

Dear families,

This half term in Reception your child is exploring how numbers up to 9 can be split into two smaller parts and put back together again. They have been building numbers on ten frames, working out how many more are needed to make 9, and exploring the different ways to break apart 7 and 8.

By the end of the unit, children will know all the ways to make 9 from two parts, such as 4 and 5, or 3 and 6. They are also learning about zero as a part (for example, 9 and 0 still make 9) and starting to connect this to simple take-away, such as knowing that if 9 take away 2 leaves 7, then 2 and 7 must make 9.

Ideas to try at home

- At snack time, put out 9 grapes, raisins or crackers and ask your child to share them between two bowls in a few different ways, saying the numbers each time.
- Use a muffin tin or egg box with two sections and 9 small items (buttons, pasta shapes, pom-poms) to explore how many could go in each part.
- Hide some of a group of 9 toys or coins under a cup and ask your child to work out how many are hidden without lifting it.
- In the bath or garden, line up 9 toys or stones and take some away, asking how many are left and how many were taken.

Thank you for your support at home.