

# Mastering Number

Lanercost Church of England Primary School  
Care Believe Achieve  
*Live life in all its fullness - John 10:10*

## What is Mastering Number?

Mastering Number is a fully funded programme provided by the Maths Hubs. It is a project which aims to secure firm foundations in the development of good number sense for all children from Reception through to Year 1 and Year 2. Debbie Morgan, the NCETM's Director for Primary, explains how an abacus-like rekenrek is used to help children develop confidence and fluency with number.

## Why Mastering Number?

Mastering Number is used because of the aim that over time children will leave KS1 with fluency in calculation and a confidence and flexibility with number. This supports the conceptual understanding children need to understand deeper mathematical contexts. Attention is given to the key knowledge and understanding needed in Reception and the progression through KS1 to support success in the future. The use of rekenreks provide children with a clear structure to develop their understanding of 5 and 10. By learning about these numbers in depth and about the relationships between them, children are able to easily transfer the same number sense to larger numbers with confidence. Mastering number allows all children to develop good number sense and have automaticity in additive facts. The lessons are not differentiated because the expectation for Mastering Number is that all children will develop good number sense and fluency in number facts.

## How is Mastering Number used at Lanercost?

Mastering Number is provided as a daily (4 days per week) discrete teaching session for all children in KS1 in addition to their normal maths lesson. For Reception, the Mastering Number session will be their daily teaching of mathematics. We aim for our learning to be a hands-on, exciting experience for the children that is supported by technology. Mastering Number provides children with many opportunities to use concrete resources such as: rekenreks, double sided counters, ten frames. There are many opportunities to use interactive resources such as: NumBlock videos, stem sentences, talking to our partner and call & response phrases.

Everyone in Reception, KS1 will be taught Mastering Number however, for older children who need additional support, Mastering Number can be used as an additional intervention to support these children to develop their confidence and fluency with number.

## What impact does Mastering Number have?

As Mastering Number is used from Reception we find it gives our children a strong start, equipping them with the number sense and mathematical confidence early in their education.

In KS1, Mastering Number is delivered in addition to mathematics, by doing this it provides children with the confidence to apply their learning in Mastering Number to other areas of mathematics. We have witnessed children supporting one another in other lessons using call and response and stem sentences.

In 2022, our Year 2 pass rate for mathematics was positively impacted by the use of Mastering Number. We had 90% of children achieving their year groups expectations, 30% which achieved Greater Depth.

The programme meets the needs of all children by moving slowly and allowing children the time they need to secure and underpin their understanding of number and to develop a deeper understanding of number and relationships between these.