

# EYFS and KS1 Teaching for Mastery Calculation Policy 2025 / 2026



## **The National Curriculum 2014**

Mathematics is a creative and highly inter-connected discipline that has been developed over centuries, providing the solution to some of history's most intriguing problems. It is essential to everyday life, critical to science, technology and engineering, and necessary for financial literacy and most forms of employment. A high-quality mathematics education therefore provides a foundation for understanding the world, the ability to reason mathematically, an appreciation of the beauty and power of mathematics and a sense of enjoyment and curiosity about the subject.

## **The aims of this policy**

Mastery is for all, and the aim of this policy is to ensure all children leave our school with a secure understanding of the four operations and can confidently use both written and mental calculation strategies in a range of contexts. It aims to ensure consistent strategies, models and images are used across the school to embed and deepen children's learning and understanding of mathematical concepts.

## **How should this policy be used?**

This policy has been designed to support the teaching and planning of mathematics in our school. The policy only details the strategies, and teachers must plan opportunities for pupils to apply these; for example, when solving problems, or where opportunities emerge elsewhere in the curriculum. The examples and illustrations are not exhaustive but provide an overall picture of what the mathematics in our school should look like. This is not a scheme of work and must be used in conjunction with our school maths policy and curriculum documents.

This policy sets out the progression of strategies and written methods which children will be taught as they develop in their understanding of the four operations. Strategies are set out in a Concrete, Pictorial, Abstract (CPA) approach to develop children's deep understanding and mastery of mathematical concepts. Children use concrete objects to help them make sense of the concept or problem; this could be anything from real or plastic fruit, to straws, counters or cubes. This is then developed through the use of images, models and children's own pictorial representations before moving on to the abstract mathematics. Children will travel along this continuum again and again, often revisiting previous stages when a concept is extended. It is also worth noting that if a child has moved on from the concrete to the pictorial, it does not mean that the concrete cannot be used alongside the pictorial. Or if a child is working in the abstract, 'proving' something or 'working out' could involve use of the concrete or pictorial.

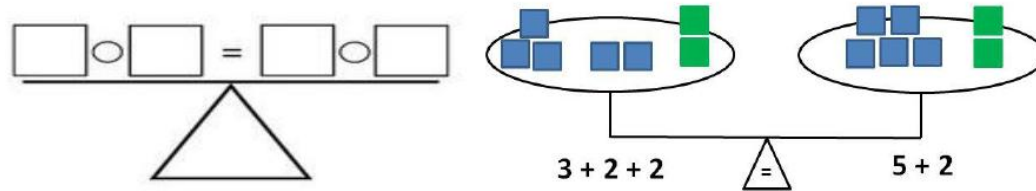
Similarly, although the strategies are taught in a progressive sequence, they are designed to equip children with a 'tool box' of skills and strategies that they can apply to solve problems in a range of contexts. So as a new strategy is taught it does not necessarily supersede the previous, but builds on prior learning to enable children to have a variety of tools to select from. As children become increasingly independent, they will be able to and must be encouraged to select those strategies which are most efficient for the task.

The strategies are separated into the 4 operations for ease of reference. However, it is intended that addition and subtraction, and multiplication and division will be taught together to ensure that children are making connections and seeing relationships in their mathematics. Therefore, some strategies will be taught simultaneously, for example, counting on (addition) and counting back (subtraction).

Children should be moved through the strategies at a pace appropriate to their age-related expectations as defined in the EYFS and NC. Effective teaching of the strategies relies on increasing levels of number sense, fluency and ability to reason mathematically. Children must be supported to gain depth of understanding within the strategy through the CPA approach and not learn strategies as a procedure.

## Teaching equality

It is important that when teaching the 4 operations that equality (=) is also taught appropriately. Misconceptions that = means that children must 'do something' and that it indicates that an answer is needed are common and must be addressed early on. Teachers should present children with number sentences and problems which place the = sign in different positions, different context and include missing box problems. For example,  $?+4=7$ ;  $7=3+?$ ;  $<$ ,  $>$ , or  $= 5+6$  \_\_  $7+4$ . In the concrete phase scales provide a useful resource to demonstrate equality. Pictorial representations of equality can be used as shown below:



## Importance of vocabulary

The 2014 National Curriculum places great emphasis on the importance of pupils using the correct mathematical language as a central part of their learning. Children will be unable to articulate their mathematical reasoning if they lack the mathematical vocabulary required to do so. It is therefore essential that teaching using the strategies outlined in this policy is accompanied by the use of appropriate mathematical vocabulary. New vocabulary should be introduced in a suitable context (for example, with relevant real objects, apparatus, pictures or diagrams) and explained carefully. High expectations of the mathematical language used are essential, with teachers modelling and only accepting what is correct. For example:

Vocabulary to be used	Previous terms or misconceptions
ones	units
is equal to	is
zero	oh (the letter O)
number sentence	sum/s

As a school, we promote children applying 'efficient' strategies when problem solving and define the term efficient as 'the quickest and easiest way for you'. This also supports pupil's awareness that different people may use different strategies in order to solve the same problem.

The vocabulary linked to shape is as follows;

Early Years	Year 1	Year 2
<p>Shape pattern round hollow sort bigger larger smaller pattern match same different <i>2D shape names and properties</i> Circle Triangle Rectangle Square side straight  <i>3D Shape names and properties</i> Sphere Cube Cone Cuboid Cylinder solid curved flat</p>	<p><i>In addition to EYFS;</i>  Orientation  2D shape names and properties Two Dimensional (2D) Corner Pentagon Hexagon Octagon  <i>3D shape names and properties</i> Three Dimensional (3D) Pyramid (Square based only) Face (flat) Edge * Point Apex* Curved Surface Vertices *</p>	<p><i>In addition to EYFS and Year 1;</i>  Line of symmetry Vertical Regular Irregular Properties  2D shape names and properties Heptagon  <i>3D shape names and properties</i> Tetrahedron Prism</p>

\* Key definitions for three dimensional properties of shapes is as follows;

Edge/s: Where two faces meet or a curved surface and face meet

Vertex (singular) / Vertices (plural): On 3D shapes it is where 3 or more edges meet.

Apex: where a curved surface meets, such as on a cone.

## End of year expectations for calculations.

EYFS (EYFS Profile 2022)	Year 1 (NC 2014)	Year 2 (NC 2014)
<p>Number ELG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have a deep understanding of number to 10, including the composition of each number;</li> <li>• Subitise (recognise quantities without counting) up to 5;</li> <li>• Automatically recall (without reference to rhymes, counting or other aids) number bonds up to 5 (including subtraction facts) and some number bonds to 10, including double facts.</li> </ul> <p>Numerical Patterns ELG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Verbally count beyond 20, recognising the pattern of the counting system;</li> <li>• Compare quantities up to 10 in different contexts, recognising when one quantity is greater than, less than or the same as the other quantity;</li> <li>• Explore and represent patterns within numbers up to 10, including evens and odds, double facts and how quantities can be distributed equally.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• read, write and interpret mathematical statements involving addition (+), subtraction (−) and equals (=) signs</li> <li>• represent and use number bonds and related subtraction facts within 20</li> <li>• add and subtract one-digit and two-digit numbers to 20, including zero</li> <li>• solve one-step problems that involve addition and subtraction, using concrete objects and pictorial representations, and missing number problems such as <math>7 = ? - 9</math>.</li> <li>• solve one-step problems involving multiplication and division, by calculating the answer using concrete objects</li> <li>• solve one-step problems involving multiplication and division using pictorial representations and arrays with the support of the teacher</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• solve problems with addition and subtraction:</li> <li>• using concrete objects and pictorial representations, including those involving numbers, quantities and measures</li> <li>• applying their increasing knowledge of mental and written methods</li> <li>• recall and use addition and subtraction facts to 20 fluently</li> <li>• derive and use related facts up to 100</li> <li>• add and subtract numbers using concrete objects, pictorial representations, and mentally, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a two-digit number and ones</li> <li>• a two-digit number and tens</li> <li>• two two-digit numbers</li> </ul> </li> <li>• adding three one-digit numbers</li> <li>• show that addition of two numbers can be done in any order (commutative) and subtraction of one number from another cannot</li> <li>• recognise and use the inverse relationship between addition and subtraction and use this to check calculations and solve missing number problems</li> <li>• recall and use multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5 and 10 multiplication tables, including recognising odd and even numbers</li> <li>• calculate mathematical statements for multiplication and division within the multiplication tables and write them using the multiplication (<math>\times</math>), division (<math>\div</math>) and equals (=) signs</li> <li>• show that multiplication of two numbers can be done in any order (commutative) and division of one number by another cannot</li> <li>• solve problems involving multiplication and division, using materials, arrays, repeated addition, mental methods, and multiplication and division facts, including problems in contexts</li> </ul>

# Progression in Calculations

## Addition

### Nursery

Before addition can be introduced, children need to have a secure knowledge of number. In Nursery, children are introduced to the concept of counting, number order and number recognition through practical activities and games. This is taught through child-initiated games and activities such as hide and seek and I spy. Children also learn how to count 1-1 (pointing to each object as they count) and that anything can be counted, for example, claps, steps and jumps. This is reinforced by opportunities provided in the outdoor area for the children to count e.g. counting building blocks, twigs etc.

### Reception



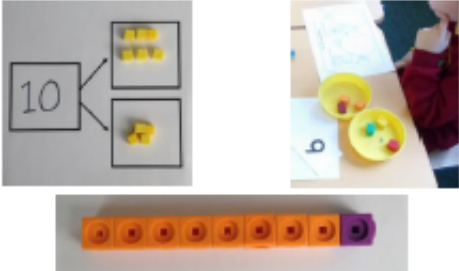
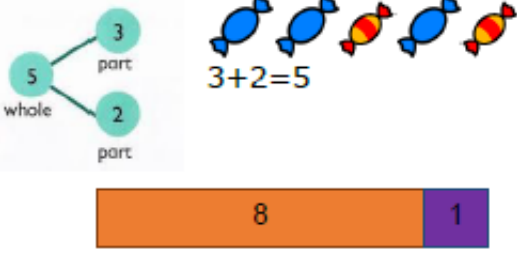
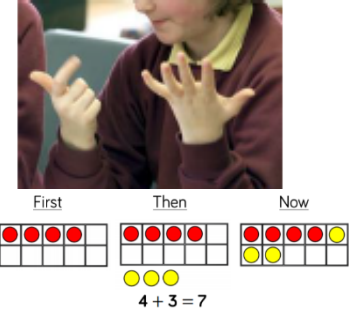
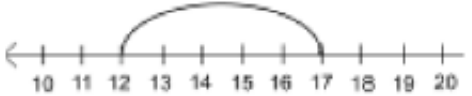
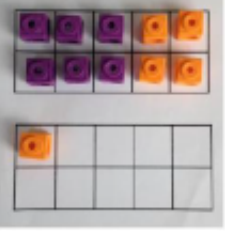
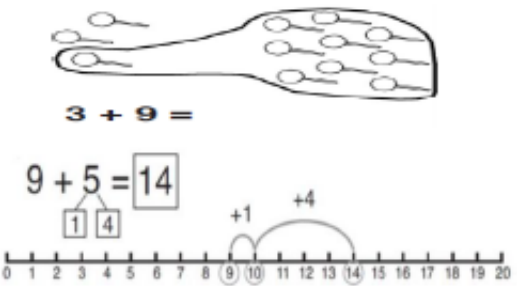
Before addition can be introduced, children in Reception build on concepts taught in Nursery by working through the 'Children in reception will be learning to...' expectations in Development Matters and then on to the ELG for Mathematics as identified in the Early Years Foundation Stage profile. Children need to have a secure knowledge of number in order to begin addition. Children are then introduced to the concept of addition through practical games and activities. Children act out addition by physically adding two groups of objects together and use arm gestures to represent the signs + and =.

This is reinforced by opportunities provided in the outdoor area for the children to use addition e.g. adding together groups of building blocks, twigs etc. Children build on their previous knowledge of 'more' by learning that adding two groups of objects together gives them a larger number (more objects). Adults model addition vocabulary supported by age appropriate definition. An example of this is "addition means we add two groups together / we put 2 lots of objects together. Equals means we find out how many we have got altogether. 3 add 2 equals 5. We have got 5 altogether". Adults support children in recording their addition sums in the written form on whiteboards and in their maths books.



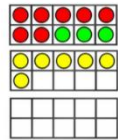
# Progression in Calculations

## Addition

Strategies	Concrete 	Pictorial 	Abstract
<p><b>Combining 2 groups to make a whole</b></p> <p>Counting sets of objects, combining then recounting using a 1:1 correspondence.</p>			<p><math>4 + 3 = 7</math> I have 4 apples and I pick 3 more, how many have I got altogether?</p> <p>Mental recall of number bonds</p> <p><math>6 + 4 = 10</math></p> <p><math>\square + 3 = 15</math>      <math>19 + \square = 20</math></p>
<p><b>Counting on</b></p> <p>Pupils should be taught to start at the biggest number and count on, using this as an opportunity to introduce the commutativity of addition.</p>			<p><math>5 + 12 = 17</math> Reinforce starting from the largest number.</p> <p><math>7 + 3 = 10</math> Encourage recall of known number facts to develop fluency in mental calculations.</p>
<p><b>Regrouping to make 10</b></p> <p>To move on from the previous strategy, rather than counting on, children use their number bond knowledge and bridge to 10 e.g. if <math>4 + 6 = 10</math>, so <math>4 + 7</math> must equal 11.</p>	 <p><math>6 + 5 = 11</math> Start with the bigger number and use the smaller number to make 10.</p>		<p><math>7p + 4p = 11p</math> I have 7p, how much more do I need to make 10p. How much more do I add on now?</p> <p>If you know <math>10 = 7 + 3</math>, what else do you know?</p>

## Adding 3 single digits

Use this method as an opportunity to develop fluent recall and application of known number facts including bonds and doubles.



$$7 + 6 + 3 = 16$$

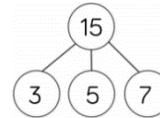
10



Following on from making 10, make 10 with 2 of the digits (if possible) then add on the third digit.



$$6 + 3 + 4 = 13$$



$$\begin{aligned} 4 + 7 + 6 &= 10 + 7 \\ &= 17 \end{aligned}$$

## Partitioning to add

The emphasis for this strategy in KS1 is to develop a deep understanding of place value.

In year 2, recording addition and subtraction informally in columns supports place value and prepares for formal written methods with larger numbers later on in KS2. Ensure that when moving into any form of column the ones are calculated first.



$$22 + 17 = 39$$

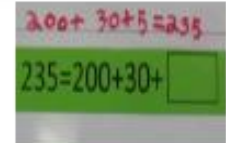
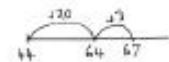


$$22 + 17 = 39$$

Begin with jumps of tens and ones then progress to jumps of all the tens and all the ones as children become more fluent.

Tens	Ones
38	23
+	+
61	1

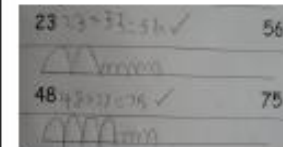
$$44 + 23 = 67$$



24 Add ones

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{Informal recording in columns} \\ 24 \\ + 32 \\ \hline 56 \end{array}$$

4 + 2 = 6  
20 + 30 = 50



Counting on in tens and ones to solve missing number problems

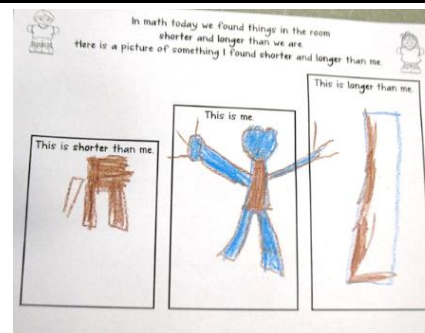
## Solving problems using addition

Pupils use appropriate standard and non-standard units to estimate and measure, length/height/mass/temperature and perform addition and subtraction operations.

Measuring using non-standard units



Adding lengths together



$$10\text{cm} + 4\text{cm} = 14\text{cm}$$

The plant is 11cm tall. It grows 10 cm more. How tall is the plant now?

I would measure my book in centimetres.

I would measure my house in metres.

# Progression in Calculations

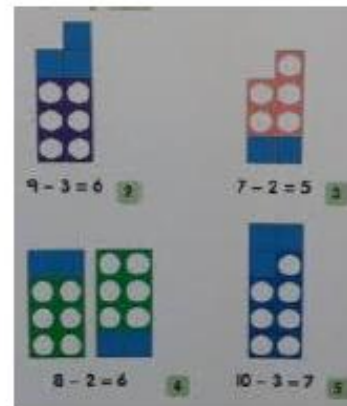
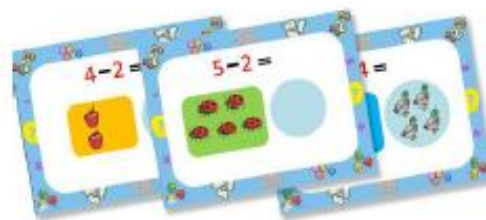
## Subtraction

### Nursery

Before subtraction can be introduced, children need to have a secure knowledge of number. In Nursery, children are introduced to the concept of counting backwards. This is taught through child initiated games indoors and outdoors such as acting out counting songs and running races (children shouting “5,4,3,2,1,0 - GO!”).




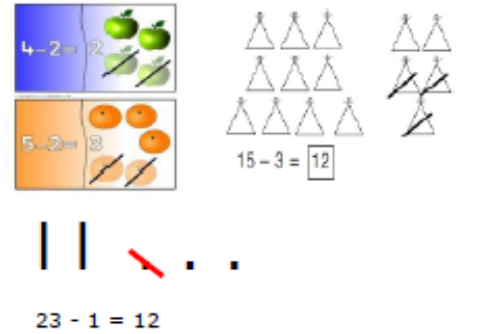

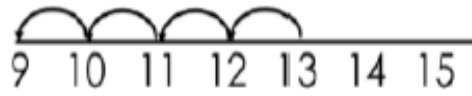
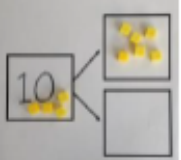
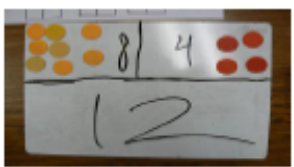
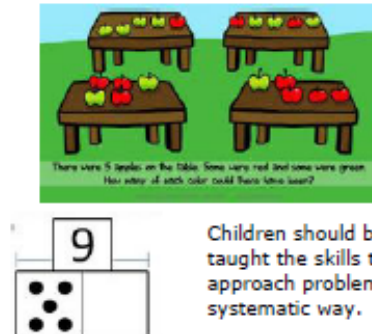
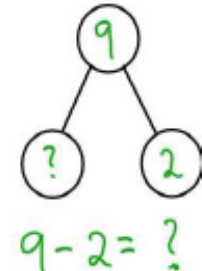

### Reception

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# Progression in Calculations

## Subtraction

Strategies	Concrete 	Pictorial 	Abstract
<p><b>Taking away ones</b></p> <p>Use physical objects to demonstrate how something can be taken away. Move on to crossing out drawn representations. This can be developed by representing a group of ten with a line and ones with dots.</p>			<p><math>18 - 3 = 15</math></p> <p><math>8 - 2 = 6</math></p> <p>There are 15 cakes in the shop. One cake is eaten, how many are left.</p>
<p><b>Counting back</b></p> <p>As with the previous, this strategy is used for subtracting small numbers from larger numbers and provides a good foundation for the concept of subtraction</p>	 <p>Use counters or objects and move away from the group as they are counted.</p>	 <p><math>13 - 4 = 9</math></p>	<p>Put 17 in your head, count back 5. What number are you at? Use your fingers to help.</p>
<p><b>Part whole model</b></p> <p>This model develops knowledge of the inverse relationship between addition and subtraction and is used to find the answer to missing number problems.</p>	 <p>If 10 is the whole and 6 is one of the parts. What is the other part?</p> 	 <p>Children should be taught the skills to approach problems in a systematic way.</p>	 <p>I made 9 buns for the cake sale and I only had 2 left at the end. How many did I sell?</p> 

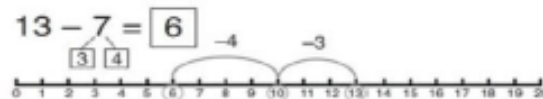
## Make 10

Use this strategy to subtract a single digit number from a 2-digit number. Pupils identify how many need to be taken away to make ten first. Then they take away the rest to reach the answer.



$$14-5=9$$

Make 14 on the ten frame or with different coloured cubes to represent the ten and the ones. Take away the four first to make 10 and then take away one more so you have taken away 5. You are left with the answer of 9.



$$15 - 7 =$$

How many do we subtract to reach the next 10?

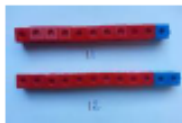
How many do we have left to subtract?

## Find the difference

Pupils should develop a good understanding of the meaning of 'difference', exploring the inverse relationship with addition by counting back and counting up.

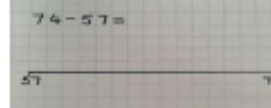
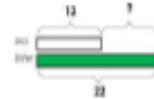


Practical resources to visualise 'difference' and recognise inverse relationships e.g.  $12-1=11$  and  $11+1=12$



Comparison Bar Models

Joe is 11 years old. Her sister is 22 years old. Find the difference in age between them.



Use a blank number line to count back and count up between 2 numbers.

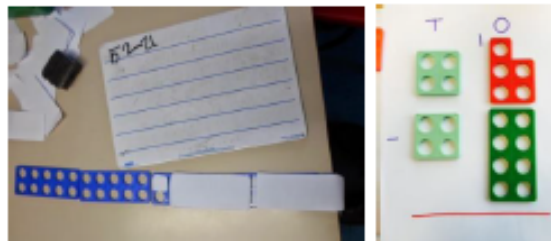
Lexie has 5 more strawberries than Jake. Jake has 11 cherries. How many does Lexie have?

Look at the graph. Fewer children have green eyes than blue. What is the difference?

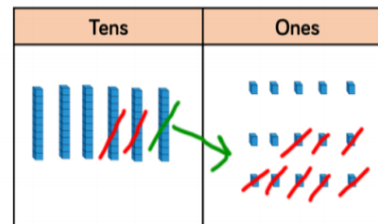
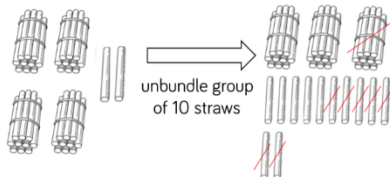
## Partitioning to subtract

The emphasis for this strategy in KS1 is to develop a deep understanding of place value.

When not regrouping, partitioning should be developed as a mental strategy rather than formal recording in columns.



$$42 - 17 = 25$$



$$\begin{array}{r} 5 \quad 1 \\ 65 \\ - 28 \\ \hline 37 \end{array}$$

$47 - 23 = 24$  Partition the second number and subtract it in tens and units, as below:



Move towards more efficient jumps block, as below:



There are 35 children in the class and 12 are boys. How many are girls?

$$35-12=$$

Recording subtraction in columns. Children need to record subtraction in columns to support place value and formal written methods with larger numbers

$$\begin{array}{r} 89 \\ - 50 \\ \hline 39 \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{r} 80 \quad 9 \\ - 50 \quad 0 \\ \hline 30 + 9 = 39 \end{array}$$

## Missing Numbers

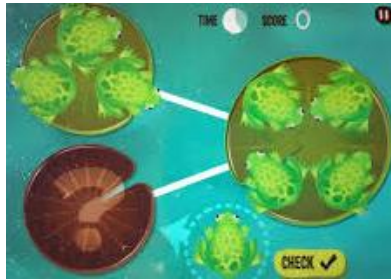
Pupils are expected to solve problems with addition and subtraction; using concrete objectives and pictorial representations, including those involving numbers, quantities and measures; applying their increasing knowledge of mental and written methods.

They will recognise and use the inverse relationship between addition and subtraction and use this to check calculations and solve missing number problems.

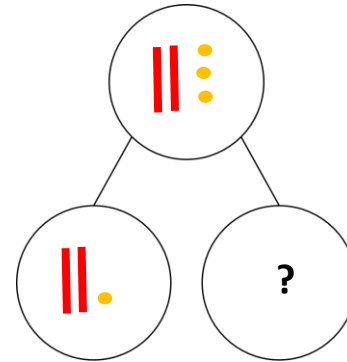


$$10 - \square = 8$$

$$\square - 2 = 8$$



Subtraction using part whole model to find missing numbers.



## Missing numbers

Record mental subtraction in a number sentence using the – and = signs  
e.g.  $18 - 4 = 14$

Extend to

$$9 + 6 = 20 - \Delta$$

Recognise the use of symbols such as  $\square$  or  $\Delta$  to stand for unknown numbers and complete number sentences.

$$13 - \Delta = 9$$

$$\Delta - 4 = 9$$

$$\Delta - \diamond = 9$$

Extend to:  $13 + 5 = \Delta - 10$

# Progression in Calculations

## Multiplication

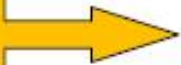



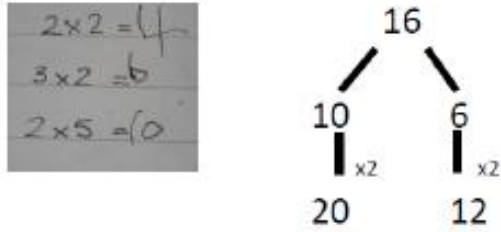

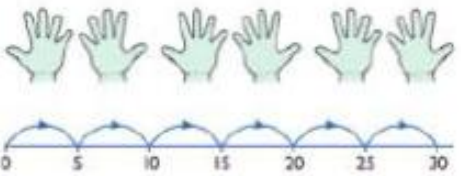
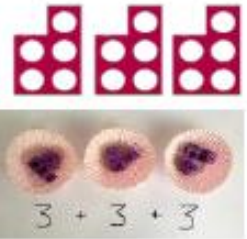
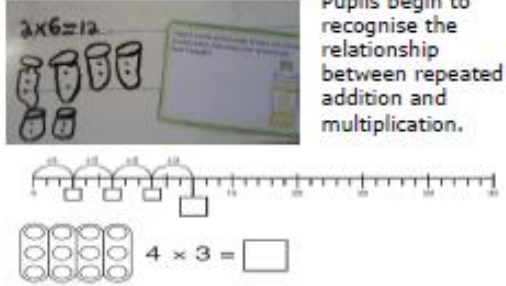

### Nursery and Reception

By the end of Reception, children are expected to understand the concept of doubling and to be able to double a number up to 10. Before doubling can be introduced, children need to have a secure knowledge of counting, number facts and addition in order to double. Children are then introduced to the concept of doubling through practical games and activities, including the use of the outdoor areas. Children act out 'doubling' by physically add two equal groups together to find out the 'doubles' answer.



# Progression in Calculations

## Multiplication

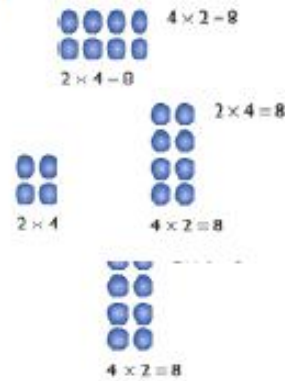
Strategies	Concrete 	Pictorial 	Abstract
<p><b>Doubling</b> Pupils should be encouraged to develop fluent mental recall of doubles and relate to the 2 x table.</p>		<p>Double 4 is 8</p> 	 <p>If I can see 10 wheels, how many bikes are there?</p>
<p><b>Counting in multiples</b> Pupils can use their fingers as they are skip counting, to develop an understanding of 'groups of'. Children should become increasingly fluent as they practise.</p>		<p>Use a number line or pictures to continue support in counting in multiples.</p> 	<p>Count in multiples of a number aloud.</p> <p>Write sequences with multiples of numbers and work out missing numbers in sequences both forward and backward.</p> <p>If I count in 2's will I get to the number 58?</p>
<p><b>Repeated addition</b> Pupils should apply skip counting to help find the totals of repeated additions.</p>	 <p><math>5+5+5=15</math></p> <p><math>3+3+3=9</math></p>	 <p>Pupils begin to recognise the relationship between repeated addition and multiplication.</p>	<p>Write addition or multiplication sentences to describe objects and pictures.</p>  <p><math>2+2+2+2+2=10</math>   <math>2 \times 5=10</math></p>

## Arrays showing commutative multiplication

Pupils should understand that an can represent different equations and that, as multiplication is commutative, the order of the multiplication does not affect the answer.



Draw arrays in different rotations to find commutative multiplication sentences.



3 children go to the park to hunt for pine cones. They find 5 each, how many do they find altogether?

5 children eat the same number of cakes at a party. 15 cakes are eaten in total, how many did they each eat?

$$5+5+5=15$$

$$3 \times 5 = 15$$

$$3+3+3+3+3=15$$

$$5 \times 3 = 15$$

# Progression in Calculations

## Division

### Nursery and Reception



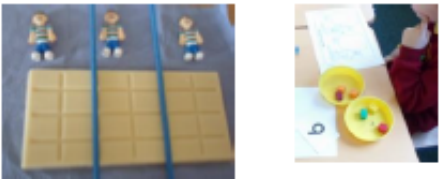
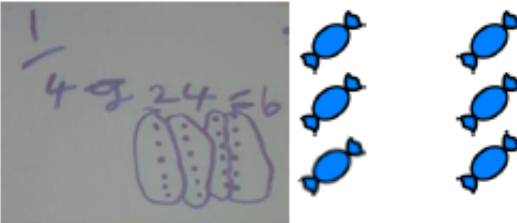
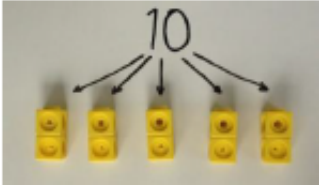
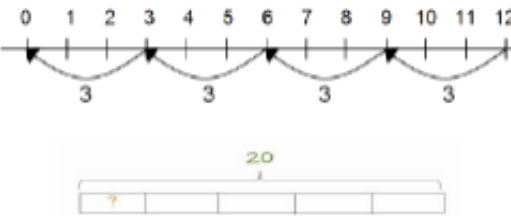

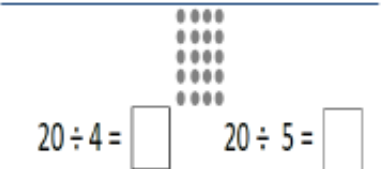
By the end of Reception, children are expected to understand the concept of halving and sharing. Before this can be introduced, children need to have a secure knowledge of counting backwards, number facts and subtraction in order to halve and share. Children are then introduced to the concept of halving and sharing through practical games and activities. They act out 'halving and sharing' through activities such as

sharing food for their Teddy Bear's Picnic, sharing resources equally to play a game. This is reinforced by opportunities provided in the outdoor area for the children to halve and share out objects such as building blocks, twigs etc.



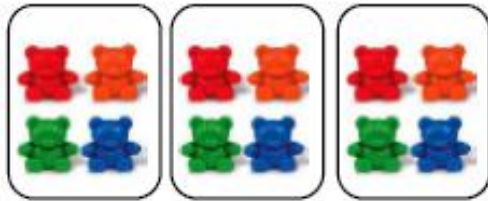
# Progression in Calculations

## Division

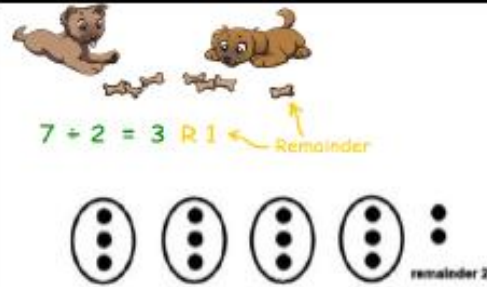
Strategies	Concrete 	Pictorial 	Abstract
<p><b>Sharing</b> Here, division is shown as sharing. E.g. If we have 24 squares of chocolate and we share them between 3 people, each person will have 8 squares each.</p>		 <p><math>6 \div 2 = 3</math></p>	<p>Share 9 buns between three people.</p> <p><math>9 \div 3 = 3</math></p> <p>Can you make up your own 'sharing' story and record a matching equation?</p>
<p><b>Division as grouping</b> Here, division is shown as grouping. If we have ten cubes and put them into groups of two, there are 5 groups. This is a good opportunity to demonstrate and reinforce the inverse relationship with multiplication.</p>	 <p>Divide quantities into equal groups. Use cubes, counters, objects or place value counters to aid understanding.</p>	<p>Show jumps in groups. The number of jumps equals the number of groups.</p>  <p>Think of the bar as a whole. Split it into the number of groups you are dividing by and work out how many would be within each group.</p>	<p><math>28 \div 7 = 4</math></p> <p>Divide 28 into 7 groups. How many are in each group?</p> <p>Max is filling party bags with sweets. He has 20 sweets altogether and decides to put 5 in every bag. How many bags can he fill?</p>
<p><b>Division within arrays</b> Use arrays of concrete manipulatives and images of familiar objects to find division equations. Begin to use dot arrays to develop a more abstract concept of division.</p>		<p>Write the division equations that the array represents.</p>  <p>Children can draw lines to divide their array</p>	<p>Find the inverse of multiplication and division sentences by creating four linking number sentences.</p> <p><math>7 \times 4 = 28</math>  <math>4 \times 7 = 28</math>  <math>28 \div 7 = 4</math>  <math>28 \div 4 = 7</math></p>

## Division with a remainder

This strategy provides an opportunity to reinforce prior learning of odd and even and 'multiples' when exploring how numbers can and cannot be divided into different whole numbers.



$14 \div 3 =$   
Divide objects between groups and see how many are left over.



Complete written divisions and show the remainder using r.

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 29 \div 8 = 3 \text{ REMAINDER } 5 \\ \uparrow \quad \uparrow \quad \uparrow \quad \quad \quad \uparrow \\ \text{dividend} \quad \text{divisor} \quad \text{quotient} \quad \quad \quad \text{remainder} \end{array}$$