

Dear families,

This term in Reception we are counting beyond 20, right up to 30. We want the children to feel confident saying the number names aloud, in the correct order, without missing any out.

We are helping the children notice the pattern in our counting system. After 20, the 'ones' words repeat: twenty-one, twenty-two, twenty-three, and so on, all the way to twenty-nine. Then a new tens word begins: thirty. Lots of children say 'twenty-ten' or 'twenty-eleven' at first, which is a completely normal stage, not a mistake to worry about. Hearing the pattern often, in play, is what helps it click.

We count during carpet time, while lining up, and all through continuous provision, such as counting how many conkers are in the tray or how many steps to the door. The children also use a number square showing 0 to 30 to spot the pattern and find missing numbers.

Ideas to try at home

- Count together on the stairs, in the park or on a walk, and see how high you can count past 20.
- Count everyday things in groups, such as 'how many shoes are by the door' or 'how many grapes are on the plate', especially useful for amounts between 20 and 30.
- Play 'what comes next': say a number between 0 and 29 and ask your child what comes after it.
- Try counting backwards together from 10, then from 20, then from 30, as a fun challenge before bedtime.
- Spot numbers out and about, on front doors, buses or car number plates, and read them together.

With thanks for your support at home, The Reception Team