

Dear Parents

One of our school priorities has been to develop children's skills in the four areas of calculation. A great deal of work has been undertaken in the Dawlish Learning Partnership, in developing the way we approach the teaching of calculation strategies and the images we want the children to have. The Dawlish Learning Partnership consists of Exminster, Kenton, Kenn, Starcross, Cockwood, Gatehouse and Wescliffe primary schools; Dawlish community college and Oaklands and Ratcliffe special schools. The intended outcome of this work is:

- to see children with a wider range of strategies to aid their calculation skills
- for children to have concrete understanding of concepts and what number means before being rushed onto more formal methodology before they are ready
- for children to have strong models and images and rely less upon abstract concepts
- for all sectors of the school community to have the same appreciation of this approach.

For adults this can be tricky as often we only really know what we were taught at school and therefore there can be a conflict of opinion when supporting our children and they are insistent that *your way* is not *their way*. With that in mind we have produced a very brief summary of the route through each of the four operations which we hope will go some way to addressing this issue.

It is not an exhaustive list by any means. There is plenty more that we could include but for a brief overview we hope they will suffice.

If you have any queries with these please feel free to come in and talk to us.

Yours sincerely

Mr Moore