

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.

Autumn 2026

Nursery	Reception
Number	Mastering number
Number 1 Understand what one means, select 1 object from a larger group, recognise the numeral 1, represent 1 in different ways, subitise 1, make comparisons between 1/not 1, place 1 object on a 5 frame, grow/show/throw 1 Number 2 Understand 2 is the number after 1, 1 more than 1, understand what 2 means, select 2 from a larger group, orally count to 2-back to 0, recognise the numeral 2, represent 2 in different ways, subitise 2, 2 or not 2, compare 2 groups-which has fewer/more, count 2 objects accurately, place 2 objects on a 5 frame, grow/show/throw 2, 2 is made from.....	Subitising Perceptual subitising to 3 Counting Counting sequence; 1:1 correspondence, cardinality Composition Composition of 3 and 4; all numbers can be made of ones Subitising Subitising to 4; perceptual and conceptual; making 4 Comparison Focus on language and thinking about attributes Cardinality and counting Focus on counting to 5 and the key representation of '5 fingers on one hand', and the die-five pattern Comparison Comparison by matching, including when groups are equal Composition Focus on the concept of a 'whole' Composition Focus on the composition of 5 Cardinality and counting Counting beyond 5
Shape, space, pattern and measures	Shape, space, pattern and measures
Match, compare, sort, same/different Explore size, height, length Explore and build with shapes and objects Explore and join in with repeats	Match, sort and compare Talk about measure and patterns Circles and triangles Shapes with 4 sides