



27th September, 2017

Welcome to The Maths Factor!

Dear Parent or Carer,

You might have heard your child talk about The Maths Factor which is an online maths programme that we use in our school. We'd like to share a bit more information about it with you so you can enjoy supporting your child when they use it for homework.

Below you will find key information about the programme and how it works. We hope that you and your child will love The Maths Factor and enjoy doing regular sessions.

What is The Maths Factor?

The Maths Factor is Carol Vorderman's online maths tutoring site for primary school-aged children which is set in a beautiful park-themed learning environment.

How does the course work?

The main Maths Factor course has been designed for regular use both at home and at school. There are over 1000 daily sessions, that progress in micro-steps to build your child's confidence, using this simple formula:

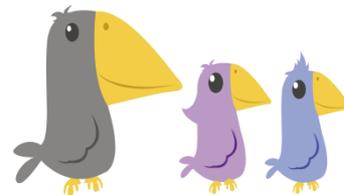
Learn – Play – Practice

1. **Learn** – **Carol's videos** are lively and fun. Children can watch them as many times as they need to unblock an issue.
2. **Play** – The **warm-ups** are short, fun activities to get your child's brain in gear before the practice exercise.
3. **Practice** – In the **Practices**, the numbers do the talking. The graphics are large and clear, the interface is simple, and there's no timer, to avoid adding pressure.

As your child completes the practice sessions, they will receive online marbles, and they will be able to see a running total of the number of questions they've answered correctly. They will also earn 4 virtual coins for every session completed which can be spent in the My Rewards area in ActiveLearn Primary.

Your child can go to the 'Games and fun!' tab to find extras such as the Games Centre, where children can play fun games to unwind while still practising their maths. The more practice sessions your child completes, the more games they will unlock. Also under the 'Games and fun!' tab, you can find the Tower of Achievements. This shows your child all of their achievements on The Maths Factor to date, and encourages them to keep going and reach the next milestone.

If there is one tip that will ensure your child gets the most from The Maths Factor and boost their confidence and enjoyment of maths? It's simply this: little and often. If your child can do one 10–15 minute session a day, five days a week, that will really help. Avoid cramming practice to make up for missing days. Just a little bit regularly and you'll find they start to love watching their progress.



How can your child move to a different topic?

The main Maths Factor course is linear. When your child first starts The Maths Factor, their teacher will place them where they think is the right starting point. If this starting point turns out to be pitched too high or too low for your child, this is likely to be reflected in their results, and their teacher will be able to make adjustments if needed.

Videos to help parents and children to improve their maths skills

Carol Vorderman has created some videos specifically for parents, with accompanying advice. You can view these by clicking on the blue 'Carol's advice for parents' marble from the 'Home' tab.

If you think that your child would benefit from watching a video lesson again, or you'd just like to look through the videos, you can find them all via the 'Video search' (under the 'Games and fun!' tab).

Your child can also add videos to their 'Favourites', so that they can find them easily again in future.

Technical information

Please note: it is strongly recommended that you use Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox web browsers with ActiveLearn. If you prefer to use Internet Explorer, please check you have at least IE9 in order for everything to work as it should.

The Maths Factor is iPad-compatible. There's no app – to access the site, just open up Safari, go www.themathsfactor.com, and login as usual. It works beautifully! The Maths Factor is not available in offline mode.

How to log in

Go to www.activelearnprimary.co.uk

Enter your child's username, password and school code is the same log in as Bug Club.

If you have misplaced these details, we can provide them again.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Noele Marray
Maths Leader

'An outstanding school, which is deeply committed to the Catholic mission... this school inspires all within this faith community to live life to the full.' Ofsted 2017

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