

 8 March 2011

Dear Parents / Carers

This year’s Play Along Maths in Primary 1 has been very successful. Sixteen families joined us for 6 weeks to take part in our Home/School Maths Project. On the final day we asked you to give us some feedback about your thoughts on Play Along Maths. I have looked at the questionnaires and summarized all the responses below.



Everyone felt that there the information on the introductory day was ‘*Very Helpful’*. The majority said that the time spent on parent training was *‘Enough’* with 3 families recording, *‘Ok.’* Most families agreed that the choice of toys was ‘Very Good’ with just 3 feeling that they were, ‘Ok’. This year we had received £200 from the Parent Council to buy some new materials, which was great. These new games were borrowed for the first time during these last few weeks and it was good to see many children benefiting from using them at home. The recommended borrowing time for Play Along Maths is 1 week and the majority felt that this was suitable for their child. One or two would have liked to have changed the games *‘More Often.’*

 Happily, all families agreed that the use of the Daily Diary was *‘Helpful’* ! For the teachers, the diary is a great way of catching up with weekly feedback from the children and their families. The diary allows us to see how often the games are being used, how they are being played and what kind of response they are receiving from everyone as it is not always possible to speak to each family individually each week, although we do try! The overall picture emerging from the Diaries was that the games were fun and worthwhile and that many different family members could get involved with the child. Also, there were several instances reported where the children took the theme from the game and applied it to the home situation eg the tool box had been used around the house for testing and repairing and magnets were tested on home objects.

 Although the *Chat Along Cards* were not included with the new games, the game instructions were helpful in the majority of cases. Apart form 1 child who did not particularly enjoy *‘rating’* the game each week, the rest said that they enjoyed doing this ‘*a lot’.* It was great to read that **all** families said that their child had benefited from taking part in Play Along Maths!

The one question which we should have taken out of the questionnaire was about weekly feedback for parents. Unfortunately, we did not have the time to co-ordinate this within the slot we had available for Play Along Maths. Some parents said that they thought it would be a good idea for this to happen and it is something we shall look at for the future.

Here are a few quotes from the feedback questionnaire –

We are learning while we are playing.

Valuable time spent alone with my child, especially when she got to choose how we spent the time playing.

Fun for the whole family!

Introduction to new games which we will look for in the future!

A great way to find out about the shapes and the seasons.

We discovered simple words that my daughter did not know or understand. I had presumed she knew them.

It gave me some time in school with my daughter.

My daughter really enjoyed Play Along Maths and learned a lot about different maths concepts.

I loved the Chat Along cards and really tried to use them to help to develop my son’s vocabulary.

Improvements?

A few helpful points were made which will support us in the future –

* It would be good to have more time to talk about the games each week. This would also allow the opportunity to get to know other parents.
* I would like Play Along Maths to be longer than 45 mins.
* I would like everyone to make sure they return all the game pieces each week.

Thank you to all families who took part in Play Along Maths this year. The teachers certainly enjoyed seeing the children so engaged with their families in school. Please visit the school website, *www.glendaleprimaryschool.co.uk,* to see a selection of photographs taken during the Play Along sessions.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Fagan