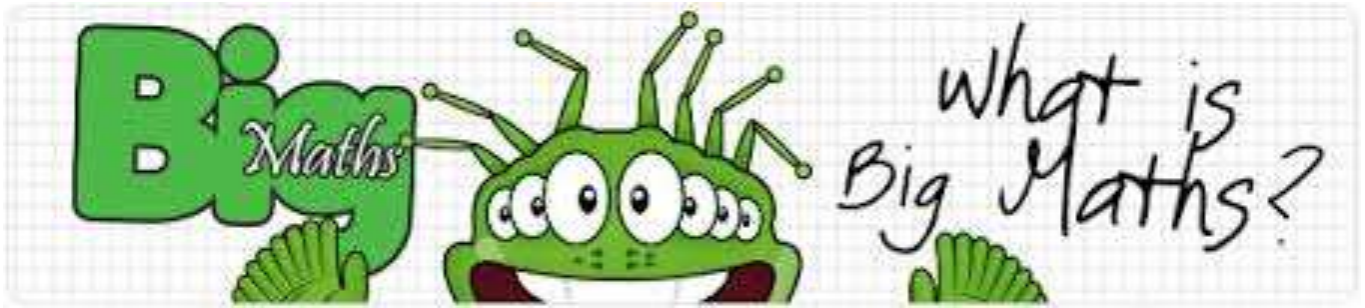




Marston Montgomery Primary School



Big Maths



Big Maths

Big Maths is a teaching programme we are introducing at Marston to help children to become more numerate. Problem solving and word problems cannot be solved until children can manipulate and understand how numbers work.

Big Maths lessons are fast, fun and furious. Children work on whiteboards and 'flash' answers to their teachers and the pace of the lesson is quite exhausting! We need to pass on the pressure to work at pace and have maths facts instantly available, rather than counting on fingers.

The children are introduced to child-friendly terms such as 'Switchers' and 'Learn Its', rather than 'commutative law' and 'number bonds' to help them manipulate numbers and make them more confident and more successful. These terms are used throughout the school so that there is continuity.

CLIC Sessions

This stands for '**C**ounting', '**L**earn Its', '**I**t's Nothing New' and '**C**alculation'. Maths lessons contain each of these elements.

We have now introduced all four elements of Big Maths to our maths lessons. This information leaflet therefore covers all four elements of the sessions.

Counting

Children will count forwards, backwards, in steps of 3 6 or 25, read and write numbers and in multiples. When practising counting at home with your children, make sure you go backwards and forwards. Don't always start at 0 – make sure they can count on from 75 to 106 for example.

'Learn Its'

Learn Its are addition facts and times tables facts. There are 72 Learn Its in total. 36 addition Learn Its and 36 multiplication Learn Its. These are facts that children need to learn off by heart, so when they are asked 'What is $6+4$?' they are able to give the answer as quickly as they would be able to tell you their name. As soon as they know $6+7=13$ they also know $7+6=13$, this is known as a 'Switcher'. They also know $13-7=6$ and $13-6=7$, this is known as a 'Fact Family'.

Your child's teacher will select the Learn Its for your child to work on rather than race ahead. Please work at home to make sure they really **do** know their Learn Its and their Switchers with INSTANT RECALL (no fingers!)

Big Maths Beat That



Big Maths Beat That is a weekly timed test of your child's Learn Its. The aim is to improve their score by at least one each time or to improve their speed. Stickers are awarded to children who 'Beat That'.

You can help your child to improve their scores, by asking them to give you instant responses to their Learn Its while at home, the journey to school and throughout the day at weekend. Little and very often is the key to success, so the information enters the long term memory. It is important to recap on previously learnt Learn Its too!

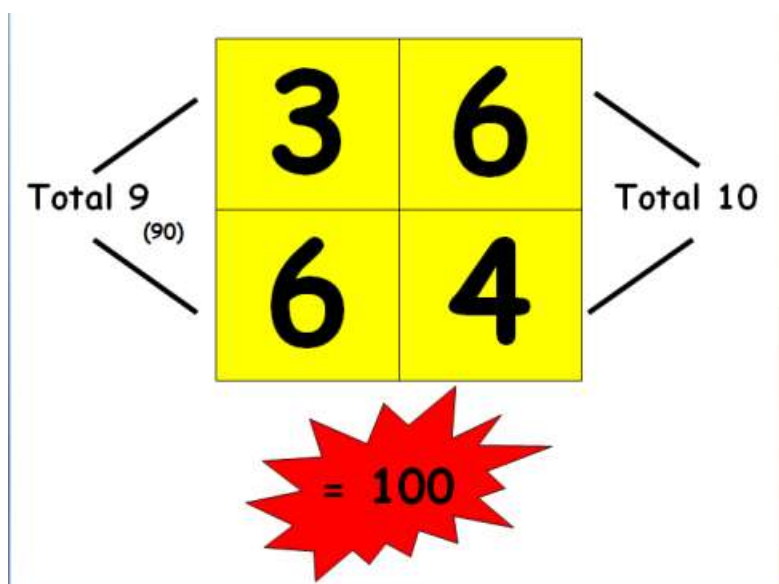
It's Nothing New

This is the most important aspect of CLIC – the way children become successful and properly numerate. Ideas such as 5things and 3things are always 8things. If we then change the 'thing' to tens for example, 5 tens + 3 tens = 8 tens. Children will count in bananas, aliens, cats etc. to lead into this. It becomes much easier to use amounts and measures such as ml, m. Pim the Alien is used to reinforce this concept.

The idea is that the learning is nothing new – children find being told this means they feel able to answer the questions with real understanding. If a child knows double 4, they can use that to find double 40 with confidence.

Strange phrases such as 'Jigsaw Numbers', 'Smile Multiplication' and 'Where's Mully?' are all part of this section of Big Maths.

Jigsaw numbers are a way of adding pairs of numbers to equal 100, decimals equal to 1.0. For example $36 + 64$,-



Smile Multiplication is used for multiplying multiples of 10
e.g. 40×6 .

Smile Multiplication 😊

$30 \times 80 = 2400$

24

- Do the tables bit
- Count the zeros in the question
- Put the zeros on your answer!

‘Where’s Mully?’ is a game that is played to help children master division, which is traditionally the most challenging of the four operations. He hides behind numbers in a number square and the children have to find him. The word division is never used!



e.g. He’s hiding behind the biggest multiple of 3 without going over 40 – he’s on 39

Calculation

This aspect of CLIC is when the teacher will work on developing the class’ progress and understanding of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Big Maths clearly maps out which steps children should do in a clear order and helps teachers to identify where to go back to if a child is struggling.

How can you help at home?

Big Maths is a very useful tool to help children become numerate... but we still need your support at home.

How can you help?

- Help your child practice their Learn Its at home – a few minutes a day is all you need.
- Insist that numbers are written the correct way round (it may be appropriate to concentrate on one number at a time).
- Congratulate your child if their Big Maths score goes up.
- Make maths a positive experience (don't tell your child you were rubbish at maths when you were at school – they will think they should be!)

If you have any questions or concerns please ask us!