

Mathletics: A Parent's Guide

Mathletics is helping children at Lady Boswell's to enjoy maths and increase their breadth and depth of mathematical understanding.

Mathletics has many aspects from quick fire calculations, times-table music videos and interactive tutorials in line with the maths topics covered in the primary curriculum. This page will show you how you can support your child in using Mathletics at home.

Your child will bring their log in home with them before the end of term. There is no expectation to complete any tasks over Summer; we are sending this home so that should you wish to help your children explore and play lives games then you are able to.

Basics

All children in year 2-6 have access to Mathletics through their own **username** and **password**. This gives them access to all the mathematical games, resources and activities. If your child does not have a username and password please contact the class teacher who can organise setting one up for them. There is also a handy **QR code** which you can scan via a camera to log in, which makes it much faster and reduces the need to remember passwords!

Mathletics activities may occasionally be used as exercises **in school**. On the school website, there is the Maths Progression of Skills document where you will be able to see which topics are being covered in school, to best choose activities to play together at home.

Mathletics activities will be set by the class teacher for **homework**. Once logged on, your child will not have access to all the games and activities until the given homework activities have been completed. It is important that children do their best in these activities as the scores are stored and can be viewed by the class teacher.

For children who do not have access to the **internet** at home, the school may allow them to complete homework during breaktime. Please contact the class teacher to arrange this if necessary.

Mathletics also requires a modern browser and an up-to-date version of flash player (free from Adobe). Full technical specifications are on the Mathletics website. A **Mathletics app** can also be downloaded, but at the present time does not seem to have the full functionality of the website. One tip when navigating the website is to avoid pressing your browser's 'back' button. Rather use Mathletics own buttons within the webpage.

Overview

When a child first logs in they will be asked to make a profile. Once complete, unless they have set homework tasks, they will be taken to the main page. On the right hand side of the screen there are the different areas:



Live Mathletics: Quick fire multiplication versus computer, members of class, members of school or the world. (See below)



Activities: National Curriculum based activities. (See below)



Problem Solving: The Problem Solving activities are a wide range of activities that present mathematical-based problems in a real-life context. In this area, your child can use the range of number skills they have developed to solve a range of problems in an exciting game-based environment.



Concept Search: Two maths dictionaries so children and parents alike can look up terms they may have forgotten!



Rainforest Maths: Rainforest Maths is a separate area within Mathletics. These activities are designed for students up to year 6 and have a great rainforest theme.



Times Tables Toons: Meet Max the Cat and his band in the Times Tables Tunes. They have created 11 great music videos to help you master multiplication. From the Disco Strut to the Jungle Boogie, these songs are a great way to learn times tables!



Spellodrome: Takes you to the pages where children can learn and practise spellings.

Activities



The Activity area is, in my view, the place where the most focused learning takes place. Mathletics knows which year group your child is in and will provide core exercises on all topics pitched at that age group. Your child is free to choose from these exercises. The level of challenge for the year group is said to be 'core' and it is possible, for most topics, to select 'something easier' or 'something harder' which would be the level of the year below and above respectively.

As your child completes these exercises the marks are recorded. The aim for each is to get a perfect score. If a child receives a red, they will probably need additional instruction from you or a teacher, although there are video tutorials your child can access by pressing the question mark in the blue circle. They can complete the activity multiple times, and will generally improve through repetition. Points are awarded in each activity which are added for the daily and weekly totals. Using these points, weekly certificates are awarded.

1000 points in a week = Bronze certificate

5 Bronze certificates = Silver certificate

4 Silver certificates = Gold certificate

(A maximum of one certificate in a week. Point totals reset Sunday night)

To celebrate success the certificates for points earned between Monday and Sunday, will be read out on the following Friday in celebration assembly. You can also view and print off any of your child's certificates at home using the 'My Awards' link in the main menu of Mathletics.

Live Mathletics



In Live Mathletics, your child can challenge other pupils to real-time mathematical races that will test the speed and accuracy of mental calculations. They can choose to compete against pupils from right across the world, or from school or their class.

One weakness of Live Mathletics in my opinion is that it is possible for children to choose a level that is too easy for the head-to-head games. At the moment, to my knowledge, there isn't a way to block these too easy levels. I recommend that parents keep an eye on what level their child is playing.

In Live Mathletics, points, which go towards the weekly totals, and credits, which can be used to purchase items from the virtual shop, are awarded to the children for correct answers and beating their own high scores. The items available from the shop are items of clothing for their digital avatar.

How to Guides

There are colourful guides to Mathletics available here:

[Mathletics General](#) A general guide on how Pupils log in and use Mathletics.

[Live Mathletics](#) A more detailed guide on Mathletics.

[Level Descriptions](#) What is covered in the Mathletics Live in each level.

[Tablets](#) A guide on the new, fast developing, tablet app.

As mentioned earlier, there is a Parental Area where you can view your child's scores and track progress. You can sign up online; you will need your child's login details.

[Mathletics for Parents](#) A guide for Parental Area.

[Parental Login](#) Sign up here for Parental Area.

I hope this has been helpful. Please email your class teacher via the Office if you are unsure about anything and they may pass it on to myself.

Thank you for continuing to ensure our children have access to high quality resources at home and preparing them for their later stages of education.

Hannah Cheeseman

Year 4 Class Teacher and Mathematics Co-Ordinator