

## Stay and count – Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2017

### Fluency in maths

#### Key messages:

- the new curriculum in 2014 placed a great emphasis on fluency in maths
- children are expected to move at roughly the same pace through the curriculum with teachers supporting and challenging understanding
- children who show good skills with a concept should be challenged to use this knowledge in different contexts rather than move on to new skills
- Fluency isn't just a case of chanting sums or being able to quickly answer a sum given to them. It is about being able to recall knowledge to use within a mathematical context
- 3 elements to fluency: **Efficiency** – children choose the most efficient method to solve a problem, **Accuracy** – checking their answers, **Flexibility** – knowledge of more than one approach to solving a particular kind of problem, this will also support them with checking their working
- Children need to be able to talk about their work – the methods they have used, the knowledge they have used, the patterns they have noticed.
- Parents can help by practising this knowledge with them at home in the context of games and discussions. Use real-life contexts such as sharing out sweets, cooking or laying the table to encourage children to use their knowledge and recall facts. “How many knives and forks will we need if all five of us are having tea?” will encourage them to work out five lots of two (a knife and a fork)
- Have a positive mind set towards maths tasks