

Lister Infant School

Maths

Key Instant Recall Facts

(KIRFs)

Key Instant Recall Facts or KIRFs are those “pieces” of mathematical knowledge that we expect children to know off-by-heart.

They need to be constantly practised and rehearsed at home as well as school - in order for children to be able to recall them quickly, confidently and accurately. The demands of the New Primary National Curriculum ensures that we now place greater emphasis on improving the fluency of children’s mathematical understanding.

Research shows that :-

- Learning key facts ‘by heart’ enables children to concentrate on the calculation which helps them to develop calculation strategies.
- Using and applying strategies to work out answers helps children to acquire and so remember more facts.
- Many children who are not able to recall key facts often treat each calculation as a new one and have to return to first principles to work out the answer again.
- Once they have a secure knowledge of some key facts, and by selecting problems carefully, you can help children to appreciate that from the answer to one problem, other answers can be generated.