

Progression in Counting

Counting is a fundamental part of maths and should be included in every lesson. Counting should always be modelled both forwards and backwards, and be supported by suitable models & images. The expected counting in each year group is set out below, but this should be followed flexibly. All year groups may need to revisit prior counting skills and children should be extended when appropriate.

Reception

- Count forwards to 10 and back again.
- Count on from any 1 digit number.
- Count up to 20 and back again, being very clear with the 'teen' pronunciation.
- Count along with the numbers displayed.

Year 1

- Count up to 50 and back again.
- Count up to 100 and back again.
- Count along with the numbers displayed and beginning to count along a scale without the numbers marked.

Year 2

- Count up in steps of 10 forwards and backwards.
- Count in steps of 2 forwards and backwards.
- Count in steps of 5 forwards and backwards.
- Count forwards and backwards beyond 100.
- Count in halves & wholes.

Year 3

- Continue counting in steps of 2, 5 and 10 and related multiples of 10 & 100.
- Count in steps of 25 forwards and backwards.
- Count in multiples of any single digit forwards and backwards.
- Count in multiples of 10 forwards & backwards.
- Count forwards and backwards beyond 1000.
- Count in halves, quarters and wholes.

Year 4

- Count in multiples of any single digit & related multiples of 10 (link to multiplication)
- Continue counting in steps of 10, 20, 25 and 50; 100, 200, 250 & 500.
- Count forwards and backwards into negative numbers.
- Count in halves and steps of 0.5 (link to counting in 5s/50s).
- Count in quarters and steps of 0.25 (link to counting in 25s).
- Count in tenths and steps of 0.1.

Year 5

- Continue counting in multiples of any single digit and related tenth (e.g. 3 & 0.3).
- Count in different steps into negative numbers.
- Count in tenths and hundredths, using fractions, decimal and percentages.
- Count in halves & quarters, using fractions, decimals & percentages.
- Count in fraction steps, using mixed numbers & improper fractions.

Year 6

- Continue counting in fraction steps, including improper fractions, mixed numbers and equivalent fractions, decimals & percentages.
- Count in fifths, and equivalent decimals & percentages (relate to counting in 2/20s).
- Count in decimal steps with up to three decimal places.

Models & images to support counting

- Number lines, tracks, washing lines etc (blank and numbered)
- Number squares (blank and numbered)
- Real objects, money, numicon
- Rulers, metre sticks, scales etc.
- Counting stick
- Bead string
- Fraction plates, fraction Smartboard images