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*Mrs. C. Glennon (Chair of Governors)*

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Dear Parent/Carer,

In our effort to improve awareness of numeracy for life, we will be sharing various new research with you. The latest study has found a clear link between reading and maths. The University of Chicago has revealed that reading stories with a focus on maths and number to children at bedtime can significantly improve both children's and parents' maths understanding.

The study gave 587 children aged 6 and 7 years old tablets featuring an app with short passages to read with their parents 4 times a week. One test group read stories which included mathematical themes, such as counting, fractions, probability and shapes. The children and their parents were then asked to discuss the stories and complete simple maths problems together.

The children were tested before and at the end of the study, and those who read the maths stories showed significant improvement in their overall mathematics learning, with some children showing as much as a three month advancement in maths achievement. The study also suggests that this sharing of stories and discussing maths with children can help parents become less anxious about the subject and develop their own understanding.

National Numeracy provides a free website to help families enjoy maths together and recently explored the use of mathematical stories in an [interview with children's author Lauren Child](#). "Young children are enthusiastic investigators and, as they explore their world, they are beginning to develop mathematical skills and mathematical thinking," explained National Numeracy trustee Di Hatchett. "Stories play a critical role in helping children make sense of the world around them and mathematical stories support the development of positive attitudes to maths and helps parents to engage with their learning." National Numeracy's [Family Maths Toolkit](#) is an ideal starting point for parents who want to help their children's maths learning & achievement.

Yours faithfully

Mrs A A Radford  
Head Teacher

