

Dear Parents,

This year, as part of their Mathematics program, all Grade 5, students will be given a Maths Mate worksheet on a regular basis. There will be 8 worksheets to be completed each term, generally one per week, the exceptions being short or disrupted weeks.

The Maths Mate worksheets have been designed to allow students to attempt all questions without the aid of a calculator, and this should be encouraged at home.

Don't be too concerned if your child finds the initial worksheet difficult. It is not expected that students will be able to complete every question from week one; in fact Q24 has been included to offer a real challenge to all students. Each worksheet is built around a common framework of questions aimed at covering the Australian Mathematics Curriculum.

While there is room on the worksheet for the recording of answers, this is only intended as a summary of the student's work. An asterisk ' \* ' has been used to indicate those questions where each student has been asked to show his or her working. In these cases the detail normally expected in Mathematics should be included, with all steps in the development of answers clearly shown. This working should be attached to the worksheet and submitted with it.

Corresponding questions on each worksheet cover the same skill area, that is, Q1 always tests adding whole numbers to 10, Q2, subtracting whole numbers to 10, and so on, with the questions within each category becoming progressively more difficult from week to week.

Students will be confronted by the same type of question on a regular basis. The diagnostic nature of the worksheets will help students and teachers to identify areas of strength and weakness. This should also help to motivate students to make another attempt at mastering skills that they may have found too difficult in the past. As well, the results sheet, if completed accurately, will allow students to enjoy monitoring their own improvement.

If your child is having difficulty with a certain skill, Skill Builders are available to students, teachers and parents from the Maths Mate website [www.mathsmate.net](http://www.mathsmate.net) The Skill Builders also contain a Glossary of important facts and reference material that will provide students with instant help.

We ask also that you sign the completed worksheet each week to acknowledge that your child is working independently and regularly but with your support.

We thank you in anticipation of your involvement and remind you that you are encouraged to call and discuss your child's progress at any time.

Yours sincerely,

Ms. Marie Eksteen