

Dear parents and carers,

This term in maths, your child is learning all about the number 7. They are discovering that numbers can be split into two smaller parts and put back together again, for example that 3 and 4 make 7, or that 5 and 2 make 7.

In class your child will play with ten frames to find how many more are needed to make 7, build and sort small groups to explore the parts that make 5 and 6, hunt for every way to make 7, and practise number bonds to 7, including what happens when there are 0 of something, or when some are taken away.

Your child explores all of this through hands-on, playful activities rather than sitting still: using toys, buttons, fingers and everyday objects to build towers, fill ten frames and sort groups, so the understanding really sticks.

Ideas to try at home

- At snack time, give your child 7 grapes or crackers and ask them to share them across two plates in different ways: 1 and 6, then 2 and 5, then 3 and 4.
- Use an egg box or muffin tray with 7 spaces as a ten frame. Drop in some buttons and ask how many more are needed to fill all 7 spaces.
- Line up 7 toys, cover some with a cloth, and ask your child how many are hiding without peeking.
- On a walk, collect up to 7 leaves or stones, then split them into two little piles and say the two numbers out loud together, for example '4 and 3 make 7'.
- Start with 7 of something (socks, spoons, toy cars) and take some away one at a time, asking how many are left each time, until none are left.

With thanks, The Reception Team