



# Written Calculations

Dear Parent/Carer,

This booklet has been put together as a guide to support you when working on written calculations with your child.

Many parents find that their children are using methods or strategies different from those used by them. This can often cause confusion when trying to support your child at home. It is important that methods used in school are reinforced at home so as to not to cause unnecessary confusion for the child.

The purpose of this booklet is to show the progression from mental to written strategies in the four number operations. This will enable you to support your child with strategies with which you may previously have been unfamiliar.

It is important to be aware that some children will need to consolidate earlier methods whilst some will be working on more complex strategies. Your child's teacher will be able to tell you which of the methods your child may be using.

Children may find it useful to use the 'EARS' acronym to help them decide whether their method is: Effective, Accurate, Reliable and Systematic. It is important to remember the value of any method as long as it works!

## The Four Operations

There are four operations in Maths that help us to problem-solve. They are addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. There are lots of words and phrases that mean the same thing as addition, subtraction, division and multiplication.

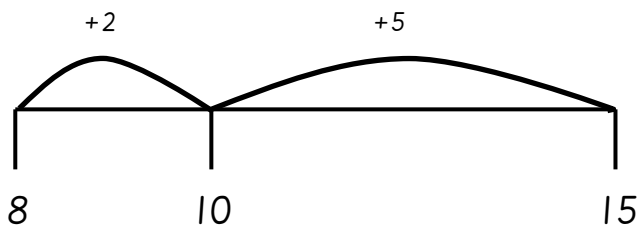
Addition	Subtraction	Multiplication	Division
+	-	x	÷
add	decrease	double	divisible by
altogether	difference between	groups of	factor
both	how many are left?	multiple of	halve
increase	how much less?	product	left over
more than	how much left?	times	remainder
plus	minus	twice as much	share
sum	take away		
total			

# Addition

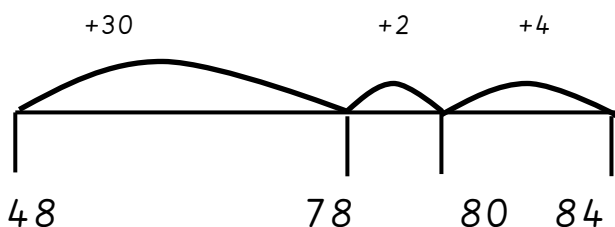
## Stage 1 Number line

The number line helps to record the steps on the way to calculating the total, initially in jumps of units, then in jumps of larger numbers.

$$8 + 7 = 15$$



$$48 + 36 = 84$$

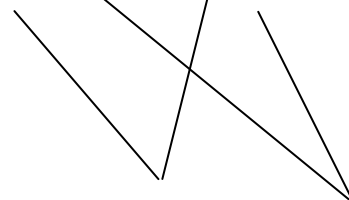


The steps often bridge through a multiple of 10.

## Stage 2 Partitioning

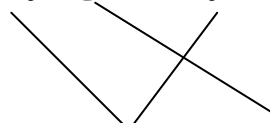
Once children can confidently use a number line, they should be encouraged to record their calculation as a partitioned number sentence.

$$13 + 11 =$$



$$20 + 4 =$$

$$13 + 19 =$$



$$20 + 12 =$$

## Stage 3

### Column Partitioning 2 (KS2)

This stage moves to developing understanding of 'carrying over' into the tens. Amounts 'carried over' are recorded above to prevent children from forgetting to add it to the total.

$$47 + 76 =$$

40	7
70	6

The addition of the tens is described 'forty plus 70 plus 13 equals one hundred and twenty three.'

$$110 + 13 = 123$$

## Stage 4

### Standard Written Method

Later, extending to adding three two-digit numbers, two three-digit numbers and numbers with different numbers of digits.

$$\begin{array}{r}
 1 \\
 46 \\
 +37 \\
 \hline
 83 \\
 \hline
 \end{array}$$



# Multiplication

**Stage 1**  
Arrays and number line

A number line helps the children see that multiplication makes the number larger.

+3   +3   +3   +3   +3   +3   +3

0   3   6   9   12   15   18   21

Repeated addition and arrays

$3 \times 5 = 15$

Use of language such as 'groups of' or 'lots of'.

**Stage 2**  
Grid method

$23 \times 8 =$

x	20	3
8	160	24

160	
+ 24	
184	

**Stage 3a**                      **Stage 3b**

Short Multiplication

23	
x 8	
24	(8x3)
160	(8x20)
184	

23	
x 8	
184	
2	

$56 \times 27 =$

$56 \times 27$  is approximately  $60 \times 30 = 1800$

x	20	7
50	1000	350
6	120	42

**Stage 4**  
Long Multiplication (KS2)

$56 \times 27 =$

$56 \times 27$  is approximately  $60 \times 30 = 1800$

56	
x 27	
392	
1120	
1512	

1000	
350	
120	
+ 42	
1512	

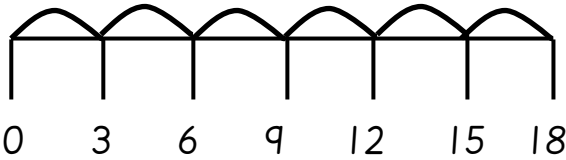
Column addition used to add answers together.

# Division

## Stage 1 Number line (KSI)

The number line helps children to see that the number gets smaller when it is divided. Begin to ask questions such as "I wonder how many 3's I can get out of 18?" If we were to share 18 sweets between 3 children, how many would they get each?

$$18 \div 3 = 6$$

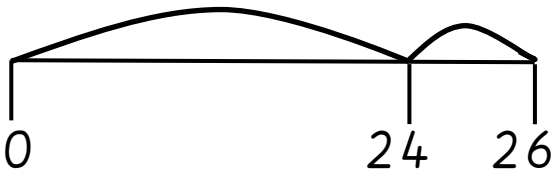


By counting up in threes, children can see how many 3's (or chunks of 3) they are adding from the original number.

Extend to using a number line to relate to times tables they recognise. Remainders may also be introduced.

$$26 \div 3 = 8r2$$

$$(3 \times 8) = 24 \quad r2$$



Children might prefer to draw times tables arrays if they are unsure of times table facts.

E.g.  $3 \times 8 = 24$

## Stage 2 Chunking TU $\div$ U

This method often referred to as 'chunking' is based on subtracting multiples of the divisor, or 'chunks'. Chunking is useful for reminding children of the link between division and subtraction.

$$97 \div 9 =$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 10 \text{ r } 7 \\ 9 \overline{) 97} \\ \underline{-90} \quad (10 \times 9) \\ 7 \end{array}$$

Write the number of chunks first.

Initially children subtract several chunks, but with practise they should look for the biggest multiples of the divisor (9 in this example) that they can then subtract from the original number (90)

## Stage 3 Chunking HTU $\div$ U (KS2)

$$196 \div 6 =$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 32 \text{ r } 4 \\ 6 \overline{) 196} \\ \underline{-180} \quad (30 \times 6) \\ 16 \\ \underline{-12} \quad (2 \times 6) \\ 4 \end{array}$$

Circle the numbers you are adding at the end to avoid adding the 6 by accident.

$$\begin{array}{r} 27 \\ 36 \overline{) 972} \\ \underline{-720} \quad (20 \times 36) \\ 252 \\ \underline{-180} \quad (5 \times 36) \\ 72 \\ \underline{-72} \quad (2 \times 36) \\ 0 \end{array}$$

**Stage 4**  
Long Division (Year 6+)

To calculate 748 divided by 51,

First, set the sum out as shown:

$$51 \overline{)748}$$

We work out 74 divided by 51, and write the answer (1) above the 4.

$1 \times 51 = 51$ , so we write this underneath 74.

Subtract 51 from 74 to get the remainder (23).

$$\begin{array}{r} 1 \\ 51 \overline{)748} \\ \underline{-51} \\ 23 \end{array}$$

We now bring down the next digit (8) and write it on the end of the 23.

$$\begin{array}{r} 1 \\ 51 \overline{)748} \\ \underline{-51} \\ 238 \end{array}$$

We now work out 238 divided by 51, and write the answer (4) above the 8. You use estimation skills here: 51 is roughly 50 and  $4 \times 50 = 200$ . You can work out  $51 \times 4 = 204$  separately.

We write 204 underneath the 238 and subtract to find the remainder. There are no more digits to bring down, so we have our answer:

$$\begin{array}{r} 14 \\ 51 \overline{)748} \\ \underline{-51} \\ 238 \\ \underline{-204} \\ 34 \end{array}$$

So the answer is 14 remainder 34.