



Dear Parents and Carers,

You will find attached a copy of your child's KIRFs for this half term. You may be wondering what a 'KIRF' is. Below are some questions that you may have and some answers.

What are KIRFs?

To further develop children fluency and mental maths skills, the NCLT is introducing KIRFs (Key Instant Recall Facts) throughout all of the schools in the North Cornwall Learning Trust. KIRFs are a way of helping your child to learn by heart, key facts and information which they need to have instant recall of. KIRFs are designed to support the development of mental maths skills that underpin much of the maths work in our school. They are particularly useful when calculating, adding, subtracting, multiplying or dividing. They contain number facts such as number bonds and times tables that need constant practise and rehearsal, so children can recall them quickly and accurately.

Instant recall of facts helps enormously with mental agility in maths lessons. When children move onto written calculations, knowing these key facts is very beneficial. For your child to become more efficient in recalling them easily, they need to be practised frequently and for short periods of time.

How can we access the KIRFs at home?

Each half term, children will focus on a Key Instant Recall Fact (KIRF) to practise and learn at home for the half term. They will be available on our school website under the curriculum > maths section and each child will receive a copy to keep at home.

How do we practise the KIRFs?

The KIRFs include key vocabulary and examples of the key skills, as well as practical ideas to assist your child in grasping the key facts. Each KIRF also contains helpful suggestions of ways in which you could make this learning interesting and relevant. They are not designed to be a time-consuming task and can be practised anywhere – in the car, walking to school, etc. Regular practice – little and often – helps children to retain these facts and keep their skills sharp. Ultimately, any time spent on this can only be of benefit to your child/ren.

How are the KIRFs developed in school?

Throughout the half term, the KIRFs will also be practised regularly and in short bursts in school and your term. Over their time at primary school, we believe that – if the KIRFs are developed fully – children will be more confident when working with number, understand its relevance, and be able to access the curriculum much more easily. They will be able to apply what they have learnt to a wide range of problems that confront us regularly.

As always, if you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact your child's class teacher. Many thanks for continued support.

Mrs Thomson