have learnt it recently when actually, it is only stored in our short-term memory. Therefore, overlearning is essential to create strong neural pathways and commit information to long-term memory.

There are different number facts which are taught sequentially from Year One to Year Six. Each year group has a set list of *FUNdamental Facts* and will work on only two or three facts at a time, to ensure focused learning. This will mean that they are fully embedded (little and often is the key to success). The children not only need to learn the given fact but also any of the associated 'Fact Family'.

For example:

$$3 \times 5 = 15 \quad \text{therefore} \quad 5 \times 3 = 15 \quad 15 \div 3 = 5 \quad 15 \div 5 = 3$$

The children will be assessed regularly and any facts that the children have not secured will need to be learnt alongside the next set - this should avoid your child being left behind.

How you can help

- Spend some time each day (a few minutes is all you need) reading the facts/saying them out loud.
- Be positive and use lots of encouragement.
- Play games together involving the facts.
- Quiz each other.
- Complete any suggested activities that form the current homework.

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