

Maths at Bedwell

Nursery
January 2017

Each half-term, every class in the school focuses on **one key area of maths**, based on strengths and weaknesses identified by all of our teachers at the start of the year. Your child's targets are explained over the page, along with some **ideas for how you can support your child with them at home**. The targets are split into 3 sections - the '**Should**' target is age-related, based on national standards for maths, and is the point most children should reach. For some children maths can be difficult and therefore they are targeted to get the '**Must**'. For others who really excel at maths there is the '**Could**' target, which challenges them to work at a higher level.

Each class also selects a key set of number facts - their '**Learn-Its**' - which they practice every day. In Foundation Stage these change regularly to help us to make quick progress, but we will be singing the songs below all term to help our counting develop.

Top number songs this term:

Number songs are a great way to improve counting skills, and this term we'll be singing these songs regularly, and it will really help your child to learn if they practice them at home, too. There are loads of sing-along videos available on the BBC website or YouTube as well - just Google the song titles.

Five currant buns

FIVE currant buns in a baker's shop

Round and fat with a cherry on top

Along came a boy

With a penny one day

Bought a currant bun and took it away

Repeat for FOUR, THREE, TWO and ONE currant buns, changing the person who comes to the shop each time.

One elephant went out to play

ONE elephant went out to play

Upon a spider's web one day

He found it such enormous fun

He called for another elephant to come

Elephant! Elephant! *(all call together)*

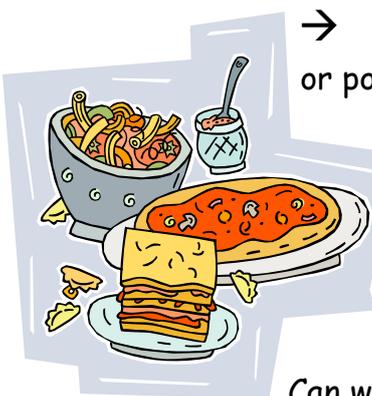
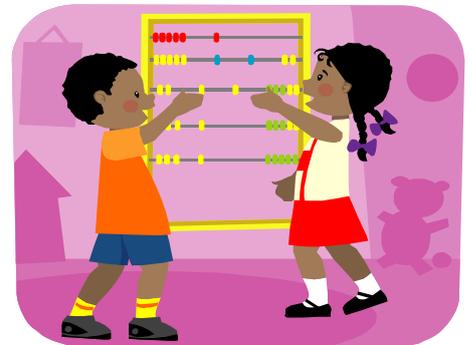
Repeat for TWO, THREE, FOUR and FIVE elephants, until...

The web went creak, the web went crack.
And all of the elephants went KERSPLAT!

Must	Should	Could
I can count one or two objects from a group	I can count three or four objects from a group	I can count up to six objects from a larger group

How you can help:

- Keep on counting anything and everything you can think of - footsteps on the way to bed, shoes in the house, claps, nods... It doesn't matter what, just find opportunities to count as often as you can. Check that your child recognises that the last number you've said is the total number counted.
- Sing counting songs together - this term, we'll be singing a lot of *5 currant buns* and *One elephant went out to play*.



- Count food on plates at mealtimes - who has the most fish fingers or potatoes? A big part of comparing and adding groups is being able to hold one total in your head while counting a second group, and regular practice will help to build your child's memory - can you remember how many you had on your plate to start with?
- Look at numbers in the environment when you're out and about together. Can we find the number 5 anywhere in the shop? Can we find a group of 5 things in a picture or on a shelf?

- Practice making number shapes and writing numbers in different ways - on paper, on people's backs, on hands or in the bath. Start to link these numbers to real groups or sets of objects - can you write the number that shows how many toys there are in the box?
- Count items into the shopping trolley, and check-off items on the shopping list. We wrote '5 tins of cat food' on our list - have we picked-up that number?

