Year 4 Maths

KEY INSTANT RECALL FACTS (KIRFs)

To develop your child's fluency and mental maths skills, we have introduced KIRFs (Key Instant Recall Facts) throughout school. 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 schools. 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.

Each half term, children will focus on 1 KIRF to practise and learn at home alongside the work that we will be doing weekly in school. They will include ideas to assist your child in grasping these key facts. They are not designed to be a time-consuming task and can be practised anywhere – in the car, walking to school etc. Regular practise – little and often – helps children to retain these facts.

Over their time at primary school, we believe that – if the KIRFs are developed fully – children will be more confident with maths work, understand its relevance and be able to access the curriculum more easily. They will be able to apply what they have learned to a wide range of problems that confront us regularly.

Thank you for your support.

Key Instant Recall Facts
Year 4 Summer 2

This half term your child is working towards achieving knowledge of the KIRFS, indicated below.

The ultimate aim is for your child to be able to recall these facts instantly.

This terms KIRF

I know commutative facts for all multiplication tables.

For example:

3 × 4 = 12 and 4 × 3 = 12
6 × 8 = 48 and 8 × 6 = 48
7 × 5 = 35 and 5 × 7 = 35

Key Vocabulary

groups of
commutative
fact family

What is 6 × 4? What is 4 × 6?
What do you notice about the answers?
Does it always work?

Activities to try:

Make arrays with objects
Use everyday objects such as counters, pasta, or toys to make arrays.
For example, make 3 rows of 5 objects. Then turn the array to show 5 rows of 3.
Discuss how both show the same total.
Can your child tell you both multiplication facts from the same array?

Use real-life situations to explore commutativity.
For example, when setting the table, you might say:
"We have 4 plates with 3 items on each. How many items is that?"
Then ask:
"What if we had 3 plates with 4 items on each?"
You could also use examples such as rows of chairs, packs of objects, or grouping items in the kitchen.

Useful Websites
https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button
https://www.timestables.co.uk/