Year One – Basic Number Facts

The education of your child is a partnership between home and school. Practising Basic Number Facts (BNF) at home will help your child meet the minimal mathematical requirements for each year level.

What are Basic Number Facts?

BNF are <u>single digit</u> addition, subtraction, multiplication and division facts which are also referred to as number bonds or times tables. The term 'fluency' is used when a child can answer the fact verbally within a three second recall, without having to use concrete materials or a written strategy to find the answer. This differs to the term 'rote learning', which is not encouraged as it does not teach the necessary strategies needed.

Why are Basic Number Facts Important?

BNF are important for your child to learn because they form the building blocks for higher-level Maths skills. Adding and subtracting large numbers, long multiplication and division, telling the time and counting money are all concepts of Maths that children will encounter early on in their life. Therefore, if they have mastered BNF, they will find it easier to solve problems more quickly and understand the relationship between numbers, like how 4-2=2 because of 2+2=4

There are different *milestones* that each year level needs to meet when mastering BNF. In Year One, the students are working on *<u>single-digit addition</u>* and *<u>subtraction</u>* BNF milestones.

Addition Milestones
o   Counting on from the larger number.
Students learn to count on to add two single digit numbers. To be fluent, students need to be able to count on 1, 2, 3 or 0 mentally and without concrete materials.
o   Addition Property of 0
The students learn that when adding 0 to any number, the number does not change.
o   Commutative Property
The students learn that when adding two numbers, the answer does not change if the numbers are in a different order. For example: 4 + 2 = 6 is the same as 2 + 4 = 6

Subtraction Milestones
o   Count Back
The students learn to count back when subtracting. As with counting on, the students are fluent in counting back when they can mentally subtract 1, 2, 3 or 0 within a three second recall without using concrete materials.
o   See Subtraction Think Addition
One of the most effective strategies for subtracting mentally. To be able to see subtraction and think addition, students need to understand the connection between addition and subtraction. For example: You can solve 10 - 4 = ? by thinking 4 + ? = 10 and knowing that 4 + 6 = 10
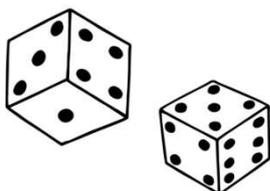
Activities to support learning:
o   Board Games
o   Card Games
o   Games that use dice.
o   Online Games such as Top Marks: Hit the Button, MathsInvaders and MathFactLab
o   Stories/Books
o   Numberblocks