

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Dear Parent

I am writing to let you know about an exciting project in which your child's school is participating. Some Year 2 teachers in a number of schools will be using this year a Mathematical Reasoning Programme, designed by a team from the University of Oxford to improve children's attainment in mathematics in Key Stage 1. This programme was found effective in previous studies when the teachers were supported directly by a team from the University of Oxford. After only 12 lessons, participating pupils improved an extra three months in mathematics achievement during the year. The current project will evaluate whether the programme continues to be effective when the teachers receive support from the Maths Hubs, working together with the National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics (NCETM), and the support from the University of Oxford is only indirect. The project is funded by the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF).

In order to evaluate the programme, some of the teachers will use the materials this year and others will use them next year. This will allow for a comparison between the groups that used the materials and those that did not use them this year. In line with the EEF guidelines, all the schools will have the opportunity to use the materials in the end. The assignment to this year or to next year will be done randomly by the independent evaluators, a research team from the National Institute of Economic and Social Research (NIESR).

At the end of the project, the children in all participating schools will answer an assessment that will be used to evaluate the programme. It takes approximately an hour to complete. This assessment does not influence your child's placement in school. It will be used only for the research. The assessments will be collected by NatCen (NatCen Social Research) and the results will only be accessible to the researchers in the NIESR, NatCen and Oxford University teams working in the project. No information about individual children will be made available to anyone outside the research teams. The data will be kept confidential, in accordance with the Data Protection Act. Only group results of the programme evaluation will be published. We will not use your child's name or the name of the school in any report arising from the research.

We are asking for your permission to obtain your child's name, date of birth, and UPN (Unique Pupil Number; please, see attached form), in order to complement the information for the assessment of the Mathematical Reasoning Programme. Once this information is included in the data set, the data will be anonymised and no one will be able to identify individual children. Information provided will be linked with the National Pupil Database (held by the Department for Education) and shared with the project teams, the Department for Education, Education Endowment Foundation (EEF), EEF's data contractor FFT Education and in an anonymised form to the UK Data Archive.

If you would like more information about this project, you can contact the principal researcher, Prof Terezinha Nunes (terezinha.nunes@education.ox.ac.uk). The project has been approved by the University of Oxford Ethics Committee. If you require clarification of the ethical approval or have any concerns during the course of the research, please contact the Chair of Department of Education Research Ethics Committee, Dr Liam Gearon (liam.gearon@education.ox.ac.uk).

Kind regards,
Terezinha Nunes

Mathematical Reasoning: A programme for Year 2 children

If you agree to your child's data and UPN being used in the project, you do not need to do anything.

If you **do not** wish to release your child's Unique Pupil Number (UPN), please tick the box below.

I DO NOT consent for my child's Unique Pupil Number to be released to the research team.

Child's name (BLOCK CAPITALS) Child's teacher.....

Parent name (BLOCK CAPITALS)

Parent signature:

Date

(Please return the completed form to your child's class teacher.)