

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Professor Terezinha Nunes
15 Norham Gardens
Oxford OX2 6PY

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to let you know about an exciting project that aims to find out the effect of a Maths app on improving mathematics learning in Yr 1. The Maths app offers children self-paced opportunities to rehearse materials that cover many aspects of the National Curriculum. The presentation is attractive and children enjoy using it. The project is funded by the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF). The University of Nottingham project team will work with a teaching assistant who will implement the programme and a team from Oxford University will be evaluating the impact of the programme on the children's mathematical attainment. The EEF decided to fund this project because the University of Nottingham team has conducted previous evaluations of the Maths apps, which provided evidence of promise.

Your child's school has kindly agreed to be part of the study and we are writing to you to ask for permission for your child to participate. The school has identified the children who would benefit from using the 'App'. Before the start of the project, all the children taking part in the project will complete an assessment carried out individually by a researcher trained by Oxford University. The Maths intervention is presented on a tablet; children work independently for 4 weekly half-hour sessions over 12 weeks, supervised by a teaching assistant. These sessions are in addition to usual, daily classes of mathematics. At the end of the programme, the children will participate in a second assessment. These assessments aim to evaluate the programme, not the children. These assessments do not influence your child's placement in school. They are necessary only for the research.

Schools will be allocated on a lottery basis by the Oxford evaluation team either to an intervention or to a control group. All the schools in the project will have the opportunity to use the apps, but not necessarily all the children. The intervention schools will use the apps during this school year and others will use them in the next academic year. 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. 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 will be asking the school to provide us with information on the children's Unique Pupil Numbers (UPNs) and free school meal (FSM) eligibility status to complement the assessment of the 'Maths app' programme. The UPN is part of the Department for Education records. The UPN will allow us to link test results to the National Pupil Database and share data with the EEF, the EEF's data contractor FFT Education, the Department for Education, and 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 take part in the research and for their UPN and FSM eligibility status to be used, **then you do not need to do anything**. If you **do not** wish your child to participate in the project or the research team to have access to your child's UPN and/or FSM eligibility status, please complete and return the attached form to your child's class teacher by 30th November.

We expect that your child will enjoy taking part in 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: Maths app evaluation project

If you agree to your child taking part in the research and their UPN and Free School Meals eligibility to be used, then **you do not need to sign and return this form.**

If you would like your child to take part in the research but do not agree to releasing further information, tick the relevant box below.

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

I DO NOT consent for my child's free School Meals eligibility status to be released to the research team.

If you **do not agree** to your child taking part in the project, please tick the box below.

I **DO NOT** agree to my child taking part in the research.

Child's name:

Date of birth:

Child's class teacher:

School:.....

Parent/carer name (BLOCK CAPITALS)

Parent/carer signature:

Date