

Place Value, Decimals and Fractions 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

Convert between kg and g

Draw a 4-by-3 grid and write different 4-digit weights, e.g. 1400g, 2750g, in each of the 12 cells. Children copy the grid but Y3s write the weights in kg and g, e.g. 1kg 400g, 2kg 750g; and Y4s write them in kg, i.e. 1.4kg, 2.75kg etc.

Day 2

Counting forwards and backwards across zero

Start at 10 and ask children to count backwards in 1s. Make sure children are counting in unison at a steady pace (not racing). *What happens when we reach zero?* Continue to -10 then reverse the direction. Repeat, this time starting at 5. Shout 'change' when children have reached -3, children then count forwards. Shout 'change' when children reach 6, then count backwards. Continue for several rounds. Watch for any children who are confused as zero is crossed.