

## ***Curriculum newsletter 3: Mathematics***

### **Why do we teach Maths?**

Maths equips pupils with a uniquely powerful set of tools to understand and change the world. These tools include logical reasoning, problem solving skills and the ability to think in abstract ways.

Maths is important and essential in everyday life. It is integral to all aspects of life and with this in mind we endeavour to ensure that pupils develop a healthy and enthusiastic attitude towards Maths that will stay with them.

Our aim is all pupils should:

- Have a sense of the size of a number and where it fits into the number system
- Know by heart number facts such as number bonds, multiplication tables, doubles and halves
- Use what they know by heart to figure out numbers mentally
- Calculate accurately and efficiently, both mentally and in written, drawing on a range of calculation strategies
- Recognise when it is appropriate to use a calculator and be able to do so effectively
- Make sense of number problems and recognise the operations needed to solve them
- Explain their methods and reasoning using correct mathematical terms
- Judge whether their answers are reasonable and have strategies for checking the where necessary
- Suggest suitable units for measuring and make sensible estimates of measurements
- Explain and make predictions from the numbers in graphs, diagrams, charts and tables
- Develop spatial awareness and an understanding of the properties of 2D and 3D shapes.

At West Rise Junior School we recognise the importance of establishing a secure foundation in mental calculation and recall of number facts before standard written methods are introduced. We use Mathematical Vocabulary when planning to help determine the appropriate terminology to use in our teaching and children are expected to use it in their verbal and written explanations.

### **How you can improve your Maths**

- Complete your home learning tasks
- Practise your times tables
- Use the computer, there are lots of great websites! Take a look at:

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

[http://www.familylearning.org.uk/online\\_math\\_games.html](http://www.familylearning.org.uk/online_math_games.html)

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

<http://uk.ixl.com/math/year->

Look out for our new calculations policy, which has been written in line with the new National Curriculum, and will be with you at the start of Term 3. If you would like any more details on the Maths at West Rise Junior School please come in and speak to Laura Warren, our Mathematics leader.