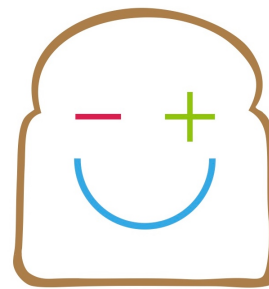


Festival of Triangles

everything you need to know



maths on toast

Would you like to organise an astonishing maths week? To awe parents/carers and children with a mathematical sculpture they made for themselves? To involve parents and carers with their children's maths? To sing about maths? To broaden your whole school community's view of what maths is?

Then Festival of Triangles is for you!

Festival of Triangles has happened in schools all over London and three things always seem to happen: masses of parents and children come, and they enjoy themselves doing maths, and they plan to do more at home later.



You can facilitate Festival of Triangles in three ways. You can buy a kit from Maths on Toast with resources and instructions. You can run Festival of Triangles as a professional development programme for your staff team. Or you can join London South East Maths Hub's Festival of Triangles professional development programme!

So... what happens at Festival of Triangles?

Festival of Triangles is a triangle-themed maths week that leads up to an event, usually held on a Thursday straight after school, to which you invite your whole school community.

During the week, children carry out activities that build up excitement as well as supporting their maths learning. They make triangular bunting, learn a song, and make tetrahedrons from drinking straws.

On the day itself, you set up the school hall with a range of 'zones' so that children and parents can do mathematical craft, colouring and making or relax together with mathematical activities. One zone will involve creating a large, very mathematical structure from all those tetrahedrons.

There's scope to vary and add as much as you like – some schools just use the ideas we suggest, and others add a whole range of extra activities.

Festival of Triangles – all you need to know!

www.mathsonttoast.org.uk
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And what does all this achieve?

Outcomes for Festival of Triangles include:

For the school:

Celebrate maths just like you celebrate other subjects!
Bring parents, children and teachers together in an informal setting, supporting community
Find out how parents feel about maths
Have something else to show the inspectors about how you work with parents
Broaden understanding of creative maths activities and how they can support learning

For the lead member(s) of staff:

Develop / support leadership skills – planning and delegating
Learn about working with parents/carers – particularly, how to market to them

For the children and their families:

Families enjoy doing maths together
Parents and children engage in mathematical activities, showing concentration and perseverance
Parents and children broaden their view of what maths is
People remember the event as an enjoyable maths experience
Parents feel more confident to engage with their children's mathematical ideas
Parents feel more confident to speak to teachers about maths



And why triangles?

We chose triangles because they are accessible to everyone. In a country where a lot of adults are anxious about maths, nobody is scared of a triangle. Triangles lend themselves to craft, and to pattern making - and they turn up all over the place. The more you look, the more you see that maths is everywhere.

For teachers, it's enriching to focus on just one idea for a week – and to think about how children's understanding of this one idea develops as they move up the school. There is masses in the curriculum about triangles, and when there's a buzz around triangles all week, children are inspired to greater curiosity about them.

All this means that you can use your Festival of Triangles to teach underlying maths skills, to meet curriculum aims, to think more deeply about your own subject knowledge, and to give parents, staff and children a chance to enjoy doing maths together in an informal environment.

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