

Year 1

### **How is numeracy taught in Year 1?**

In Year 1 your child will start to spend a definite period each morning doing just mathematics.

The lessons will begin to follow a structured pattern of:

an introduction to the lesson given by the teacher

group work with a teacher or independently

a final session in which the class gets back together to talk about what they have been doing.

### **What sort of number work will my child be doing in Year 1?**

In Year 1 children continue to develop counting skills, counting forwards, and backwards. They will also learn about odd and even numbers. Your child will learn to count in twos, fives and tens, which is the first step towards learning 'times tables'.

You will notice that 'sums' are written across the page, rather like a sentence ( $5 + 4 = ?$ ).

Children will learn that an addition sum or a subtraction sum can be described using several different phrases:

What is five plus four?

What do five and four make altogether?

What is five count on four?

Five add four?

What is five take away four?

What is five subtract four?

Start on five and count back four. what is the number?

What is the difference between five and four?

What is four less than five?

Children are encouraged to think of more than one way of tackling sums. For example, you could solve  $5 + 4 = ?$  by doing the sum  $5 + 5 = 10$  and then taking away 1, or by knowing that  $6 + 4 = 10$  so  $5 + 4$  must equal 9.

Helping your child

As you walk along or climb stairs together, practise counting in twos, fives and tens. Keep to a rhythm with one number for each step: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12.

As you travel on the road look at car number plates. Play a game in which you think of as many sums as you can using the numbers.

For example: Using the numbers 749, you could make the sums:

$$7 + 4 + 9 = ?$$

$$74 - 9 = ?$$

$$7 + 4 - 9 = ?$$

$$7 - 4 + 9 = ?$$

$$7 + 9 - 4 = ?$$

$$9 - 4 = ?$$

$$49 - 7 = ?$$

$$74 + 9 = ? \text{ etc.}$$

Encourage your child to tell you about the number work s/he is doing at school.

Support homework with plenty of praise and encouragement

Do not expect your child to answer every question quickly - give time to think

Ask your child's teacher to explain any methods which are new to you

Always consult the school if your child experiences any particular difficulties