Early maths

Within the continuous provision, we provide daily opportunities for the children to develop and practice their maths skills. Our adult led maths sessions are based on the national Mastering Number programme, which focuses on developing a strong number sense. This programme purposefully focuses on small numbers so that children are confident number experts and develop a **deep** understanding of number. Sessions include lots of opportunities for the children to use maths talk, reason, explain their thinking, visualise number patterns, count, subitise, explore composition and comparison. There are also planned activities for the children to explore other aspects of early maths including shape, space, pattern and measures.

Summer 2026

Nursery	**Reception**
Number	**Mastering number**
Reinforcing number 1, 2, 3 and 4 **Number 5** Understand the concept of 5, subitise 5, 5 or not 5, count 5 objects accurately, recognise more or fewer than 5, orally count to 5-back to 0, compare amounts to 5 matching one to one, place 5 objects on a 5 frame, know that 5 is 1 more than 4, grow/show/throw 5, 5 is made from……, solve mathematical problems with numbers up to 5	**Counting, cardinality and ordinality** Count larger amounts and focus on strategies for counting **Subitising** Focus on structured arrangements including the 10-frame **Composition** Focus on representations of numbers using fingers and 10-frames **Composition** Focus on doubles using different representations **Comparison** Focus on ordinality: comparing numbers **Subitising and the rekenrek** 'Seeing' small quantities and numbers within larger quantities Introduction to the rekenrek Link familiar representations such as numbers of fingers to representations on the rekenrek **Counting** Strategies for counting Recognise the pattern of the counting system when beginning to count beyond 20 **Comparison** Compare groups of objects that are of different sizes/colours/attributes Develop a sense of magnitude e.g., knowing that 8 is a lot more than 2, but that 4 is only a little bit more than 2 **Pattern in number** Investigate 'parts' and 'wholes' Explore the composition of numbers to 10 Investigate equivalence, doubles and making odd and even numbers **Deep understanding of numbers to 10** Continue to practically explore the composition of numbers to 10 Investigate 5 as a key 'anchor' in the number system Begin to generalise about 1 more/1 less within 10 **Recall of number facts** Recall the 'numbers within' 3, 4, 5 and 10 Recall double facts, up to '5 and 5 make 10' Recall missing parts within 5
Shape, space, pattern and measures	**Shape, space, pattern and measures**
Match, compare, sort, same/different Positional language, describing routes Combining shapes Creating patterns	Manipulate, compose and decompose Visualise, build and map Make connections