

Our Lady & St Oswald's Catholic Primary School

Number Bonds

A guide for parents in KS1

Small steps make a big difference!

Building
number bonds
builds
brighter
futures!



What are number bonds?

Number bonds are pairs of numbers that add together to make a total. They help children to:

- ★ understand how numbers work,
- ★ solve problems more easily,
- ★ build confidence in maths, and
- ★ support them with subtraction, multiplication and division later on.

If children know their number bonds, they can quickly find the missing number and solve calculations in their heads.

Key number bonds in KS1

Children start with key bonds to 10 and then move on to 20.

Bonds to 10

$$\begin{aligned}0 + 10 &= 10 \\1 + 9 &= 10 \\2 + 8 &= 10 \\3 + 7 &= 10 \\4 + 6 &= 10 \\5 + 5 &= 10\end{aligned}$$

Bonds to 20

$$\begin{aligned}0 + 20 &= 20 \\1 + 19 &= 20 \\2 + 18 &= 20 \\3 + 17 &= 20 \\4 + 16 &= 20 \\5 + 15 &= 20 \\6 + 14 &= 20 \\7 + 13 &= 20 \\8 + 12 &= 20 \\9 + 11 &= 20 \\10 + 10 &= 20\end{aligned}$$

Why are they important?

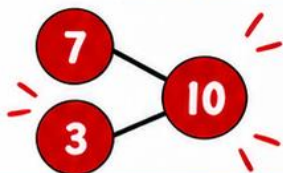
- ★ They help children add and subtract with confidence.
- ★ They are used in many areas of maths, including money, fractions, time and measures.
- ★ They help children spot patterns and make links between numbers.
- ★ They build mental maths skills and speed up calculations.
- ★ They give children a strong foundation for future learning in KS2 and beyond.



How can you help at home?

There are lots of simple and fun ways to practise number bonds with your child:

- ★ **Use everyday objects** – count sweets, socks, lego or coins in pairs to make a total.
- ★ **Play games** – cards, dice games or online games.
- ★ **Use number bond pairs** – e.g. 7 and 3, 5 and 5.
- ★ **Encourage quick recall** – say a number and ask "What number makes 10?"
- ★ **Use real life situations** – shopping, cooking, measuring and even time (e.g. 3 o'clock and 2 o'clock make 5).
- ★ **Try the Sumdog activities** – these are great for practising number bonds in a fun and engaging way.



$$\begin{aligned}7 + 3 &= 10 \\3 + 7 &= 10 \\10 - 7 &= 3 \\10 - 3 &= 7\end{aligned}$$

Using Sumdog for Number Bonds



We use Sumdog in school to help children practise their number bonds in a fun, interactive and motivating way. It helps children to:

- ✓ **Build fluency** through short, focused activities and games.
- ✓ **Practise** at their own level and progress at their own pace.
- ✓ **Gain instant feedback** so they know how they are doing.
- ✓ **Develop confidence** with a range of number bond challenges.
- ✓ The teachers can see how they are getting on and identify any gaps in learning.

Sumdog makes maths fun, builds confidence and helps children achieve!

Helpful tips

- ★ **Keep it positive** – praise effort, not just correct answers.
- ★ **Make it short** – 5–10 minutes a day is ideal.
- ★ **Use a variety of methods** – counting, visual aids, songs, games and real-life activities.
- ★ **Encourage discussion** – ask your child to explain how they know the answer.
- ★ **Be patient** – it takes time for number bonds to become automatic.
- ★ **Celebrate progress** – small steps lead to big gains!

Remember...

It's not about being perfect, it's about making progress!

Fluency ★ Confidence ★ Future Success

Thank you for working with us to support your child's learning!