



29<sup>th</sup> February 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **Maths Passports**

We are very pleased to announce the launch of 'Maths Passports', a clearly structured programme designed to help you, your child, and your child's class teacher work together to develop your child's mental maths knowledge and recall.

Maths Passports were originally designed by Ray Maher, an independent maths consultant who has been working closely with the Education Department for a number of years. They have been successfully used in many schools and have shown a positive impact on the pupils' maths abilities. We would like to thank Ray for allowing us to adapt the passports for our school.

### **How will Maths Passports work at Forest School?**

We are using nine passports with maths objectives ranging from Reception through to Year 7. Our youngest pupils will be working on a 'travel bag', collecting items to travel with, ready for their first passport. Each passport has a set of targets which are based on key mathematical concepts that are essential for everyday success in mathematics. The passports are designed to take them on a journey around the world with each passport further afield. The targets get progressively more challenging as they move through.

Each child has been assessed and allocated a starting passport that will meet their needs. It is possible that they will already be able to achieve several of the targets on the passport; however, it is vital that there are no gaps in the children's knowledge as they progress forward. The children will develop instant recall skills in all the targets – they should not be taking time to work out the answer to each question, they need to know them instantly.

Children will be assessed weekly with two different targets being assessed. To encourage a broad recall, children will not be assessed on the same targets two weeks in a row. When a target is achieved the passport will be stamped. When a target has been stamped twice it is achieved. When all targets on a passport have been stamped the class teacher will carry out a mixed test. If this is successfully achieved the passport is completed. The child's success will be celebrated in assembly and a certificate awarded. They will then receive their new passport.

Copies of all of the passports, as well as parent guidance sheets and an overview of the system is available through our school website - [www.forest.sch.gg](http://www.forest.sch.gg). Please take a look to give yourself ideas on how to help your child with their learning.

### **How can you help?**

Supporting your children at home... We have many resources and links available through the website. Please have a look.

Helping test the pupils... We will be assessing the children on a weekly basis to tick off the targets. To enable us to do this on an individual child basis, we would be very appreciative of support. If you would like to be involved in this project and can spare half an hour or more of your time each week, I will be able to show you how to help support staff in assessing the children. If this is something that would interest you, please contact me at school. You do not need a good knowledge of maths – all resources will be provided, including the answers 😊. This would really help us in making sure every child has a weekly opportunity to show what they have learnt.

Remember – The emphasis is on the child having instant recall of number facts – they need to know them by heart and should not be working them out.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr A. Paul  
Deputy Headteacher