

Mathematics at Ditton Nursery School

We want children to grow up loving maths! We believe that a positive attitude towards numbers and shapes starts early, and it develops best through play, songs, and daily routines. We use hands-on activities, real-world experiences, and fun challenges both inside and outdoors. Here is how we support mathematical development and bring maths to life every day:

White Rose Maths

To make sure our maths teaching is of the highest quality, we follow the 'White Rose Maths' scheme. This is a fun approach also used in many primary schools. It helps us plan exciting, playful themes that build your child's confidence step-by-step. By using White Rose Maths, we ensure our children focus deeply on understanding numbers from 1 to 10, giving them the perfect head start for reception class.

At Snack Time

Snack time is one of our favourite times for daily maths. Together with the children, we:

- **Count out loud:** We count the children, the cups, and the fruit slices to see how many we have altogether
- **Compare things:** We talk about who has *more* fruit, who has *fewer* pieces, and if things are *the same*.
- **Explore fractions & shapes:** We look at how a *whole* piece of fruit changes shape when we cut it into *halves* or *quarters*
- **Talk about sizes:** We sort foods onto plates by how they look, feel, or smell, and measure out drinks to explore *full* and *empty*

Through Play and Our Environment

Our nursery is packed with exciting things for children to explore, count, and describe. We encourage them to be curious problem solvers by:

- **Playing with shapes:** We look at everyday shapes around us—like round plates, square windows, and triangle sandwiches. Children use blocks and shapes to build models and pictures
- **Spotting numbers:** We point out numbers in the real world, like on our clocks, timers, and items in our home corner
- **Using time and routine:** We use visual timetables, so children know what comes *first*, *next*, and *last* in their day.
- **Solving problems:** We ask questions like, "*Only 3 children can play in the sand today. There are 2 in there now, so how many more can join?*"

Moving, Singing, and Storytelling

- **Active maths:** Children learn about sizes and positions best by using their whole bodies. Climbing *over* the frame, crawling *under* the trees, or sitting *inside* a big cardboard box helps them understand space and distance
- **Rhymes and stories:** We use fun counting songs, number rhymes, and storybooks to make numbers familiar and exciting

Our Goal: A Deep Understanding

We want children to understand numbers really well, rather than just rushing to count as high as possible. We practise seeing small groups of items (like 2 or 3 cars on a rug) and instantly knowing how many there are without needing to count them one by one. This helps children build a strong, confident foundation for the future!