



23<sup>rd</sup> September 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

## **Maths 'Key Instant Recall Facts'**

As part of the homework activities for all children in Years 1 to 6, we are asking children to learn specific Maths facts. These are known as KIRFs (Key Instant Recall Facts). They are designed to support the development of the mental skills that underpin much of the Maths work in schools. They are particularly useful when calculating - be it adding, subtracting, multiplying or dividing. Learning these facts by rote to the point of knowing them instantly is a great support for children as they develop increasingly complex calculation skills in Maths lessons.

To explain this a little further, here are a couple of examples of how thorough knowledge of number bonds can support children as they move up through the school:

For example, a child who knows number bonds to 10 (pairs of numbers that make 10) instantly, can use this knowledge to help them calculate:

$$56 + 34 =$$

By looking for patterns in the numbers, they can instantly see that 6+4 will make 10 and can use this to quickly mentally calculate the answer  $50 + 30 + 10 = 90$ . This is a much more efficient way of calculating than always having to use fingers/apparatus or even written methods.

As children continue to progress, they could still use number bonds to support them in written calculations. For example, when using column addition, a child who knows number bonds of all numbers to 10 can use them to become very accurate and efficient:

$$\begin{array}{r} 123 \\ +376 \\ \hline 499 \end{array}$$

Instantly knowing that  $3+6=9$ ,  $2+7=9$  (and therefore  $20+70=90$ ) and  $1+3=4$  (and therefore  $100+300=400$ ) makes calculations such as these quick and simple.

Each half term, children will be given Key Instant Recall Facts (KIRFs) to practise and learn at home as well as to work on in school. These are sent home on A4 sheets, with a KIRF for each half term. We

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ask that you support your child in learning these facts inside out and upside down so that your child has true instant recall of them. On each KIRF sheet provided, there is a summary of the facts to be learnt as well as suggestions of ways to practise these with your child. The best way to learn KIRFs is to practise little and often rather than try to learn them all in one go. This makes the task much less onerous and fun, as well as supporting long-term recall.

Thank you for your help and support with this. As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to come in for a chat with your child's class teacher.

Yours sincerely,

*Mrs Fineran*

Maths Subject Leader