Kildrum Primary School

Parent Guide

Big Maths

Updated September 2018

Big Maths is a teaching programme which we use in Kildrum Primary to help children improve their Numeracy and Maths skills.

This guide will give you some basic information about how the programme is structured and some of the terms which you may hear your children using.

Introduction

Problem solving and word problems cannot be solved until children can manipulate numbers and understand how the number system works.

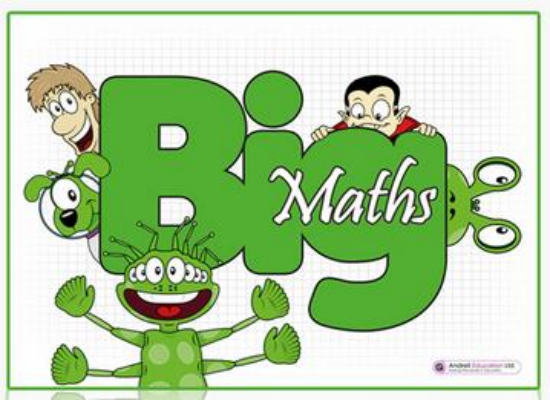
Big Maths lessons are fast-paced and fun. The children are introduced to child-friendly terms such as “Switchers” and “Learn Its”, to help them manipulate numbers and make them more confident and more successful. There is a strong emphasis on developing instant recall of number facts, including number bonds and multiplication tables.

CLIC Sessions

CLIC stands for:

Counting
Learn Its
It’s Nothing New
Calculation

CLIC lessons contain each of these elements.



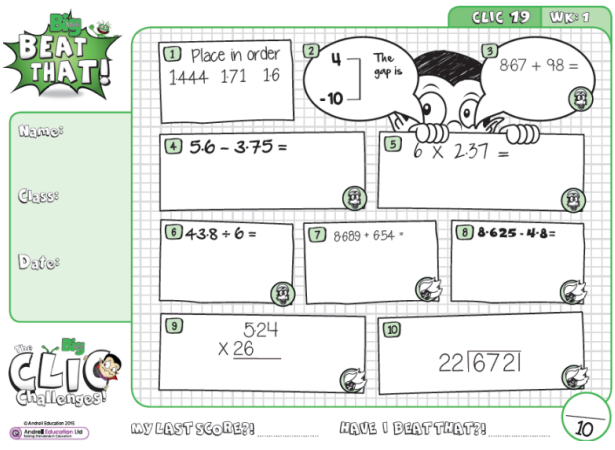
Counting

Children will count forwards and backwards in all kinds of steps depending on their level e.g. in 1s, 2s, 3s, 6s or even 25s! When practising counting at home with your child, make sure you go forwards *and backwards*. Don’t always start at 0 – make sure they can count on from 75 to 106, for example.

Learn Its

Learn Its are addition facts and multiplication tables facts. There are 72 Learn Its in total; 36 addition Learn Its and 36 multiplication Learn Its. **These are facts that children need to learn off by heart**, so when they are asked “What is 6 + 4?” they are able to give the answer as quickly as they would be able to tell you their name. As soon as they know 3 x 5 = 15 they also know 5 x 3 = 15 (this is known as a *Switcher*).

Big Maths Beat That is a weekly timed test of your child’s Learn Its. The aim is to improve their score each time. You can help your child to improve their scores, by asking them to give you instant responses to their Learn Its while at home, on the journey to school and throughout the day at the weekend! Little and very often is the key to success, so the information enters the long term memory.

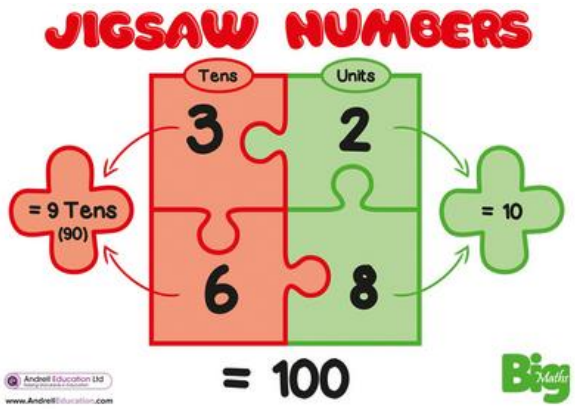


It's Nothing New

This is the most important aspect of CLIC. It is the way children become successful and properly numerate. The idea that 5-things and 3-things are always 8-things is a fundamental concept. Once children understand this concept, we can change the 'thing' to other units, e.g. 'tens', so that 5 tens + 3 tens = 8 tens. Children begin to learn the concept by counting random units e.g. bananas, aliens, cats etc. It then becomes much easier to use standard measures such as ml, m, cm, kg, whilst understanding the underlying number concepts.

The idea is that the learning is *nothing new* and children feel able to answer all sorts of questions with real understanding e.g. If a child knows double 4, they can use that to find double 40 with confidence.
Strange phrases such as "Jigsaw Numbers", "Smile Multiplication" and "Where's Mully?" are all part of this section of Big Maths.

Jigsaw Numbers are a way of adding pairs of numbers to equal 100, or decimals equal to 1.0



Smile Multiplication is used for multiplying multiples of 10 e.g. 30 x 40

Calculation

This aspect of CLIC is when the teacher will focus on developing the children's understanding of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Big Maths maps out which steps children should do in a clear order and helps teachers to identify where to go back to if a child needs extra support.

SAFE Sessions

Along with CLIC sessions, each week the children take place in SAFE sessions. Much of the core maths which is learned in CLIC sessions is then used within SAFE. SAFE stands for:

Shape
Amounts
Fractions
Explaining Data

Shapes
This includes exploring and drawing 2 dimensional (2D) and 3 dimensional (3D) shapes as well as working with position and directions.

Amounts
Here children work with amounts of distance, mass, money, space, temperature, time and amounts of turn (angles).

Fractions
The fractions section also includes percentages and ratio

Explaining Data
Within this section the children work with diagrams and tables, bar charts, averages, line graphs, pie charts and probability.

How can you help?

Help your child practise their Learn Its at home – a few minutes a day is all you need.

- Remind your child how to write numbers the correct way round.
- Congratulate your child if their *Beat That* score goes up.
- Make maths a positive experience (don't tell your child you were rubbish at maths when you were at school – they will think they should be too!).
- Play games such as Snakes and Ladders to reinforce counting skills.
- Give your child experience use using time, money etc. so they can see why Maths is important in their lives right now, not just for when they are adults.
- Find maths in your everyday lives and make it fun!