



# English & Mathematics at Thorndown Primary School

## English

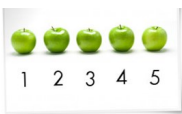
Spring 2019 has been very busy with lots of different events. Children's author Eamonn Reilly visited us in mid January and shared lots of his books, ideas and writing tips with the children, and the children then completed some fantastic work based. We are also very proud of the 'Lost Words' book we created, which is kept outside Miss Godbold's office. Take a look next time you're in!

We also held our most successful book fair ever, raising a school record amount of almost £1200, which is simply incredible. This means that we have over £600 to spend on choosing new books for the school. Thank you very much to everyone who attended and purchased any of the books!

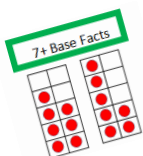
Vocabulary is one of the most important tools used in every day life and the more words we understand, the more we can use when reading, writing and speaking. We have launched several new ideas to promote the teaching and learning of vocabulary around the school recently. Each week, four new and challenging words are hidden around the school for the children to find, explore the meaning of and then try to use in their speaking and writing. The children in Key Stage 2 now have their own 'vocabulary book', which they have fully designed and decorated themselves and use to log new words, phrases and spelling rules to help them in their speaking and writing. Some of them look amazing! We have been using some resources created by Mrs Wordsmith to help with this and we have been having lots of interesting discussions. There are lots of great websites to support and explore vocabulary, so please feel free to explore and challenge your child with new words.

## Maths

We have been working really hard across the school to improve our number sense and fluency. We aim that children have a really good understanding of how numbers work and can also recall number facts and times tables.

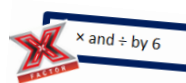


In Reception and KS1, we unpick counting, which is much trickier than first appears. We learn how numbers are made of other numbers and compare them. We also do lots of subitising, which is all about identifying how many there are in small groups of objects without counting them. Research has shown that this is a key indicator of future mathematical success. We often use ten frames and play lots of games to help embed our knowledge and skills. Children learn facts such as the pairs of numbers that make 10 and that 7 is made of 5 and 2 more.



In KS2, we build on the children's knowledge and understanding of early number. We to work to ensure that children know addition and subtraction facts up to 20, e.g.  $9 + 8 = 17$ ,  $13 - 5 = 8$ , and can apply this knowledge when working with larger numbers, e.g.  $29 + 8 = 37$ ,  $63 - 5 = 58$ . We also work on knowledge of times table and division facts. We use Rainbow Recall and a range of games to help the children become fluent in

their knowledge, and encourage children to use Skoolbo and TTRockstars, as these sites can make a huge difference to the children's confidence.



We are currently working on a guide for parents, which will explain exactly what we aim for the children to know in each year group, and we have lists of games that you can play at home. These can be downloaded from the website. Alternatively, ask your class teacher for a copy. Numberlink Boards are also available from the school office, which you can purchase at £2.50. These are great for helping KS2 children to learn times tables.

## Spring Term 2019

Issue 21

Date: 05.04.19

### Useful Vocabulary Websites

[www.dictionary.com/e/word-of-the-day](http://www.dictionary.com/e/word-of-the-day)

[www.greatexpectations.org/2018-word-of-the-week](http://www.greatexpectations.org/2018-word-of-the-week)

[gb.education.com/games/spelling/](http://gb.education.com/games/spelling/)

[www.mrswordsmith.com/](http://www.mrswordsmith.com/)

[www.vocabularyninja.co.uk/](http://www.vocabularyninja.co.uk/)

### Maths Tips for Parents



[www.familymathstoolkit.org.uk/](http://www.familymathstoolkit.org.uk/)

The National Numeracy Family Maths Toolkit has lots of ideas for helping to involve children in maths at home. Take a look!

Have you seen Numberblocks? This is amazing for children from Pre-school to KS1. CBeebies also has a really useful guide for parents of young children.

[www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/grownups/help-your-](http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/grownups/help-your-)



### Can you help?

With ever decreasing school funds, we are trying to save money by making resources for use in class. We'd like to thank Mrs Moore for all her help in making lots of much needed games this term. We really appreciate all your hard work!

If anyone else could spare some time to help out, please let the office or Mrs Gerrard know. (Necessary training will be given!)

