Bledlow Ridge School

Dear parents/carers,

Towards the of last term, we wrote to you informing you that we had subscribed to Mathletics (www.mathletics.co.uk), an online learning tool, which would enable the children to access Maths games and challenges from home. Using the program, you can compete in Maths races against other children from all around the world, complete problem-solving activities, use it as a learning tool and even earn points to customise your avatar. Following trials of the challenges by some of the teachers last term we will be moving ahead with using Mathletics as maths homework this year. This will allow for homework that is much more closely aligned to what the children have been doing in class and also more differentiated to provide challenge and support were necessary.

The children will all be given their usernames and passwords to bring home this week and the first set of challenges will be set soon. A challenge consists of 10 questions and each should take around 10 minutes. Each week the children will be set 3 challenges and will be given a due date for these challenges (usually one week). Children should attempt each challenge a maximum of three times, aiming for a "pass mark" of 80%. If, after three attempts, they have not managed to score 80% they should come in and explain to their teacher the next day who will do some additional work to help them. Similarly, if you have difficulty accessing the website at home, please contact us via the school office and we can arrange a time for your child to complete the tasks in school time.

When the children log in they are given the options of learn and play at the top of the screen. If they have challenges set they must complete these before they are able to access any of the other features such as the Live Mathletics and other games. Every correct answer they get earns them points which they can then spend on buying items for their avatar. Points also contribute towards weekly totals which can earn printable certificates and possibly even a place in the Mathletics Hall of Fame. Children can bring these certificates to school to share in Achievement Assembly if they wish. We will also share the top ten Mathletes from the school during achievement assembly, with each position being given a certain number of Housepoints.

We feel this will be an exciting and beneficial change to our Maths homework that will allow for better matched activities and home learning having a greater impact on their work in school than before.

Yours sincerely,

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