

Numeracy

Numeracy is a vital skill which is necessary to help achieve success throughout secondary education, further and higher education, employment and adult life. John Frost School ensures students have opportunities to develop their numeracy skills through all subjects not just in mathematics. We focus on consistency of techniques between subjects, transferable skills and promoting resilience in learning.

Parents can help develop numeracy skills at home:

- Always be positive about numeracy/maths. Please do not say – “I hated maths at school” or “I am no good at maths”
- Reinforce the basic skills at home – test your child’s mental maths.
- It is beneficial to help your child see where numeracy is found in everyday life. It will help develop the skills such as sorting, measuring, calculating, seeing patterns and relationships between numbers, making sense of and checking information.

Here are some specific examples of what you can do to develop numeracy with your child:

- Encourage your child to explain to you what numeracy they have been doing in any subject at school and teach you how to do it.
- Compare “Best Buys” or estimate the total for the weekly shopping.
- Discuss household finances such as bills, pay slips etc.
- Play games which help practise numerical skills with your child or encourage them to play these with their friends. Games where scores have to be calculated such as Scrabble are a good example.
- Scaling up recipes and working with measures.
- Estimating and accurately measuring lengths, areas, mass, capacity when shopping or helping with DIY.
- Planning and organising trips by reading timetables and working out timings when travelling.
- Practise multiplication tables and mental arithmetic.
- Interpreting graphs and diagrams in newspapers, magazines or on the internet.
- Discuss the time, time zones, recording times (in tenths and hundredths of a second) and temperature with your child.
- An excellent website to help students with maths/numeracy skills is BBC Bitesize:
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zqhs34j>