

Numeracy Initiatives in Scoil Barra Naofa

"Ready, Set, Go Maths" and "Mata sa Rang/Maths Recovery"

In the Junior Classes we run the "Ready, Set, Go Maths" and "Maths Recovery" programmes.

In Junior Infants, "Ready Set Go Maths" is a hands on approach to teaching difficult and abstract Maths concepts and Maths Language. Children learn the four main mathematical skills of sorting, number recognition and counting, relationships and operations (adding and subtracting) and Understanding of Number through games and hands on active learning in small groups. It is a fun and interactive experience which helps children to engage in a practical way with mathematical problems and helps to develop their problem solving skills.

Mata sa rang/ Maths Recovery is done in Senior Infants and First Class. It offers a unique approach to extending children's number knowledge, understanding and strategies. It is suitable not only for pupils who are experiencing difficulties but also for average and more able children.

Members of the Special Education Team (S.E.T.), in collaboration with the Class Teacher and Special Needs Assistant, work in the classroom every day for a number of weeks focusing on small group work. A huge emphasis is placed on oral work, mental strategies and language development. Much of the work is done through structured game playing techniques and progress is carefully monitored. These interventions have proven to be very successful in developing a positive attitude to Maths and improving the confidence of children in their Mathematical ability.

Problem Solving

Problem Solving in Maths can be very difficult for many children and we have devised our own strategy to help. This problem solving strategy is explored in all classes from First Class to Sixth Class. The acronym **R.D.E.D.** (Red dragons eat doughnuts!) and **CHECK!** stands for the following:

READ :

1. What information am I given ?
2. Underline key words.
3. What do I need to find out ?
4. Use smaller numbers if you need to.
5. How many steps in this problem - 1, 2 or 3 ? Decide on +, -, X or ÷

DRAW : Make a drawing of the problem.

ESTIMATE : Guess the answer. Is it bigger or smaller than the number in the sum ?

DO : Do all work slowly and carefully.

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CHECK YOUR ANSWER WITH YOUR ESTIMATE. IF YOUR ANSWER IS VERY DIFFERENT, TRY AGAIN!