Oral and mental starters

Number and place value

1 Place value

Revise place value involving six-digit numbers (hundreds of thousands). Ask the children to write the numbers you say on their whiteboards. For example: *fifty-seven thousand two hundred and seventeen* (57,217), *four hundred and thirty thousand nine hundred and forty-six* (430,946). Include some examples where zero is used as a place-holder, such as: *seventy-six thousand and five* (76,005) and *one hundred and two thousand and fifty-eight* (102,058).

2 Digit spotting

Write a selection of five- and six-digit numbers on the board. Circle one digit in each number and invite children to identify the value of the marked digit. For example: 65,**2**13, **4**9,704, 36,97**8,** 1**2**4,563, 448,**4**29.

Extension

Circle two or three digits in the same number. Over time, include seven-digit numbers, such as: **1**,752,**3**45, 4,**3**41,2**6**9.

3 Roundup

Revise rounding numbers to the nearest 10. Include three-, four- and five-digit numbers. Remind the children to focus on the final digit. For example: 117 (120), 423 (420), 1237 (1240), 41,306 (41,310) and 58,454 (58,450). Then round to the nearest 100, 1000 and 10,000.

Addition, subtraction, multiplication and division

4 Add and subtract

Consolidate mental addition and subtraction of any two numbers less than 100. Discuss the strategies to use, such as near doubles, near multiples of 10, partitioning, complementary addition. Try: 24 + 23, 63 + 21, 36 − 18, 60 − 29, 61 − 53.

Extension

Increase the size of the numbers to over 100: 109 + 191, 251 + 148, 207 − 94, 351 − 147.

5 Five seconds

Set some word problems. Tell the children that you will say each question twice and they will have five seconds to find the answer. Try: *Find the difference between 150 and 80. How much change do I have from £5 if I spend £3.75? Multiply 26 by 3 and add 12. What is the remainder when 127 is divided by 5?*

6 Tell me about it

Write up some two-digit (and then three-digit) numbers and invite children to say as much as they can about each number, using key words. For example: *34 is an even number. Doubling it equals 68. 17 and 2 are factors of it. It is the total of 18 and 16. 25 is an odd number. It is 5 squared. It is 33 subtract 8. It is half of 50.*

Extension

Add variety by including metric measures and time problems: *How many minutes is it from 19 minutes past 9 to 11 o'clock?*