

December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

Mastering Numbers in Reception Class

We are writing to let you know that children in Early Years, are using the **Mastering Numbers** programme, developed by the National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics (NCETM). This carefully structured programme is designed to build a solid foundation in early mathematics, with a particular focus on numbers, counting, and developing a deep understanding of number relationships.

Key Learning Areas:

1. Subitising:

Subitising is the ability to instantly recognize small quantities of objects without counting them one by one. Children will practice recognizing numbers up to 5 or 10 at a glance, helping to strengthen their number sense and improve fluency in basic arithmetic.

2. Counting Ordinality and Cardinality:

Children will explore the concepts of **ordinality** (understanding the order of numbers) and **cardinality** (understanding that the last number in a count represents the total quantity). They will practice counting forward and backward and understand the relationship between numbers and quantities in a meaningful way.

3. Composition of Numbers:

The programme supports children in understanding that numbers can be broken down into smaller parts. For example, 5 can be made up of 2 and 3, or 4 and 1. This concept of number composition helps build mental maths skills and problem-solving abilities.

4. Comparison:

Children will develop skills in comparing numbers and quantities. They will explore concepts like "more than," "less than," and "equal to" and practice using these ideas to compare groups of objects, helping them understand relationships between numbers.



5. **Number Bonds and Simple Addition/Subtraction:**

The programme emphasizes the development of number bonds, such as pairs that add up to 10 (e.g., $3 + 7 = 10$) and introduces children to basic addition and subtraction within 10. Through hands-on activities and visual aids, they will begin to solve simple number problems.

6. **Mathematical Language:**

As part of their learning, children will use and become familiar with mathematical vocabulary, such as “more,” “less,” “greater,” “fewer,” “first,” “last,” and “equal.” This will help them articulate their understanding of numbers and relationships.

How We Teach:

The **Mastering Numbers** programme uses a mix of practical activities, engaging games, and short, daily sessions that are designed to support your child's individual learning journey. The focus is on exploring numbers through hands-on learning, which makes the concepts accessible, fun, and engaging.

What You Can Do at Home:

You can support your child's learning at home by:

- Practicing counting objects together (e.g., toys, buttons, books) and using everyday situations to count.
- Encouraging your child to recognize quantities without counting each item individually.
- Using phrases like “How many are there altogether?” or “Which is more/less?” to develop comparison skills.
- Playing simple number games that reinforce number bonds, addition, and subtraction.

We are excited to see how the **Mastering Numbers** programme will help your child build a strong mathematical foundation, and we look forward to sharing their progress with you. If you have any questions or would like more information, please feel free to reach out.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Mrs Kalampaliki

Reception Teacher

EYFS Mastering Numbers Lead

