

Key Instant Recall Facts (KIRFs)



To develop your child's fluency and mental maths skills, we are introducing KIRFs throughout school. KIRFs are a way of helping your child to learn by heart, key facts, skills and information which they need to be able to instantly recall.

KIRFs are designed to support the development of mental maths skills that underpin much of the maths work in our school. They are particularly useful when calculating, adding, subtracting, multiplying or dividing. They contain number facts such as number bonds and times tables that need constant practise and rehearsal, so children can recall them quickly and accurately.

Instant recall of facts helps enormously with mental agility in maths lessons. When children move onto written calculations, knowing these key facts is very beneficial. For your child to become more efficient in recalling them easily, they need to be practised frequently - we recommend at least three times a week - and for short periods of time. Children should know them inside out, back to front and with instant recall.

Over their time at primary school, we believe that - if the KIRFs are developed fully - children will be more confident with number work, maths life skills, understanding its relevance, and be able to access the curriculum much more easily. Furthermore, they will be able to apply what they have learnt to a wide range of problems that confront us regularly.

"When we commit facts to long-term memory, they actually become part of our thinking apparatus." Daisy Christodoulou

Each half term, children will focus on a Key Instant Recall Fact (KIRF) to practise and learn at home. They will also be available on our school website and each child will receive a copy to keep at home. They are not designed to be a time-consuming task and can be practised anywhere - in the car, walking to school, at the dinner table etc. Regular practice - little and often - helps children to retain these facts and keep their skills sharp. Throughout the half term, the KIRFs will also be practised in school and your child's teacher will assess whether they have been retained.

Included on the KIRF sheet are some activity ideas and useful websites to support your child. If you need further assistance, ideas or advice, then please ask your class teacher.