

Mastering Number at Lightmoor Village Primary School

Mastering Number is a short daily maths programme we use from Early Years up to Year 5. Its aim is simple: to help every child develop strong number sense, confidence with early calculations, and quick recall of key facts. Children take part in four 10-minute sessions each week, with each year group building on what they learned before.

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

In EYFS, the focus is on helping children really *understand* numbers, not just say them. Children learn to:

- Recognise small amounts without counting
- Compare groups of objects
- Understand how numbers are made (for example, knowing that 5 can be 3 and 2)
- Spot patterns
- Build early counting and calculation skills

These sessions are hands-on and playful, using real objects and visual patterns. This gives children a strong foundation so they enter Year 1 ready to think about numbers with confidence.

Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2)

In Years 1 and 2, the programme helps children become fluent with key number facts. Sessions focus on:

- Number bonds within 10 and 20
- Doubles and near doubles
- Counting patterns
- Flexible ways to add and subtract
- Building strong mental maths skills

Children continue to use practical resources such as Rekenreks and visual models. This helps them understand what the numbers mean before moving on to more abstract methods. Regular practice helps them recall facts quickly and use them confidently in their maths lessons.

Years 3, 4 and 5

As children move into Lower Key Stage 2 and Year 5, Mastering Number continues to strengthen their understanding of number. Sessions include:

- Times tables understanding and recall
- Flexible mental calculation strategies
- Deepening place value knowledge
- Strengthening fluency with number facts and patterns
- Preparing for more complex written and mental methods

The aim is for every child to feel confident, fluent and flexible with number so they can tackle more challenging maths with ease.

Why We Use Mastering Number

Across the school, Mastering Number:

- Provides a consistent approach to number teaching
- Strengthens key foundations and fills gaps
- Builds fluency and confidence
- Ensures children develop secure number sense before moving on
- Supports mastery teaching by focusing on deep understanding

These daily 10-minute sessions help make number fluency a priority, supporting every child on their journey to becoming a confident mathematician.