Maths methods we use in school Key Stage One

It's really important that children at this age enjoy counting! Counting up and counting down from different numbers. This helps them to 'count on' when they are adding later on in Key Stage 1.



It's also important that the children can build up a picture in their mind of numbers 'fitting together' – using their fingers is great! As they move through key stage 1 they start to learn their number bonds (numbers that add together to make 10 e.g. 3 + 7 = 10). That's why at school we use lots of equipment and objects to help the children picture the numbers in their head.

It can be very tempting to show the children the 'quick way' of writing down calculations in the standard column method but this can lead to confusion later on. Using practical resources and objects really helps their understanding of adding, subtracting and later on multiplying and dividing.

Tip for at home learning: Use whatever you have around the house to help the children with their calculations e.g. Lego, toys, sticks, or draw pictures!

Below are some of the methods we use at school, we always start with the 'Concrete' method before moving on to the 'Pictorial' or 'Abstract' methods:

<u>Adding</u>

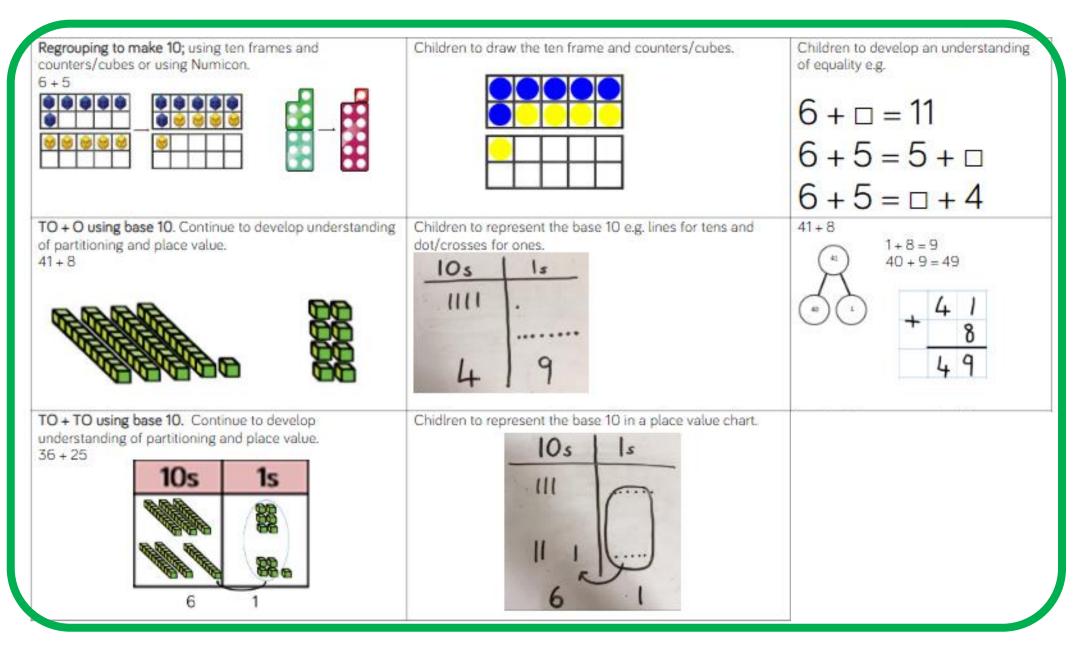
(We also use the words: parts and wholes, plus, add, altogether, more, total, sum, 'is equal to', 'is the same as'.)

Year 1 focus (the bottom row would be supported with an adult in class)

Concrete	Pictorial	Abstract
Combining two parts to make a whole (use other resources too e.g. eggs, shells, teddy bears, cars).	Children to represent the cubes using dots or crosses. They could put each part on a part whole model too.	4+3=7 Four is a part, 3 is a part and the whole is seven.
Counting on using number lines using cubes or Numicon.	A bar model which encourages the children to count on, rather than count all.	The abstract number line: What is 2 more than 4? What is the sum of 2 and 4? What is the total of 4 and 2? 4 + 2

Adding

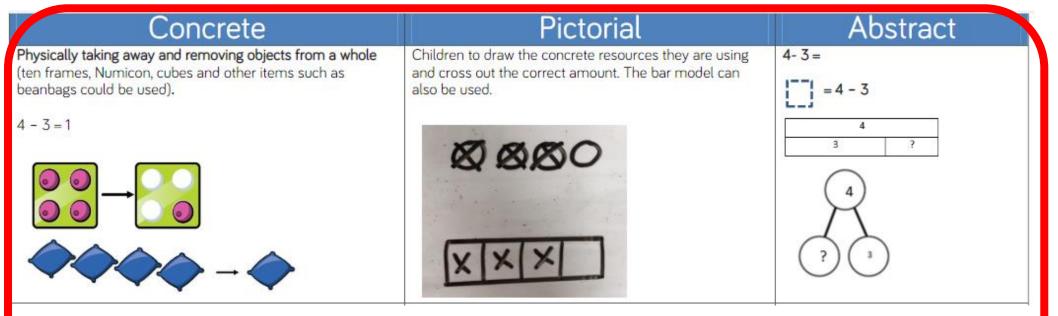
Year 2 focus (the bottom row is a method that some year 2s may move on to in the Summer Term)



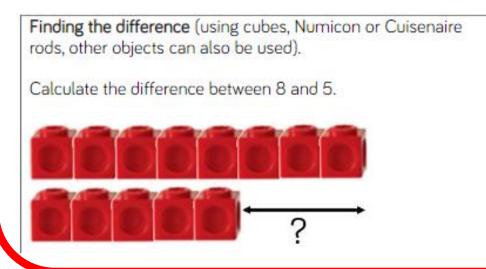
Subtraction

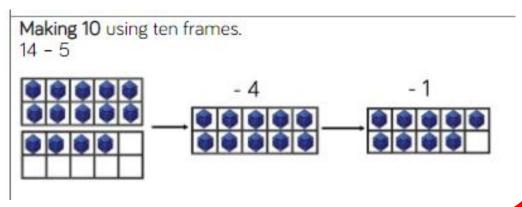
(We also use the words: take away, less than, the difference, subtract, minus, fewer, decrease.)

Year 1 focus



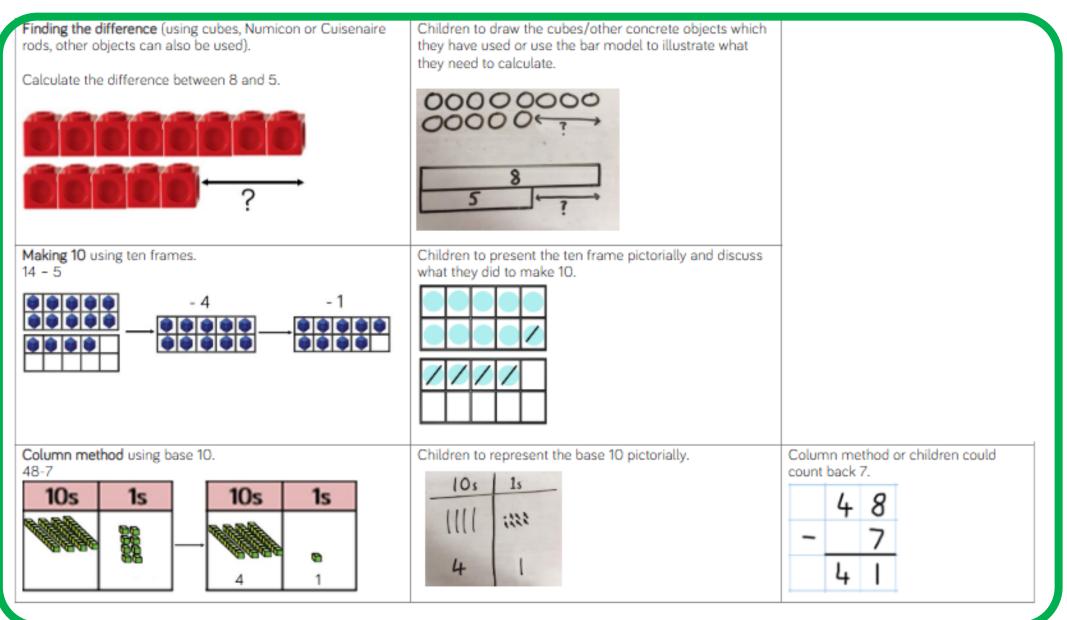
More concrete methods:





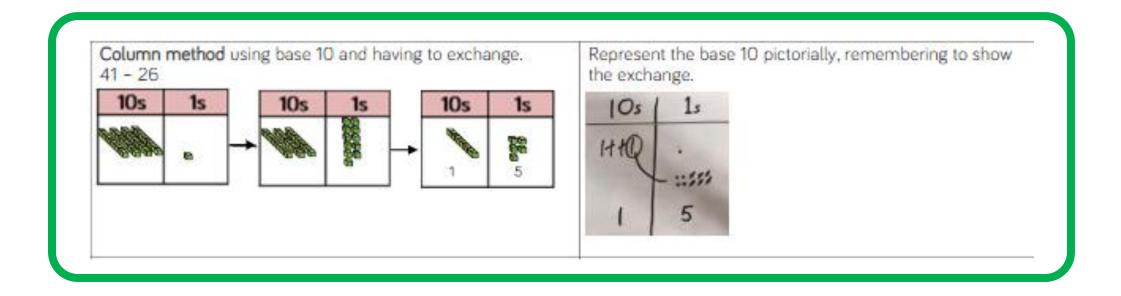
Subtraction

Year 2 focus (the final column written method is taught in the Summer Term)



Subtraction

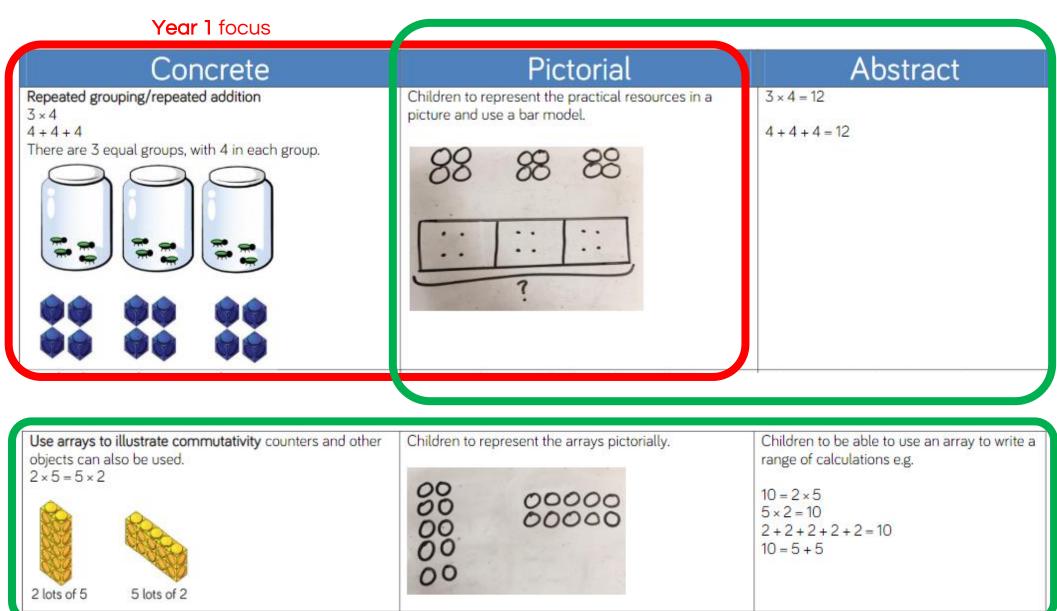
Year 2 focus (these methods would be taught to some year 2 pupils in the Summer Term)



Multiplication

(We also use the words: double, times, multiplied by, groups of, lots of.)

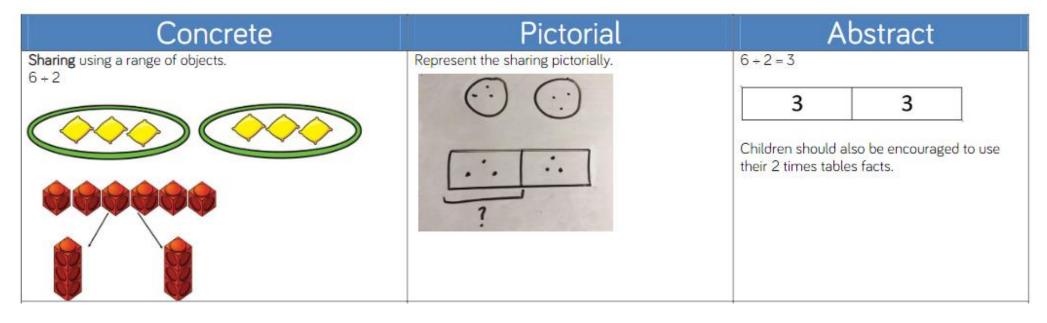
Year 2 focus

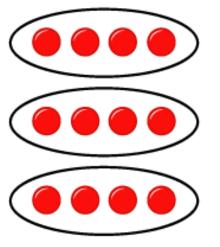


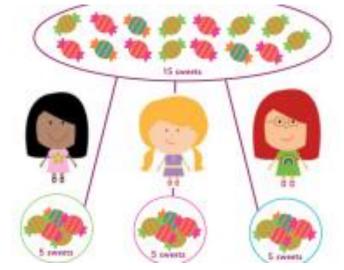
Division

(We also use the words: share, group, divide, divided by, half.)

All used by: Year 1 & Year 2







 $12 \div 4 = 3$