

Reception Maths

In Ash Class we follow the National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics (NCETM) Mastering Number programme. This national approach helps children develop strong number sense from the very beginning.

In Reception, children explore number through practical, hands-on experiences that build confidence, flexibility and a deep understanding of how numbers work.

What Mastering Number Aims to Develop

- A secure understanding of numbers to 10 and beyond.
- The ability to recognise quantities without counting (subitising).
- Confidence comparing numbers and noticing patterns.
- Early calculation skills through play and practical activities.
- Firm foundations for future maths learning in Key Stage 1.

We spend lots of time exploring number through games, manipulatives, movement and talk. Children learn best when maths is playful, meaningful and connected to real-life experiences. Alongside NCETM resources, Miss Cove has been developing her own practice through training with maths consultant Karen Wilding, whose work supports deep understanding of early number and subitising.

You can find excellent short videos on early maths, subitising and number sense from Karen Wilding on her YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@karenwildingeymaths>

How to Help at Home

- Notice and talk about numbers in everyday life (clocks, doors, prices, steps).
- Sing number rhymes together.
- Play quick subitising games such as 'How many can you see?' with familiar small objects or things you see when out and about (such as animals or people).
- Use practical resources like buttons, blocks or counters for simple comparing and sorting.
- Ask questions such as 'How do you know?' to encourage children to explain their thinking.
- Play board games or card games to build confidence with counting and recognising amounts.
- Celebrate curiosity and encourage children to spot patterns or make predictions.