

Celebrate Maths on the 100th Day of School

By Patsy Stafford

In February last year many classes around Ireland celebrated the 100th day of school. They made collections of 100 objects, made a list of 100 maths words, estimated which package weighed 100 grams, measured 100 metres on the yard, etc. This year why not have your class join in the fun while celebrating a day of maths, integrated with other curriculum subjects.

Early in the school year why not start keeping track of how many days you've been to school. You can use a 100 chart, a calendar, or a teacher/children-made chart. With younger children have 3 boxes marked hundreds, tens, and units. Put a lollipop stick in the units box each day, when you have ten sticks bundle them together to form a group of ten and move them to the tens box. Continue until you have ten groups of ten to bundle and move to the hundreds box. At first the recording should be as a whole class activity. After a week or two different children can take responsibility each week for recording how many days you've been at school and figuring out how many days until the 100th day of school. They can then report back to the class at the end of the week.

Listed below are ideas to get you started. I'm sure you and your colleagues can come up with many more.

Activities to do in preparation for the 100th day of school

- * Make a chart from 1 to 100 to count up to the 100th day. Each time you reach a ten use a different colour. Have the children decorate the chart. (Art & Maths)
- * Find out what happened 100 years ago in your local area, Ireland and around the world. Create a time line of the year 100 years ago. (History)
- * Have each group in your class read 100 books by the 100th day of school. Keep track by filling out a postcard for each book. (English/Gaeilge)
- * Make a list of 100 similes, 100 adjectives, etc. (English)
- * Make a list of 100 Maths words arranged alphabetically. Can you find a word for each letter of the alphabet? (Maths & English)
- * Make a list of 100 places you would see numbers in your home or locality. (Maths)

Activities to do the week before the 100th day of school

- * Have each child or group make a collection of 100 items. Compare each collection to see which has the greatest/least weight, volume, length. Have children make a report on their collection. (Number & Measures)
- * Fill 3 clear containers or plastic bags with 80, 100, 120 Smarties®. Have the children estimate which one has exactly 100. Count them out on the 100th day and share them. (Number)
- * Children find food packages at home that weigh 100 grams or holds 100 millilitres/centilitres. (Measures)
- * Make a chart of all the different ways that the children can write a number sentence that equals 100, for e.g. $20 \times 5 = 100$, $95 + 3 + 2 = 100$, $300 - 200 = 100$, etc. (Algebra)

Maths activities to do on the 100th day of school

- * Join with other classes to have 100 children make the number 100 on the schoolyard. Take a photo from an upstairs window, if possible. (Number)
- * In the yard have 100 children hold hands with arms stretched out. Measure the length of the line of children. (Number & Measures-length)
- * Have the principal count the children as they arrive at school to see who is the 100th child to arrive. (Number)
- * Have children stand up and close their eyes. When they think 100 seconds has passed sit down. (Measures-time)
- * Have children hop on one foot, skip, or do jumping jacks as many times as possible in 100 seconds. One child keeps track of time and counts while the other child does the activity. They then reverse roles. (Measures-time & Number)
- * Children estimate and then measure where 100 steps/metres from their classroom door or school door would land. (Measures-length)
- * Have 4 food items that weigh different amounts, one being exactly 100 grams. Have children estimate by hand which one weighs exactly 100 grams. Weigh at end of day. (Measures-weight)
- * Estimate and then measure the length of 100 pencils, paperclips, hand spans, etc. (Measures-length)
- * Figure out what date it will be 100 days from now, what time it will be 100 minutes from now. (Measures-time)
- * Have the children decide how they would spend €100 in a catalogue. (Measures-money)
- * Calculate what percent/fraction of the school year has passed. (Numbers)
- * Find out what combinations of two-digit numbers add to 100. (Numbers)
- * Construct shapes that have an area of 100 square centimetres. (Shape & Space)
- * Construct shapes that have a perimeter of 100 centimetres. (Shape & Space)
- * Find objects in the classroom that are shorter than 100 centimetres, longer than 100 centimetres and exactly 100 centimetres. (Measures-length)
- * If a=1 cent, b=2 cent, ...and z =26 cent. Figure out if any child's name is equal to 100 cent. (Number & Measures)
- * How many words can you find with a value of 100 cent (€1)? (Number & Measures-money)
- * Survey 100 people about a topic of your choice. Organise and graph the information collected.(Data)