Fractions and Multiplication Unit 1

Short Mental Workouts

The short activities suggested below do not have to be done at the beginning of your maths lesson. They are suitable for doing at any time of the day to provide ongoing revision of important mental and oral skills.

While there probably is not time during your maths lesson for these activities, it is crucial to regularly rehearse these skills. You decide when to use them, perhaps at the beginning of the day for 'morning maths', as you line up for lunch, or as a 'brain-break' during the afternoon.

If an image is suggested, you can find it on the sheet(s) below and/or use the link (beginning https://wrht.org.uk/…) to find it, and other related generic materials.

Day 1

Bean bag doubling

Organise children into a circle. Throw a beanbag to a child and call out a number under 12 at the same time. Children catch the beanbag and say the double with that answer, e.g. you say ***6***, they say ***double 3***.

Day 2

Count in 2s, with division facts

Use a bead bar to support counting in 2s to 20. Then count in 2s to 20 together without the bead bar, holding up one finger for each 2 said. Repeat, this time stopping occasionally to ask Y2 children corresponding divisions, such as *how many 2s are in 10?*

Day 3

Whisper counting

Organise children in a circle. Count around, whisper counting in 2s: the first child says 'one' in a whisper, the next child says 'two' in a loud voice, the next child says 'three' in a whisper and so on. Continue the count around the circle to at least 30. Repeat, starting in a different place on the circle.

Day 4

Recognise multiples of 10

Highlight multiples of 10 on ITP *Number grid*. *What do you notice about these numbers? We call these multiples of 10 and they all end in 0.* Write the following numbers on the board: 23, 87, 60, 120, 346, 910, 2870, 5472, 36780. *Which of these are multiples of 10? How do you know?*

Day 5

Hidden numbers

Ask children to close their eyes while you cover 14, 22, 39, 45, 68 on a large 1–100 grid with sticky notes. *Open your eyes! What numbers have I hidden? What clues can we use?*

© Original plan copyright Hamilton Trust, who give permission for it to be adapted by individual users.