

Mathematical Vocabulary (EYFS)



Maths is its own language. Sometimes that language is written words and/or symbols, but it is a language and it must be learned for math fluency and competency. Understanding of mathematical vocabulary, is important to ensure your child makes good progress in maths curriculum. At Healdswood Infant and Nursery School, we explicitly teach maths vocabulary, providing it a context and allowing children to apply it in a variety of contextual problems. Below are the mathematical terms your child will learn this year in early years . We know children are curious and will undoubtedly want to learn more and we encourage this.

Vocabulary	Definition	Example
Place Value		
Forwards	To advance from the starting point.	<i>1, 2, 3 ... this is counting forwards</i>
Backwards	Back towards the starting point.	<i>'7, 6, 5, 4, 3... this is counting backwards'.</i>
more	More than a number	<i>1 more than 4 is 5</i>
less	Less than a number	<i>1 less than 4 is 3</i>
subitise	Amount without counting	<i>I can see 5 stars ...</i>
Least	Smallest in amount	<i>'C has the least number of stars in'.</i>
Many	A number representing a quantity.	<i>'How many have you got in total?'</i>
Most	Largest in amount.	<i>'D has the most amount'</i>
Numeral	A symbol that represents a number.	<i>'5 is a numeral'</i>
Addition and Subtraction		
Equals	Be the same as in number or amount.	<i>'5 + 5 = 10' '10 = 5 + 5'</i>
Addition	Adding 2 numbers/ groups together	<i>2 + 3 = 5</i>
Number Bonds	A pair of numbers with a given total.	<i>'9 and 1 are numbers bonds to 10'</i>
Subtract/Subtraction	The inverse operation to addition.	<i>'We are taking some away so it is a subtraction'.</i>
Part, part, whole	Adding 2 parts (numbers) to find the total (whole)	<i>2 is a part, 3 is a part, 3 is the whole</i>

Length		
longer	Length	<i>The ribbon is longer than the ruler</i>
shorter	length	<i>The pencil is shorter than the book.</i>
Weight		
Balanced/ equal	Equal- 2 items weigh the same	<i>The scales are balanced both items weigh the same</i>
Capacity and Volume		
Capacity	The maximum amount that can be contained.	<i>The capacity of the jug is 1 litre.</i>
Less than	One value or amount is lesser than the other.	<i>'The amount of water in this container is less than the amount of water in this container.'</i>
More than	One value or amount is greater than the other.	<i>'The amount of water in this container is more than the amount of water in this container.'</i>
Volume	A quantity or amount of the 3D space it fills.	<i>'The bottle contains a volume of one litre but its capacity is two litres. The bottle is half full.'</i>
Time		
Always	At all times.	<i>'Christmas is always on December the 25th'</i>
Analogue clock	A clock with a face and hands.	
Date	The day of the month or year as specified by a number.	<i>'Monday 1st September 2020. (01.09.21)'</i>
Earlier	Before the usual or expected time.	<i>'We have finished our lesson a bit earlier today'</i>
Month of the Year	'January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, December'	
Seasons	'Spring, summer, autumn, winter'	

