

## Introducing Maths Mountains

At Bartley CE Junior School we recognise that the ability to calculate mentally is crucial in developing our children into confident and efficient mathematicians. To achieve this, they must regularly practise and learn a range of rules and facts.

Maths Mountains has been introduced to support the learning of these essential facts and encourage increasingly efficient approaches to calculation. Through regular practice and opportunities to apply these facts, your children will develop their confidence and enthusiasm through becoming a more fluent mathematician.



Maths Mountains is a structured, progressive programme. Children begin in Year 3 by building on their learning in Key Stage 1 to secure their knowledge of the 2, 3, 5 and 10 times tables. They then move onto securing their 4, 8 and 9 times tables. As they move into Year 4, the children will then begin to learn all other times tables up to 12.

To reach the summit of the mountains in Years 5 and 6, children are expected to know all their times tables and the inverse division facts.

In Year 6, multiplication and equivalent division facts are revisited from Year 5 to encourage continuing confident recall. This is crucial to supporting written calculations at this stage!

This approach will replace 'Brain Sharpeners' used in some classes.

## Why Maths Mountains?

The maths mountain scheme offers a fun and structured approach to learning times tables and is popular in many schools. Each class has a mountain display with 'stages' marked. Children move their names up the mountain as they learn times tables facts, creating a visual display of their journey up the 'maths mountain'.

## Maths Mountains Structure

### Year 3 mountain:

- Stage 1 – Number pairs up to 20
- Stage 2 – 2 times tables
- Stage 3 – 5 and 10 times tables
- Stage 4 – 2, 5 and 10 times table Mountain Challenge
- Stage 5 – 3 and 4 times tables
- Stage 6 – 8 and 9 times tables
- Stage 7 – 3, 4, 8 and 9 times table Mountain Challenge

### Year 4 mountain:

- Stage 1 – 2, 5 and 10 times table Mountain Challenge
- Stage 2 – 3 and 4 times tables
- Stage 3 – 8 and 9 times tables
- Stage 4 – 3, 4, 8 and 9 times table Mountain Challenge
- Stage 5 – 6 and 7 times tables
- Stage 6 – 1-10 times table Mountain Challenge
- Stage 7 – 11 and 12 times tables



### Year 5 and 6 mountains:

- Stage 1 – 1-10 times table Mountain Challenge
- Stage 2 – 2, 5 and 10 multiplication and division facts
- Stage 3 – 3 and 4 multiplication and division facts
- Stage 4 – 8 and 9 multiplication and division facts
- Stage 5 – 6 and 7 multiplication and division facts
- Stage 6 – 1-10 multiplication and division Mountain Challenge
- Stage 7 – 11 and 12 multiplication and division facts
- Stage 8 – 1-12 multiplication and division Mountain Challenge

These stages are subject to change depending on the ability and needs of the class and will be reviewed regularly. For example, in Year 3 there maybe some children who need to need to work on number bonds to 10 first.

## Moving up the mountain

- Your child will be tested on their stage target fortnightly.
- Children will need to get their test 100% correct within a set time limit on 2 consecutive tests to pass up to the next stage.

## Mountain challenge

As your child progresses through different stages on their class mountain there will be an opportunity to complete a 'maths mountain challenge'.



When your child successfully passes these special challenges they will be awarded a certificate in our celebration assemblies.

## Is this a fair system for my child?

We recognise that for some children achieving the higher stages may be too challenging for their stage of development, therefore, for some children additional support and resources will be necessary and timings for tests may need adjusting.

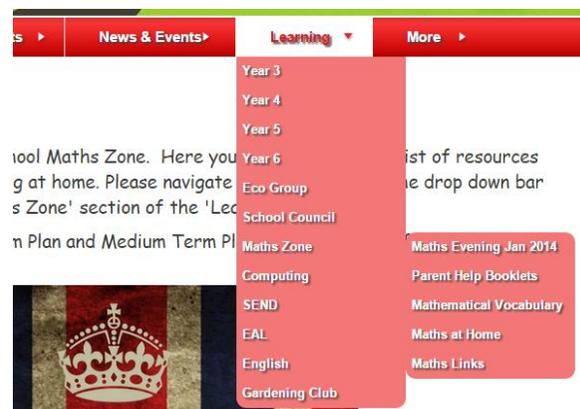
## Practise at home

Practising the skills to move up the mountain at home will count as ongoing maths homework for every child. Your child will work through each stage at their own pace and therefore this homework practice will be set at the appropriate level for your child's ability and will be recorded in their homework books or folders.

Teachers will provide a variety of selection of prompts and children to choose from to support their learning at home, but we will encourage children to take responsibility and ask for encouragement to practise from parents.

## Useful websites

Some useful websites to help support learning can be found on our school website (<http://www.bartley.hants.sch.uk/>) in the 'Maths Zone' under 'Maths Links' on the 'Learning' drop down bar:



Your child also has access to the Mathletics site with further games and times table songs.

# Maths Mountains Information for Parents

