



# English & Maths at Thorndown Primary School

## English

### SPaG

SPaG is an abbreviation for spelling, punctuation and grammar. Children have always been taught how to use punctuation and how to spell but, with the implementation of the new primary curriculum, children are expected to learn grammar to a fairly high level. Year Six and Year Two pupils take a SPaG test as a part of the SATs. In order for your child to reach the required level of knowledge, we teach SPaG through English lessons and also as short 'mini-lessons' throughout the week, which further consolidate their learning. Children are encouraged in each lesson to check their work for all the elements of SPaG before the teacher looks at it. In Key Stage 2, the children complete regular editing of their work using a dictionary to check spellings, a thesaurus to try and improve the vocabulary and the children will also work with a buddy or an adult to check grammar and the structure of their work.

A parent grammar session will be held after the Christmas break to help parents understand what we do in school and the expectations of each year group. More information will follow for this.

### Useful SPaG websites:

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/english-games/7-11-years/spelling-and-grammar>

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/english-games/7-11-years/punctuation>

<http://www.compare4kids.co.uk/spag.php>

## Maths

We've had a very busy start to the new academic year, with the re-introduction of many of our successful maths initiatives, such as Maths Eyes, Marvellous Maths Day and Skoolbo. We have also launched a brand new fluency programme.

### **Rainbow Recall - Our new programme for developing fluency**

If you were able to attend our recent parent workshop, you will know all about our new Rainbow Recall programme, which we are using in Key Stage 2 to help develop children's mathematical fluency, calculation strategies and recall. The aim of this programme is that, with daily practice, children will become quicker and more confident in recalling important 'root facts'. They also work to become flexible in their use of this knowledge by applying it to calculations involving larger numbers. Children practise completing recall fact sheets, which we send home so that you know what the children are working on. Some children have also reported that they are enjoying using these at home too. In addition, we are developing a range of games that can help develop the children's number sense and confidence. Instructions and game boards for these can be downloaded from the website and Facebook. Many parents who attended the session have been playing these at home and have said that the games are not only helping their children to become more fluent, but are proving to be great fun too! Please let us know if you are unable to print these.

To find out more, join us for a fun parent session; see below!

### **Parent Workshops**

This month we have held several very successful open classrooms and parent workshops. Due to their popularity and many requests from parents, we will be re-running them during evenings after half term. Parents find these informal sessions very informative and have said that they leave the workshops with lots of ideas for ways they can support their children at home.

**All workshops will start at 6.30pm.**

We would love for you to join us at these workshops. In order to ensure that we have enough resources, please book your place using our Facebook page.

**Wednesday 15th November: Rainbow Recall for KS2**

**Tuesday 21st November: Number Sense for KS1**

**Thursday 18th January: Numberlink Boards: How to help your child learn times tables in KS2**

## Autumn Term 2017

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### **Information for Parents**

Please take a look on the school's website for various handouts for English.

We have recently placed new handouts on there regarding standards in writing and what is expected in each year group. Ask your child's teacher for more information.

### **Maths Mastery in the Early Years**

We are continuing to develop our maths curriculum in Reception this year, and have started off by learning all about shapes. To kick off the term, we filled the hall with spheres and the children had great fun exploring these and learning all about their properties. We bounced spheres and rolled spheres and investigated the number of spheres that we could fit in a box.



We are also playing lots of games to help develop children's counting and number sense. These are an invaluable resource as children can learn so much maths by playing games. If you have any games, such as 'Snakes and Ladders', 'Dominoes' or 'Shut the Box', that you are able to donate, we would be very grateful. Many thanks.