November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

By the end of Year 2, children are expected to know key addition and subtraction facts by heart. Being able to recall these quickly helps them tackle more complex maths problems with confidence.

During the Autumn term, we are focusing on **addition facts up to 20, including those that cross 10.** In our maths lessons we are exploring strategies to solve these calculations quickly however regular additional practice really supports long term learning.

We ask that you support your child at home by practicing these type of addition facts regularly:

15 + 3 =
12 + 8 =
11 + 6 =
8 + 4 =
6 + 7 =
9 + 5 =
7 + 11 =

Short, regular practice at home makes a huge difference in helping these facts stick.

Each week, the children will complete a short, timed challenge in class. We will send their results home so you can track their progress and see how quickly they are recalling these facts.

Overleaf are some strategies we have been teaching for solving addition calculations up to 20, along with some ideas and games for practising at home.

Thank you for your support with maths.

Rachel Ridley
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This term we are focusing on solving two types of addition calculation mentally:

- **Numbers above 10 + a single digit** (e.g. 15 + 3, 4 + 12)
- **Adding two single digits, that add to more than 10** (e.g. 8 + 4)

5 quick tricks we are teaching at school

- **Start with the bigger number:** For 7 + 11, flip it to 11 + 7. It's much easier to add 7 onto 11.
- **Break it down** - add the ones and then the tens: For 15 + 3, add 5 + 3 = 8. Then add back the 10 to give 18.
- **Use number bonds:** If 7 + 3 = 10 then 17 + 3 = 20.
- **Make a 10 first:** For 8 + 4, add 2 to 8 to make 10, then add the remaining 2 to make 12.
- **Use near doubles:** For 6+7, double 6 to get 12, then add 1 more to make 13.

Easy games to try at home

- **Post-it Target Tag:** Stick answer notes (18, 13,15) around the room. Call out a sum (like 6+7) and let your child race to slap the right answer or throw a soft sock at it.
- **Deck of Cards:** Draw two cards from a deck (remove face cards). Ask your child to add them using one of their school tricks.
- **Beat the Clock:** Show flashcards and see how many sums they can answer in 1 minute.
- **2-Minute Everyday Quiz:** Ask 2 or 3 quick sums on the walk to school or while unpacking groceries (15 items + 3 more).

Top Tips

- **Ask "How?"** If they get stuck, ask *"How can we solve this?"* instead of telling them the answer.
- **Keep it short:** 3 minutes once or twice a day is all it takes!