

## The Knowledge and Power of 10!

The knowledge and power of 10 is fundamental in Year 2 maths because our number system is based around groups of 10. When children understand how numbers relate to 10, it helps them solve many calculations more quickly and confidently.

### 1. It builds strong number sense

Knowing pairs that make 10 (e.g.,  $7 + 3$ ,  $6 + 4$ ) helps children understand how numbers fit together. This makes mental maths much easier.

### 2. It helps with faster mental calculation

Children can use 10 as a "friendly number" to solve harder sums.

Example:

$$8 + 7$$

→ Make 10 first:  $8 + 2 = 10$

→ Then add the rest:  $10 + 5 = 15$

This strategy is quicker than counting on each number.

### 3. It supports addition and subtraction

Understanding 10 helps children with calculations such as:

- $14 - 6$  (thinking about what makes 10 first)
- $9 + 6$  (making 10 and adding the rest)

### 4. It prepares children for place value

Year 2 children start working with tens and ones (e.g.,  $23 = 2$  tens and 3 ones). Knowing how numbers relate to 10 helps them understand:

- 10 ones = 1 ten
- regrouping in addition and subtraction.

## 5. It supports future maths learning

Strategies based on 10 are used later for:

- column addition and subtraction
- multiplication and division
- working with larger numbers.