



Believe, Strive, Achieve

Winklebury Federation

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Monday 9th February 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are writing to explain why practising number bonds, and being able to rapidly recall them, is an important part of maths learning in Year 1 and how you can support your child at home.

Number bonds are pairs of numbers that add together to make a total. For example, some of our number bonds to 10 are: 4+6, 7+3, 9+1 etc. In Year 1, the children are expected to be able to rapidly recall; all their number bonds to 5 (which is a Year R expectation), all their number bonds to 10 and begin to know their number bonds to 20. They also need to know the related subtraction facts within these numbers, for example if they know $8+2=10$, they should also know $10-2=8$. Rapidly recalling number bonds is crucial because it forms the foundation for mathematical fluency, efficiency, and confidence, allowing children to add and subtract more easily, instead of relying on slower methods like counting on fingers.

From week beginning 23rd February, to help build the required confidence and fluency with their number bonds, the Year 1 children will be given a short weekly test to help us monitor their progress with their number bond knowledge. This will also help us identify any children who may need extra support so that we can ensure everyone continues to make progress with these key number facts.

In order to support your child with their number bonds at home, we would like them to practise for approximately 5-10 minutes, at least three times a week. Practising their number bonds for a short amount of time and as often as possible at home is the most effective way for your child to retain the bonds and be able to rapidly recall them. This can be done through quick oral questions, simple games, or talking about numbers in everyday situations, such as sharing food or counting objects. You can also use online games to support them, using activities selected on this website such as <https://whizzbots.co.uk/whizzbots-links/ks1-maths-games/number-bonds-to-10-2/>. The children will already be familiar with online games like 'Hit the Button' from in class.

If you have any questions regarding the contents of this letter, please speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance, or we will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs Hunt and Miss Bradley
Maths Managers