

We carry out weekly mental maths tests which give children the chance to practice the mental strategies we learn for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. It's also a good way of helping children to learn and recall facts e.g. that if $2 + 5 = 7$ then $12 + 5 = 17$ without having to calculate to find the answer.

These tests are designed to be carried out in 1 minute.

These tests are sent home on a Friday for you to see how your child has done. Please remember that it may take children a while to answer most of the questions during the minute and that this is what we are aiming towards.

Once we feel a child is secure with that test, we will move them on to a new one. There is no particular order and we may move through the tests in a different order for different children depending on what we think they need to practice.

Below are some strategies that you could use to support your child:

Year 1

- reorder numbers when adding, e.g. put the larger number first ($2 + 6$ would become $6 + 2$)
- count on or back in ones, twos or tens
- partition small numbers, e.g. $8 + 3 = 8 + 2 + 1$
- use near doubles e.g. $5 + 6 = 5 + 5 + 1$

Year 2

- reorder numbers when adding e.g. put the larger number first ($2 + 16$ would become $16 + 2$)
- partition: bridge through 10 and multiples of 10 when adding and subtracting e.g. $8 + 5 = 8 + 2 = 10$, $+ 3 = 13$
- partition and combine multiples of tens and ones e.g. $32 + 24 = 30 + 20 = 50$ and $2 + 4 = 6$, $50 + 6 = 56$
- use knowledge of number bonds to 10 e.g. $3 + 7 = 10$ so $30 + 70 = 100$
- partition: count on in tens and ones to find the total e.g. $45 + 23$ (count on in tens, then ones)
- subtraction: count on or back in tens and ones to find the difference
- when adding 9: add a multiple of 10 and adjust by 1 e.g. $65 + 9 = 65 + 10 - 1$ or 'rebalance' by moving 1 across $65 + 9 = 64 + 10$
- use near doubles e.g. $7 + 8 = 7 + 7 + 1$