St George's C of E Primary School Mathematical Dictionary Reception

We would like you to help your child understand the meaning of each of the words included in our Mathematical Dictionary for Reception.

Thank you for your support.

St George's C of E Primary School
Mathematical Dictionary

Reception

Vocabulary	Definition	Example
Above	Used to describe a higher position than another object.	The sky is above us.
Add/addition	Bring two or more numbers together to make a new total.	I can add 5 and 5 together to make 10.
Altogether	Everything included.	There are 10 balls in the bag altogether.
Balance	When both sides are equal and have the same mass.	The weight of each side of the balancing device is the same.
Before	In front of or prior to.	The number 3 comes before the number 4.
Below	Used to describe a lower position than another object.	The ground is below our feet when we are stood up.
Between	Indicates a position in relation to two other places or objects on either side.	The number 3 is between the numbers 2 and 4.
Capacity	The amount of liquid that a container can hold.	The glass is full to capacity because it cannot hold any more water.
Circle	The name of a 2D shape that has no corners or edges.	
Clock	A tool that is used to measure time.	Look at the clock to see what the time is.
Compare	Examine the similarities and differences between at least two objects, shapes or numbers.	A square has 4 sides but a triangle only has 3.

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Corner	A point where two or more lines meet. The correct mathematical term is vertex (vertices).	The table has four corners (vertices).
Cost	A monetary value assigned to an object or service.	A banana costs 10p. Which coin(s) could I use to pay for it?
Count/counted	Assigning one number name to each of a set of objects to determine how many there are.	I counted how many children were in the line and there were 6.
Cube	A 3/D shape with six identical square faces.	
Cuboid	A 3/D shape with four identical rectangular faces and two identical square faces.	
Curved Surface	A surface of a 3D shape that isn't flat.	The cylinder has a curved surface.
Cylinder	A 3/D shape with two circular faces joined by a curved surface.	
Describe	To express mathematical features, qualities and details in words.	Can you describe what a cube looks like?
Difference	The numerical difference between two numbers or sets of objects. It is found by comparing the quantity of one set of objects with another.	The difference between 5 and 2 is 3.
Direction	Where something is pointing.	Which direction do we need to go? Left or right?
Distance	A measure between two points.	What is the distance between the two classrooms?

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Double	To multiply by two or add a value to itself.	If you double 2 the answer is 4.
Edge	The edge of a 3D shape is where two or more faces meet. The edge of a 2D shape is usually called a side.	A triangle has three edges and a cube has 12 edges.
Empty	Containing nothing. Most commonly used in the context of measures.	There was no more water left in the bottle. It was empty.
Equal	Indicates equivalence between two values and can be expressed with the symbol '='. The symbol is read as 'is equal to' which means the same as. Expressions on either side of the symbol have the same value.	My sets are equal because there are four green counters in this set and there are yellow counters in this set.
Face	Used to describe the flat surfaces of a solid shape.	A cube has 6 faces.
Fewer	A lesser amount – used when counting discrete, countable objects, such as, pens, teddies, counters, etc.	There are fewer sweets in my bag than yours.
First	Comes before all others in time or position.	Martin won the race because he crossed the finishing line first.
Flat	A level surface	The table has a flat rectangular surface.
Full	Contains/holds as much or as many as possible; has no empty space.	The glass is not full because I can still add water to it.

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Group	To make equal size groups. This is one model for division.	I will group the sweets equally so that each person gets three.
Half	One of two equal parts of a shape, quantity or object.	I have shared the toy cars into two equal groups – I have half and you have half.
Intersection of sets	Where the two subsets overlap in a Venn diagram. Objects or values which belong to both subsets are placed here.	The number 2 belongs in the intersection because it is even and less than 10.
Last	Comes after all others in time or order.	Tom is the last person in the line.
Length	The distance between two points or two ends of a line. A length of time is the amount of time from the start of an event to its finish.	The length of my skipping rope is shorter than yours.
Less	A smaller amount or not as much.	I have 20p and you have 10p. You have less money than me.
Line	A set of adjacent points that has length but no width.	I have drawn a line matching the picture of a circle to the name.
List	A simple series of objects or numerals.	List all of the shapes that you know.
Long	An adjective used to describe length.	I have a long piece of ribbon.
Mass	A measure relating to the amount of matter within a given object.	The mass of the school bag is greater than the mass of the book.

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Vocabulary	Definition	Example
Measure	To find the size of something in a given unit.	How might we measure how much flour we need to bake a cake?
Minus	A name for the symbol '-', which denotes the operation of subtraction.	Six minus two is equal to four.
More	A greater amount.	I have 10 crayons and you have 5. I have more.
Next	Comes immediately after the present one in order.	The next shape in my pattern is a circle.
Number bond	A pair of numbers with a given total.	5 and 5 make a number bond of 10.
Number line	A number line is a line with a scale showing numbers in order.	My number line begins at 0 and ends at 20.
Order/ordered	Describes the placement of items or values according to given criteria or in a pattern.	I have ordered the numbers from smallest to biggest.
Pair	A set of two things used together.	Shoes come in a pair – one for each foot.

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Pattern	A systematic arrangement of numbers or shapes according to a rule.	The pattern is triangle, square, rectangle.
Plus	The word representing the operation of addition.	6 oranges plus 2 oranges makes a total of 8 oranges.
Rectangle	A four-sided flat 2-D shape with four interior right angles. The opposite sides of a rectangle have the same lengths and are parallel.	
Second	1. A unit of time 2. Immediately after the first	There are 60 seconds in one minute. Sam finished the race in second place.
Sequence	A series of numbers or other elements which follow a rule.	The number 4 is next in the sequence because each number is one less than the one before.
Set	A defined group of objects, numbers or other elements.	I have placed all the red counters in this set because they are all the same colour.
Share	To distribute fairly between a given number of recipients. This is one model for division.	I will share the biscuits equally between the people at the table.

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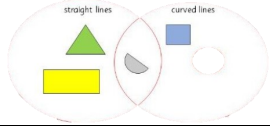| Vocabulary	Definition	Example
Short	An adjective used to describe length.	I cannot tie my hair up because it is too short.
Side	A straight line that forms part of the boundary of a shape.	A triangle has 3 sides.
Size	An object or shape's overall dimensions or magnitude.	The size of my jumper is smaller than yours.
Sort	To organise a set of shapes, objects or numbers into specified categories.	I will sort these objects based on their colour.
Square	A quadrilateral with four equal length sides and four right angles.	
Straight	A line or movement uniform in direction, without bends or curves.	The lines on my page are straight.
Subtract/subtraction	Take away (a number or amount) from another to calculate the difference.	6 subtract 2 is 4.
Sum	The total amount resulting from the addition of two or more numbers, amounts, or items.	The sum of 6 and 2 is eight.
Surface	An outer boundary of a 3-D object.	This cylinder has a curved surface.

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Take away	Subtract (a number or amount) from another to calculate the difference.	He ate 7 of the 10 sweets so we need to take away 7 from 10 which is 3.
Tall	Measuring a specific distance from top to bottom.	Our classroom is not as tall as the church.
Time	Related to duration. Measured in seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, years etc.	After maths it will be break time.
Total	The sum found by adding.	There is a total of 5 horses in the field.
Triangle	A 2-D shape with 3 sides.	
Venn diagram	Two or more circles which represent given sets to help us sort shapes or numbers.	
Vertices	The point at which two or more lines intersect.	This shape has five vertices.
Weight	A measure relating to the amount of matter within a given object.	The weight of this book is heavier than the pencil.
Zero	The number before one.	Zero is at the start of the number line.