

How can I support my child secure key maths skills ?

A Parents Guide to KIRFS



Key Maths Skills

- At school we know you are keen to support your child in acquiring key skills to help them do well at school and to acquire skills for life.
- In Maths when we were at school, this largely involved learning our times tables.
- Things have moved on since we were all at school and there are other key skills as well as times tables that will help your child find maths in school easier.
- These facts are called Key Instant Recall Facts or KIRFS
- These key skills replace the old Maths Passports we were using.

What are KIRFS and why do children need to know them ?

- KIRFS are the everyday maths facts we need to know off by heart to make our maths calculations and maths lessons easier.
- If we know these key facts then our brains are not so overloaded when we tackle hard maths problems.
- Key facts include times tables, number bonds, telling the time, knowing left from right, saying the months of the year in order, knowing how many days in each month, counting forwards and backwards, counting in 25's, 50's, knowing your prime numbers, being able to divide by 10 and 100 etc.

When will I be told about the KIRFS I need to help my child with ?

- Every term your child will be issued with a set of KIRFS for that term.
- Copies of the KIRFS are also posted on the school website.
- Sometimes some of the KIRFS are repeated because we know they take time to learn.
- Each KIRF will have a visual representation to show you what they are eg Number bonds are explained because this is new to many of us.
- If you are unsure, please do ask your child's teacher who will be happy to explain and support.

How often should we practise our KIRFS ?

- Learning these key facts should not be too onerous for you or your child. Learning should never become a battleground.
- Perhaps consider making flashcards to learn the times tables with the question on one side of a card and the answer on the other so that they can check their answer. Consider learning just three times table or number bond facts a day.
- Telling the time could be done whilst making dinner.
- Practise little and often is usually the key when learning things off by heart with young children.

What will you be doing in school to help support my child learn these facts ?

- Every morning when children enter school, we have 15 minutes of early morning activities. These include key spellings, handwriting practise and mental maths.
- Times tables, number bonds and KIRFS will form the maths elements for this practise on three of the five days. The other two days will be spent on arithmetic.
- Practising at home is important however as these facts take time to learn and children make best progress when supported at home.

Homework Support

- Some of your child's homework may support the KIRFS being learnt. However, homework tends to be completed just once a week and this makes learning things off by heart quite difficult for children.
- Please try to support your child learning these facts more than once a week to ensure that they find this process easier.
- If you have any further questions, please do come and talk to us. We are very happy to support you and your child.

Some examples of KIRFS from this term : KS1

Key Instant Recall Facts for EYFS (KIRFS)



Term 1

- Recognise and name 2D shapes (rectangles, squares, circles and triangles).
- Count to 20
- Recognise numerals 1, 2, 3

Year 1 Term 1 Key Instant Recall Facts (KIRFS)

- Read and write numbers from 1 to 20 in numerals. (recap from EYFS year)



- Identify one more and one less than any number (to 20). (recap from EYFS year)



- Recognise ordinal numbers (1st, 2nd, 3rd). (recap from EYFS year)
Say to your child – who is first, who is second, who is third when opportunities arise



Key Instant Recall Facts for Year 2 (KIRFS)

Term 1

- Count forwards and backwards in 2s and 5s from 0. (Recap from Year 1)

2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20
22	24	26	28	30	32	34	36	38	40
42	44	46	48	50	52	54	56	58	60
62	64	66	68	70	72	74	76	78	80
82	84	86	88	90	92	94	96	98	100

Count by 5's

5	10	15	20	25
30	35	40	45	50
55	60	65	70	75
80	85	90	95	100

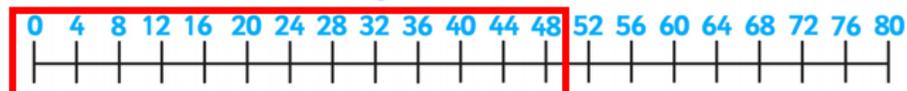
Some examples of KIRFS for Y3 and Y4

Term 1 Key Instant Recall Facts for Year 3

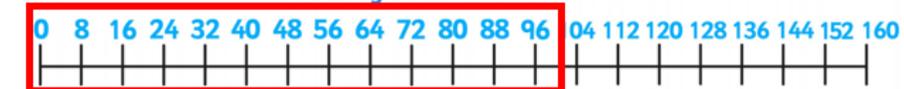
- Count, from 0, in 3s to 36, 4s to 48 and 8s to 96.



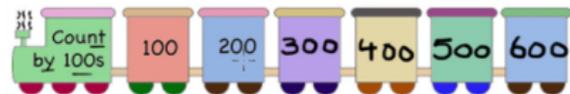
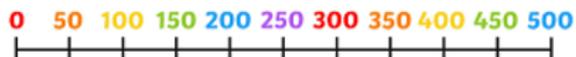
Counting in 4s Number Line



Counting in 8s Number Line



- Count in 50s and 100s.

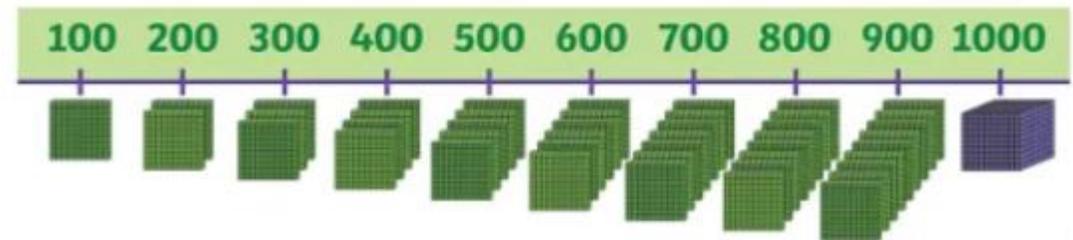


Term 1 Key Instant Recall Facts for Year 4

- Count in 25s and 1,000s.



- Know 10 hundreds = 1,000.



Some examples of KIRFS for Y5 and Y6

Year 5

- Be able to multiply or divide any number by 10 or 100
- Learn multiplication and division facts for all times tables to 12 x 12.
- Quickly add any 2 single digit numbers together, or subtract a single digit from a 2-digit number.
For example $6 + 9 = 15$ $46 - 8 = 38$

Year 6

- Be able to multiply or divide any number by 10, 100 or 1000
- Use multiplication and division facts for all times tables together with place value to quickly calculate with large numbers and decimal numbers.
For example, use multiplication facts to know:
 $2400 \div 60 = 40$
 $0.7 \times 5 = 3.5$