**Mental Maths - Calculation Strategies**

When approaching a maths question we encourage the children to ask themselves:

* Should I do this problem in my head or should I use a written method?
* Which strategy should I use?

Here are some of the methods we use for mental maths:

1. **Adjusting**

Thinking if a number is close to a 10 or 100

For example

* To add 24 + 31, think that 31 is 30+1, add 30 to 24 easily, then add the one afterwards
* To add 436 + 199, think that 199 is 200-1, add 200 to 436 easily, then subtract the one afterwards.

1. **Re-ordering**

Looking for number bonds and adding those numbers first

For example

* To add 12+34+48, think that 8 + 2 is 10, so add 12+48=60 then add 34

1. **Bridging**

Using number facts to cross a multiple of 10, by splitting before and after the 10

For example

* To add 166+6, think 166+4=170, then add the extra 2 to make 172

1. **Counting On or Back**

When numbers are large but close to each other

For example

* 3003-2997, start with the smallest number and count up to the largest number=6
* 2007-1998, same strategy (much quickly than column subtraction!)

1. **Near Doubles**

Where the numbers are almost doubles

For example

* 8+7, think that this is double 8, minus 1, ie 16-1=15
* 24+25, think 25+25=50-1=49
* 9+7, think add one take away one so this is double 8=16

1. **Partitioning**

Split into 1, 10s and 100s to make adding easier

For example

* 234+23=200+30+20+4+3=267