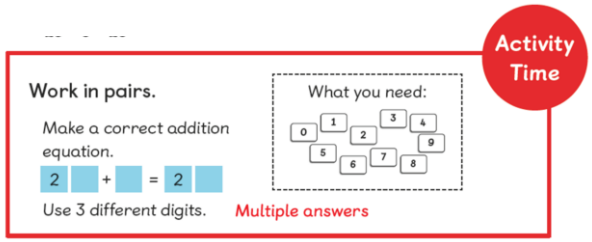
Homework

Your child will receive regular maths activities that they can do at home. These activities are simply for your child's enjoyment of maths and an opportunity for you to support them with their skills. There is no deadline or requirement for your child to bring these activities back to school however anything your child would like to present at school will be celebrated!

Example of Singapore Maths homework:



Family Learning

If you would like to learn more about Singapore Maths and how you can support your child at home, please watch this space for our next 'Singapore Maths Workshop' event. The workshop will provide you with more information about Singapore Maths as well as giving you the opportunity to work alongside your children in problem solving using concrete materials. Singapore Maths toolkits are also available to purchase for £1 at these events.

Useful Websites

- http://www.mathsnoproblem.co.uk/
- http://mathsnoproblem.co.uk/parents/singapore-maths-tutorial-videos.html
- http://banhar.blogspot.co.uk/

Using the Singapore Maths Approach

A Guide for Parents and Carers

LEWIS STREET PRIMARY SCHOOL AND

CHRIST CHURCH C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

At Christ Church and Lewis Street we are committed to developing skilled, confident mathematicians. Consequently, we have adopted the renowned Singapore Math approach to enable us to encourage proficiency and a love of maths that is embedded within our pupils.

What is the Singapore Maths Approach?

Singapore Maths' prescriptive approach to teaching ensures that all concepts and skills are taught following the same format. Lessons follow the **concrete–pictorial–abstract** pedagogy. Clear and engaging visuals are used to present concepts, and to model solutions that allow all pupils, regardless of language skills, to focus on the mathematics. The concrete–pictorial–abstract sequence helps students build understanding of mathematical processes.

Take a simple multiplication problem – for example 3 x 4:

Concrete:	Pupils count out with blocks or rods three lots of four. This stage is concrete and tangible.
Pictorial:	In this stage, rather than hold objects in their hands, they draw them in a book.
Abstract:	Finally, the support is removed, and pupils start to perform the calculation in the abstract.

This is when problem solving comes into play – pupils need to manipulate information quickly. If the problem is too difficult they can fall back on the pictorial; if that is also too hard they go back to the concrete.

The Parent / Carer Role

We encourage parents to be open-minded. Singapore maths is not what most parents studied in school, and while you may want to help your child learn the times tables etc the way you did, you should also consider this different approach. The reason for this is because when you as parents were in school the emphasis was likely on getting the correct answer whereas Singapore Maths is about understanding the maths and explaining your answer. Not only do we want our pupils to get the right answer, but we also want them to know **why** it is the right answer.

Questioning

There are maths problems everywhere! But how can you encourage your child to solve these problems by themselves? Questioning children in the right way is paramount in developing thinking. Open – ended questions are best i.e. questions that you can't respond with just 'yes' or 'no'.

The next time you come up against a mathematical problem ask:

- What do you know / what can you see [from the problem]?
- What way(s) could you solve it?
- Can you write / draw it?
- Why have you used this way? Is there anything you would change?
- Could you explain this method to your friend/relative?
- Can you use / invent another method to solve the problem?

End of Year Expectations

Please read the insert which will inform you of your child's end of year expectations. Remember – these are expectations for the END of the year – please do not feel overwhelmed or worried if your child is not there yet.

If you have any questions or would like any advice on these, please speak to your child's class teacher.

Learning Times Tables

Please refer to the 'End of Year Expectations' insert which will inform you about what times tables your child needs to learn this year. You will be provided with a 'times tables record card' for your child so that you can help them at home. When rote learning, remember not just to practice counting in twos, fives etc but that you say the entire times tables fact e.g. 1 x 2 = 2, 2 x 2 = 4 etc.

Useful apps to download:

- Sing your times tables with Percy Parker (£0.79)
- My Times Tables (Free)