

School Improvement Plan – Maths

All schools are now obliged to have a School Improvement Plan in place focusing on a particular subject of the curriculum. Here in Ss. Peter and Paul's school we have selected Mathematics as our first area of focus.

I'm sure you are already aware that we have a high standard of achievement in Maths in this school, as evidenced in our Drumcondra Results and acknowledged in our parent survey last year.

Our pupils generally express an interest in maths and report that they enjoy the subject.

Our parent programme for 3rd class was very successful last year and this year that programme is available to the parents of 2nd class pupils.

We have chosen three specific areas of focus for the 2014/2015 school year:

- Increasing speed and accuracy at tables
- Ensuring that staff, parents and pupils are familiar with the mathematical language used in the school
- Problem solving skills

Parents frequently ask us how they can help their children with maths.

This year we encourage you to

- **Engage with your child in learning his tables.**
Why? Because speed and accuracy at tables build his maths confidence and allow him to focus on new concepts instead of worrying about calculations.
How can we help you? We will provide suggestions for simple games you can enjoy together.
- **Familiarise yourself with the maths language used in our school.**
Why? Children can become very confused if teacher and parent use different language and have different ways of doing sums.
How can we help you? We will provide you with a sheet of the maths language used in school at your child's class level.
- **Involve your child in simple mathematical problem solving in normal daily life.**
Why? So that your son will understand the purpose of learning maths.
How can we help you? We will provide some suggestions throughout the year
Infants can help you to set the table, counting out knives, forks etc.
Older pupils could e.g. help you calculate the time needed to make a trip to Cork, Dublin...., work out how many week's pocket money are needed to buy a new game, estimate the amount of paint needed to paint the fence....

Let's work together to improve all our pupils' maths skills.

