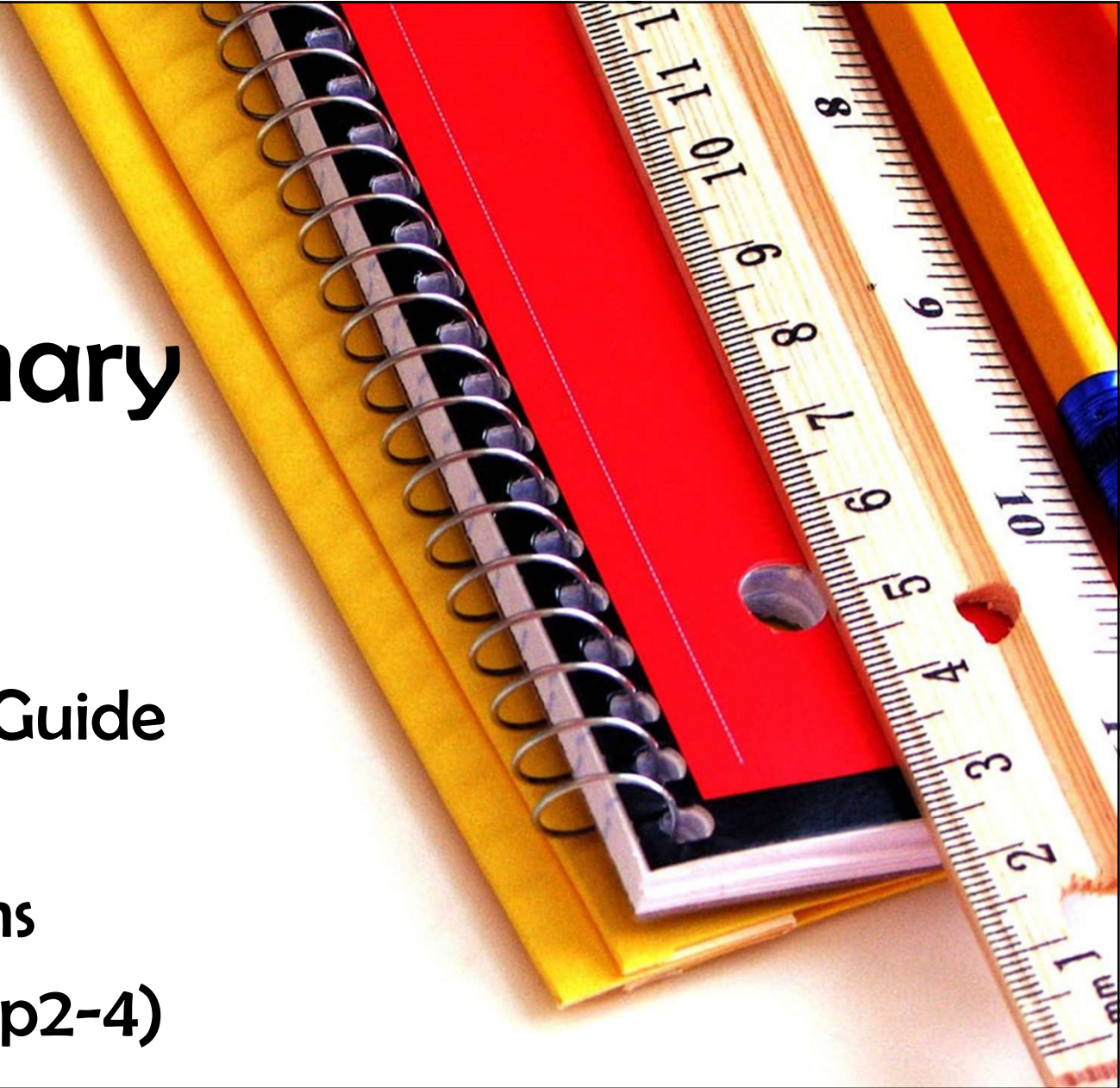


Hermitage Primary School



Parent's Guide
To
Maths
1st Level (p2-4)



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What is Numeracy About?

Being numerate is a life skill that will help your child at home, at school, and one day in their work life too. At all levels numeracy is about mental calculations, solving problems and being creative in finding ways of working things out.



How Can I Help?

- **Be positive** about maths. Don't say things like "I can't do maths" or "I hated maths at school"; your child might start to think like that themselves.
- **Point out the maths in everyday life.** Include your child in activities involving maths such as using money, cooking and travelling.
- **Praise your child for effort rather than talent** - this shows them that by working hard they can always improve.
- Most importantly, **make it fun!**



Everyday Opportunities

- Talk to your child and involve them in the everyday situations in which you use maths. This could be asking them how much money you will need when shopping, what coins could they use to pay or looking at numbers in the environment e.g. numbers on buses, road signs, phone numbers etc.
- Play games involving numbers such as card games, dominoes, darts and board games .
- Play games which involve strategy such as draughts or chess.
- Use times of boredom such as walking to school or travelling in the car, to look for numbers or play games.



Ideas to Support Number

First Level

- Make a game out of the number facts. In P2 this will initially be to 20. This is followed by number facts up to 100 and then all times tables by P4. Try to help your child see the links between number facts.

e.g. $8 + 7 = 15$

$$7 + 8 = 15$$

$$15 - 8 = 7$$

$$15 - 7 = 8$$

or

$$4 \times 5 = 20$$

$$5 \times 4 = 20$$

$$20 \div 5 = 4$$

$$20 \div 4 = 5$$

<http://www.mathletics.com/> has lots of activities to support number. Check your child's target pages in their PLP to see what has been covered in school and reinforce with Mathletics activities.



Ideas to Support Number (cont.)

First Level

- **Order numbers** from largest to smallest or vice versa. Use numbers you find in everyday situations such as ordering the scores in a game.
- **Counting** in 2s, 5s and 10s. This could be counting objects they find, steps they take, cars they see etc. This can then be extended to counting in more complex patterns such as in 3s or 4s, even all the way up to the 9 times table.
- **Play guess my number.** Think of a number and get your child to ask yes or no questions to see if they can identify it. Encourage them to use words such as bigger than, less than, before and after. This can be extended to questions such as “Is it in the 6 times table?” as your child begins to learn the tables facts.



Ideas to Support Time

First Level

- **Use timers** while you cook together, this will develop skills in estimating time and provide opportunities for calculating time durations.
- **Use stopwatches** to time everyday tasks e.g. how long does it take to get dressed? Encourage your child to estimate first.
- Read and use bus or train **timetables** to find out what time you leave/arrive.
- **Look at clocks** (analogue and digital) during your daily activities and ask your child what time it is. They will be introduced to o'clock and half past in P1 and will begin to learn quarter past and quarter to in P2. The target pages in your child's PLP will give you an indication of when they reach each stage.



Ideas to Support Money

First Level

Daily activities provide lots of great opportunities for your child to use numbers and become more confident with money. Here is a small selection of ways you can support your child.

- **Compare** costs at the shops – what is dearer/ cheaper?
- **Use coins** to pay for items – allow your child to pay for small items and work out the coins they need. In P2 initially up to 20p, P3 to £1 and larger amount and noted to £20 in P4. Again, your child's targets in their PLP will tell you when they have covered these amounts.
- **Make change** – encourage your child to think about the change they will receive and to check that it is correct. Could the change have been made in a different way? E.g. 20p could be a 20p coin, two 10p coins, ten 2p coins etc.



Ideas to Support Measure

First Level

Daily activities provide lots of great opportunities for your child to use the language of measure. Here is a small selection of ways you can support your child.

- with your child provides lots of opportunities to weigh and measure. This includes weight, size, volume, temperature and even time. Here is a useful guide to learning through cooking <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/parents/learning-through-cooking>
- **Ordering** items. Sort out items from the cupboard by weight. This could be done by feel alone before checking the weights on packaging. Items could also be sorted by height or width.
- **Estimate** the weight of objects then checking using packaging or scales.



Ideas to Support Information Handling

First Level

Information handling at 1st Level involves **gathering and recording** information, **displaying** information in different ways and **reading and interpreting** simple charts, diagrams, graphs and signs.

- Look at and discuss **signs** when travelling. What do the symbols mean? Where is the bus going?
- Read information from **timetables, charts or graphs**. You could even look at the sport league tables and discuss the different statistics.
- Many food packets and items of clothing have **tables or charts**. For example you could ask your child to help **find** the cooking temperature or washing machine settings.



Helpful Websites

First Level

www.mathletics.co.uk – all pupils from P3-7 have an individual log in which can be found in their PLP.

<http://www.familymathstoolkit.org.uk/>

<https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/learning-at-home>

<http://www.mathsrockx.com/> - an app to support times tables

<http://www.readwritecount.scot/count/> everyday activities to try at home

