

Dear Parent/Carer,

After several inquiries, we have created a step-by-step guide for setting up a maths drill for your child, should you wish to do so. Whilst we would recommend using such drills as frequently as possible in order to keep your child's maths skills fresh and slick, we also fully understand that we are in an unprecedented, ever-changing situation at present, in which priorities are shifting rapidly.

We too have families and appreciate that completing a maths drill on a daily basis is neither a priority nor a necessity for you and your family right now. The important thing for us all at this time is trying to ensure that our families remain **safe and healthy**.

In short – Here are the tools you need. If you are in a position to be able to use them, then great. But if not, that is absolutely fine too.

Good luck and stay safe.



The Year 3 Team

Setting up a Maths Drill using mathsbot.com

- 1) Visit www.mathsbot.com (or search using Google).
- 2) Select '*Differentiated Questions*' as shown in the diagram below.

The screenshot shows a Google search for 'mathsbot'. The search bar contains 'mathsbot' and the search button is visible. Below the search bar, there are navigation tabs for 'All', 'Videos', 'Images', 'News', 'Shopping', and 'More'. The search results show 'About 50,200 results (0.22 seconds)'. The first result is from 'mathsbot.com' and is titled 'MathsBot.com - Tools for Maths Teachers'. Below the title, there is a description: 'Interactive tools and activites to aid the teaching of mathematics. Hundreds of randomly generated questions and answers.' There are five main tool categories listed: 'Differentiated Questions', 'GCSE Exam Style Questions', 'Starter Generator', 'GCSE Revision Grid', and 'Worksheet generator'. The 'Differentiated Questions' link is circled in red. Below the 'Differentiated Questions' link, there is a sub-link: 'Differentiated Questions. Topic: Random, 1. Arithmetic: Addition ...'. At the bottom of the search results, there is a link: 'More results from mathsbot.com »'.

- 3) Experiment with various settings by altering the drop-down menus shown in the diagram below (**Time, Topic Min difficulty, Max difficulty**) until you find settings that your child is comfortable with. If they are getting all of the questions correct (and with ease), you should consider altering the level of difficulty. Similarly, if the questions are too hard, adjust the level accordingly.

When altering the '**Topic**' drop-down menu, please consider the following:
 For basic arithmetic drills using all four operations, stick to the **first 5 options**. If you feel that your child is capable of tackling some of the trickier topics, then do so at your discretion.

Customise using the options above then click 'Create Questions' to generate a random set of differentiated questions on your chosen topic.

- 4) When the timer runs out, the answers will be shown automatically. However, if you want to add more time or show the answers before the timer runs out, you can do so by clicking the '**Show Answers**' or by simply left-clicking once on individual questions (as shown in the diagram below).

Time Left: 9:34

-1 min New Questions Main Menu Print Sheet Show Answers +1 min

★			★★			★★★		
A1.u	61 + 59	B1.u	779 + 262	C1.u	4347 + 4324			
A2.u	53 + 21	B2.u	324 + 953	C2.u	2984 + 1125			
A3.u	53 + 25	B3.u	519	C3.u	5475 + 4206			
A4.u	78 + 35	B4.u	969 + 386	C4.u	6898 + 7119			
A5.u	51 + 43	B5.u	749 + 687	C5.u	1329 + 6931			
A6.u	68 + 12	B6.u	308 + 747	C6.u	3245 + 3653			
A7.u	16 + 90	B7.u	945 + 397	C7.u	8569 + 8826			
A8.u	60 + 56	B8.u	182 + 665	C8.u	4670 + 5240			

- 5) - Each time you set up a maths drill and click '*Create Questions*' to begin, Mathsbot will generate a brand new set of questions to avoid repetition.
- Mathsbot's default setting for '*Header*' (*differentiation*) is '*Gold, Silver & Bronze*' which your child will already be very familiar with by now.
 - St George's '*Choice and Challenge*' initiative allows your child to *choose* the level which they think will *challenge* them adequately. However, if you feel that it is appropriate to guide them towards one of the three options, then do so at your discretion.

Other great online resources to help maintain and develop maths skills are:

- www.whiterosemaths.com
- <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>
- www.topmarks.co.uk
- www.ttrackstars.com
- www.mathletics.com