

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Professor Terezinha Nunes
15 Norham Gardens
Oxford OX2 6PY

Edge Hill
University



Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to let you know about an exciting project that aims to find out the effect of a mathematics programme, 1stClass@Number, that focuses on improving children's number skills. 1stClass@Number promotes core aspects of number in the National Curriculum (number sense, place value and calculation). The programme was developed by Edge Hill University, where other successful programmes to promote children's mathematics learning were developed. The project is funded by the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF); a team from Oxford University will be evaluating the effectiveness of the programme.

Your child's school has kindly agreed to be part of the study. In order to evaluate the programme, all children will complete a short assessment carried out by their teacher at the end of Year 1. Subsequently, some children will participate in the 1stClass@Number project. They will receive support, in small groups of four children, from a trained TA for 3 weekly half hour sessions over 10 weeks. These sessions are in addition to usual, daily classes of mathematics. At the end of the project, all children will participate again in an assessment, in order to evaluate the programme. This assessment does not influence your child's placement in school. It is necessary only for the research. All schools in the project will have the opportunity to use materials from one of Edge Hill's programmes; some schools will receive 1stClass@Number whereas other will have the opportunity to use a different mathematics or a writing programme. The assignment to each programme will be done randomly. There are no expenses to be incurred by parents from participation.

Pupil data and test responses will be collected and accessed by Oxford University. No information collected by the researchers about individual children will be made available to anyone outside the research team and your child's teacher, who will carry out the assessment. The data will be kept confidential, in accordance with the Data Protection Act. Only average results of the programme evaluation will be published. We will not use your child's name in any report arising from the research.

We are seeking your permission to use your child's data and to obtain your child's Unique Pupil Number (UPN) to complement the assessment of the 1stClass@Number programme. The UPN is part of the Department for Education records. It will allow us to link test results to the National Pupil Database and share data with the EEF, EEF's data contractor FFT Education, the Department for Education, and to the UK data archive for research purposes. Once this information is included in the data set, the data will be anonymised and no one will be able to identify individual children. If you agree for your child to be part of the research and for their UPN to be used, then you need not do anything. If you **DO NOT** wish your child to participate in the project and for the research team to have access to your child's UPN, please complete and return the attached form to your child's class teacher by the 27th May 2016.

We expect that your child will enjoy being part of the project. If you have any questions you would like to ask before replying, please do not hesitate to contact the lead of the evaluation team, Professor Terezinha Nunes (terezinha.nunes@education.ox.ac.uk). If you have any concerns about ethical procedures at any point during the research, please contact the Head of the Ethics Committee in the Department of Education, Dr Liam Gearon (liam-gearon@education.ox.ac.uk). Please keep this letter for your records.

Kind regards,
Prof Terezinha Nunes
University of Oxford



Title of Project: An evaluation of the 1st Class@Number programme

If you agree for your child to be part of the research and their UPN to be used, then you need not do anything.

If you agree for your child to participate but DO NOT agree to releasing your child's Unique Pupil Number (UPN), please tick the box below.

☐

I agree to my child's participation in the research but DO NOT consent to the Unique Pupil Number to be released to the research team.

Child's name:Date of birth:

Child's class Teacher:

School:.....

Parent/carer name (BLOCK CAPITALS)

Parent/carer signature:

Date

