

To the Parents of Year 2 children

Dear Parents

Since June 2010 children in Key Stage 2 have been completing an online homework called "Maths Whizz". We are now introducing this homework to the year 2 children, as part of their transition into year 3.

Last week your child has completed an online assessment as part of this.

Numeracy homework will now be completed online. Each child has their own individual logon and a secure area where their achievements are stored. As your child has completed the online assessment their teacher will have the results of that assessment, which highlights areas of the mathematics curriculum which they need to work on. The online tutor will select teaching activities and assess children's progress using progress tests.

The activities are very much tailored to individual children's needs and all children can experience success at their own level. Teachers can easily track and look at children's achievements and identify the next steps in their learning.

Children will receive credits for completing lessons and activities, the more time they spend doing the lessons the more credits they will earn. There is a "shop" where children can spend their credits and buy things to enhance their virtual bedroom and playroom. Children can challenge their classmates to games if they are online at the same time. They can build up a buddy list for this purpose however teachers will have access to this and all activity that takes place. Doing activities in the shop does not count as their usage.

Children can keep check of their current usage via a clock in their virtual bedroom. During term time teachers will be checking usage on Monday mornings and usage will be counted from Monday to Sunday evening. Children who do not do the required minimum amount of time on Maths Whizz may lose their termly reward day, as this is their Mathematics homework.

Over the holidays we would like the children to have a go at maths whizz to get used to it for next year. Research shows that this is best done in 20-30 minute sessions a few times a week. One session a week would be fantastic.

During term time if your child does not have access to the internet outside school please do not worry! Middlefield runs a club specifically for this Maths Homework. The club runs on Tuesday and Thursday evenings after school until 4.15. We will send out more information about Maths Whizz club next term.

Children have been given a demonstration of the software so they are familiar with the learning environment. If you would like to know more, please visit the website at www.whizz.com.

If you have any questions about Maths Whizz please do not hesitate to contact me,

Thank you for your continued support,

Yours sincerely

Miss Alison Cracknell
KS1 Leader
On behalf of Middlefield Primary Academy (Part of TDLPT)