Helping Your Child At Home
Maths

- Maths is all around us and we use it all the time.
- Have magnetic numbers on the fridge to aid number recognition.
- Use the language of maths, e.g. bigger, smaller, biggest, first, last, heavier, lighter, longer, shorter.
- Play cards, board games, number games. (Make sure you have lots of dice and counters available, buttons, pennies.)
- Counting forward / backwards, sequencing, begin at different starting points.
- Sort washing, match pairs of socks or shoes.
- Look for number patterns, e.g. house numbers, money – adding up 2p, 5p or 10p coins.
- Add up the digits of a phone number or car registration.
- Use your finger to write a number on your child's back – can they recognise it? One more than? One less than? Double it? Treble it?
- Learn times tables at the shops with multiple packs, e.g. 2 twin packs of orange juice or yoghurts; 3 bars of soap, packs of biscuits; 4 bread rolls, pies; 5 slices of cheese, meat; 6 eggs, jam tarts, cans of pop.
- How many legs on 3 elephants? How many wings on 7 parrots?
- Look for weights on packets, feel weight of 1kg, can child identify things which weigh less / more?
- Place value (need straws, dice and rubber bands). Throw dice, count straws, every ten make a bundle and ask "How many here?" throughout the game, who has more. Good for avoiding confusion, e.g. 17 (1 bundle and 7 straws) with 70 (7 bundles) and 18 with 80.
- Odds/Evens – decide on an action to do to a given number, e.g. arms up if number said is even, hands on knees if odd number or hold up yes/no cards. Say the odd numbers between 2 given numbers.
- 20 questions – What number am I? Ask questions to guess number, e.g. "Is it an odd number?" Can be done with shapes "Does this shape have straight sides?" "Does this shape have more than 3 sides?"
- Money – use real money to make different amounts and practise giving change from 10p, 50p or £1.
- Learn number bonds to 10, e.g. 3+7=10, 2+8=10. When these are secure practise number bonds to 20, e.g. 11+9=20 etc.

Ask your child's teacher if you are unsure of the calculation methods your child is using. Teaching them methods you understand and used at school may confuse them.