Autumn Block 2 Addition and subtraction



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Small steps

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Mental strategies



Notes and guidance

In this small step, children recap and build on their learning from previous years to mentally calculate sums and differences using partitioning. They use their knowledge of number bonds and place value to add and subtract multiples of powers of 10. Children unitise to help them complete a calculation. For example, if they know that 3 + 5 = 8, then 3 thousand + 5 thousand = 8 thousand and 3,000 + 5,000 = 8,000

Children also count forwards and backwards in multiples of powers of 10 to answer questions such as 1,050 – 100 without the need for a formal written method.

Children explore strategies such as compensation and adjustment to mentally calculate the answer to questions such as 14,352 + 999 or 14,352 – 999. This helps them to make connections between calculations and will be developed further in Year 6

Things to look out for

- Children need to be fluent in their knowledge of number bonds to support the mental strategies.
- Children may opt to use a formal method even when this is time-consuming and/or inappropriate.

Key questions

- How does knowing that 2 + 5 = 7 help you to work out 20,000 + 50,000?
- How can the numbers be partitioned to help add/subtract them?
- Are any of the numbers multiples of powers of 10? How does this help you to add/subtract them?
- What number is 999 close to? How does that help you to add/subtract 999 from another number?

Possible sentence stems

- The sum of _____ ones and _____ ones is _____ ones, so the sum of _____ thousands and _____ thousands is _____ thousands.
- I can partition the number into _____, ____ and _____ and add the parts separately.

National Curriculum links

• Add and subtract numbers mentally with increasingly large numbers

Mental strategies



Key learning

- Use the fact that 8 + 4 = 12 to work out the additions.
 - ▶ 8,000 + 4,000 ▶ 800 + 400 ▶ 80,000 + 40,000
- Find the sum of each pair of numbers.
 - ▶ 300,000 and 400,000
- 62,000 and 6,000
- ▶ 110,000 and 230,000
- 5,020 and 9,060
- Use the place value chart to help you work out the subtractions.



• The number line shows a method for adding 99 mentally.



Use the number line to help you add 99 to 687 Use a similar number line to help you subtract 99 from 687

• Work out the calculations.



• Work out the calculations.



What mental strategies did you use?

Mental strategies



Reasoning and problem solving



Add whole numbers with more than four digits

Notes and guidance

In this small step, children revisit the use of the column method for addition and learn to apply this method to numbers with more than four digits.

A range of representations can be used for support in this step, including place value counters and place value charts. These representations are particularly useful when performing calculations that require an exchange. Children may find it easier to work with squared paper and labelled columns as this will support them in placing the digits in the correct columns, especially with figures containing different numbers of digits.

If appropriate, children could practise their rounding skills to estimate the answer before working out the calculation, and then use it as a sense-check for their solution. This skill is covered in detail later in this block.

Things to look out for

- Children may not line up the numbers in the columns correctly.
- Children may write the exchanged digits in the wrong column(s).
- Children who are not secure in their number bonds may make numerical errors within columns.

Key questions

- Does it matter which number goes at the top when using the column method?
- Will you need to make an exchange? Which columns will be affected if you do? How do you know?
- Does it matter if the numbers have different numbers of digits?
- How do you know which digits to "line up" in the calculation?
- How do you know if the calculation is an addition?

Possible sentence stems

- In column addition, we start from the place value column that has the _____ value.
- The _____ is in the _____ column. It represents _____

National Curriculum links

- Add and subtract whole numbers with more than four digits, including using formal written methods (columnar addition and subtraction)
- Solve addition and subtraction multi-step problems in contexts, deciding which operations and methods to use and why

Add whole numbers with more than four digits



Key learning

• Use the column method to work out the additions.



• Ron uses place value counters to calculate 4,356 + 435



Use Ron's method to work out the additions.





48,276 + 5,613

3 5

7 9 1

6

5

4 3

4

4

- Jack, Kim and Eva are playing a computer game.
 - Jack has 3,452 points.
 - Rosie has 4,039 points.
 - Eva has 10,989 points.

How many points do Jack and Rosie have altogether? How many points do Rosie and Eva have altogether? How many points do Jack and Eva have altogether? How many points do Jack, Rosie and Eva have altogether?

- Find the sum of seventy-three thousand, five hundred and eighty-four and twenty-eight thousand, nine hundred and nine.
- Find the answers to the calculations.

In each case decide whether a mental method or written method is more appropriate.



Add whole numbers with more than four digits

Reasoning and problem solving



Subtract whole numbers with more than four digits

Notes and guidance

In this small step, children revisit the use of the column method for subtraction and learn to apply this method to numbers with more than four digits.

A range of representations can be used for support in this step, including place value counters and place value charts. These representations are particularly useful when performing calculations that require an exchange. Children may find it easier to work with squared paper and labelled columns as this will support them in placing the digits in the correct columns, especially with figures containing different numbers of digits.

Children should experience both questions and answers where zero appears in columns as a placeholder.

Things to look out for

- Children may always subtract the smaller digit from the larger digit instead of making an exchange when needed.
- The need for repeated exchanges may cause difficulty.
- When using the column method, children may arrange the numbers incorrectly.

Key questions

- Which number goes at the top when using the column method? Does this affect the final answer?
- Will you need to make an exchange? Which columns will be affected if you do? How do you know?
- Does it matter if the numbers have different numbers of digits?
- How do you know which digits to "line up" in the calculation?
- How do you know if the calculation is a subtraction?

Possible sentence stems

- In column subtraction, we start from the place value column that has the _____ value.
- There are not enough _____, so I need to exchange 1 _____ for 10 _____

National Curriculum links

- Add and subtract whole numbers with more than four digits, including using formal written methods (columnar addition and subtraction)
- Solve addition and subtraction multi-step problems in contexts, deciding which operations and methods to use and why

Subtract whole numbers with more than four digits

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Key learning

• Use the column method to work out the subtractions.







- Image: Image:
- Work out the subtraction.

Use the place value chart and the column method to help you.



	4	5	5	3	6	
-		8	4	2	6	

- There are 43,662 fans at a football match.
 31,547 of the fans are adults.
 How many of the fans are not adults?
- The population of Hereford is 63,689
 The population of Chester is 87,593
 Find the difference between the population of Hereford and the population of Chester.
- Subtract twelve thousand, three hundred and seventy from eighteen thousand, one hundred and twenty-four.
- Find the answers to the calculations.

In each case, decide whether a mental method or written method is more appropriate.



Subtract whole numbers with more than four digits

Reasoning and problem solving



Round to check answers



Notes and guidance

In this small step, children practise rounding in order to estimate the answers to both additions and subtractions. They also review mental strategies for estimating answers.

Children should be familiar with the word "approximate", and the degree of accuracy to which to round is a useful point for discussion. Generally, rounding to the nearest 100 for 3-digit numbers, the nearest 1,000 for 4-digit numbers and so on is appropriate, but there is no need to formally introduce the language and idea of "rounding to one significant figure" at this stage.

Children may need reminding that the reason we round in this context is to produce a calculation that can easily be completed mentally.

Things to look out for

- Children may need support in deciding to what degree of accuracy they should round given numbers.
- If children have any difficulties or misconceptions with rounding this will hold them back when estimating.
- Children may forget to compare their answers with their estimates.

Key questions

- Which multiples of _____ does the number lie between?
- Which division on the number line is the number closer to?
- What is the number rounded to the nearest _____?
- What place value column should we look at to round the number to the nearest 10/100/1,000/10,000/100,000?
- How could you use your estimates to check your answers?
- Is the actual answer going to be greater or less than your estimate? Why?

Possible sentence stems

- The previous multiple of _____ is _____
- The next multiple of _____ is _____
- _____ rounded to the nearest _____ is _____
- The approximate answer is _____

National Curriculum links

- Round any number up to 1,000,000 to the nearest 10, 100, 1,000, 10,000 and 100,000
- Add and subtract numbers mentally with increasingly large numbers
- Use rounding to check answers to calculations and determine, in the context of a problem, levels of accuracy

Round to check answers



Key learning

• Round the numbers to find an estimate of the answer to 6,789 + 2,870

6,789 rounded to the nearest 1,000 is _____

2,870 rounded to the nearest 1,000 is _____

The estimated total is _____ + ____ = ____

Compare the estimate with the actual answer.

• Round each number to the nearest 100,000 to estimate the answers to the calculations.



• Annie estimates the answer to 22,223 + 5,867 by rounding both numbers to the nearest 1,000

Jack estimates the answer to 22,223 + 5,867 by rounding both numbers to the nearest 10,000

Compare Annie's method with Jack's method.

Work out the actual answer. Which estimate was closer?

• The table shows the number of tickets sold by an airline during a three-month period.

Month	Tickets sold
February	18,655
March	31,402
April	27,092

Work out the total number of tickets sold in February and March.

Use an estimate to check your answer.

The approximate total number of tickets sold in April and May was 50,000

Estimate the number of tickets sold in May.

• Mrs Khan wants to buy a laptop, a monitor and a keyboard.



Mrs Khan has £1,700

Estimate whether she can afford all three items.

Round to check answers

Reasoning and problem solving



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MATHS

Inverse operations (addition and subtraction)

Notes and guidance

Children should know that addition and subtraction are inverse operations from learning in earlier years, and should already be aware that addition is commutative and subtraction is not.

Children can use bar models or part-whole models to establish families of facts that can be found from one calculation and then use inverse operations to check the accuracy of their calculations.

Children also use inverse operations to find unknown numbers, solving problems such as "I think of a number and add/subtract _____". This lays the groundwork for solving equations in Year 6 and beyond.

Things to look out for

- Children may see addition and subtraction as separate operations and not appreciate the connection between them.
- Children may think that subtraction is commutative.
- Children may need support to see the correct order in which to perform a subtraction to check a given addition.
- When solving "I think of a number" problems, children may use the given operation instead of the inverse operation.

Key questions

- If I add a number to another to get a total, what do you need to do to the total to find my original number?
- If I subtract a number from another to find the difference, what do you need to do to the difference to find my original number?
- What does an inverse operation do?
- What operation is the inverse of addition?
- What operation is the inverse of subtraction?

Possible sentence stems

- The inverse of _____ is _____
- To check that I have added/subtracted _____ correctly, I need to _____

National Curriculum links

- Add and subtract whole numbers with more than four digits, including using formal written methods (columnar addition and subtraction)
- Solve addition and subtraction multi-step problems in contexts, deciding which operations and methods to use and why

Inverse operations (addition and subtraction)

Key learning

• Write two additions and two subtractions shown by the bar model.

647					
289	358				

• Aisha works out an addition.

65 + 78 = 143

Which subtractions can be used to check Aisha's addition?



• Complete the bar model.



Check your answer using a subtraction.

• Huan thinks of a number.

He adds 17 to his number and gets the answer 40 Which calculation can be used to find Huan's number?



- Esther and Brett are playing a computer game.
 Esther scores 8,524 points.
 The total of both their scores is 19,384
 How many points did Brett score?
- Dani thinks of a number.
 After she adds 5,241 and subtracts 352, her new number is 9,485
 What was Dani's original number?
- Find the missing numbers.
 - ▶ 654 + ____ = 837 ▶ ____ - 719 = 424
 - ▶ 3,820 = 5,260 ____
 ▶ 19,456 = 2,345 + ____

Use inverse operations to check your answers.

Inverse operations (addition and subtraction)

Reasoning and problem solving







Multi-step addition and subtraction problems

Notes and guidance

In this small step, children apply the strategies they have learned so far in this block to solve addition and subtraction problems with more than one step.

Children choose the operations needed at each step and then perform the calculations using an appropriate mental or written method. Problems are presented in both word form and with models. The use of bar models can help children to illustrate problems of this kind. While the models will not perform the calculation, they will help children to decide what operations are needed and why.

Although the focus is on addition and subtraction, sometimes division will be needed to find some of the numbers. The previous small step can also be reinforced by using inverse operations or approximations to check if answers are correct.

Things to look out for

- Children may find it difficult to interpret word problems, particularly if the context is unfamiliar.
- Children may choose the wrong operation.
- Commonly used words such as "more" can cause confusion as children assume this always means an addition is necessary.

Key questions

- What is the key information in the question?
- What can you work out straight away? How does this help you to answer the question?
- How can you represent this problem using a bar model? Which bar will be longer? Why?
- Do you need to add or subtract the numbers at this stage? How do you know?
- How can you check your answer?

Possible sentence stems

- The first step in solving the problem is ...
- When I know _____, I can then _____
- To check my answer, I can ...

National Curriculum links

- Add and subtract whole numbers with more than four digits, including using formal written methods (columnar addition and subtraction)
- Solve addition and subtraction multi-step problems in contexts, deciding which operations and methods to use and why

Multi-step addition and subtraction problems

Key learning

• Filip is writing a report.

He writes the first 460 words on Monday and another 735 words on Tuesday.

The report must be at least 2,500 words long.

How many more words does Filip need to write?

• Year 5 and Year 6 are going on a school trip.

The school has a bus with 56 seats and a minibus with 17 seats.

There are 44 people in the Year 5 group and 38 people in the Year 6 group.

How many more seats are needed for both groups to go on the trip?

• The sum of two numbers is 11,339

The difference between the numbers is 1,209

Use the bar model to help you find the two numbers.



• Mr Rose is buying items for his home.

He has a budget of £1,500

washing machine

tumble dryer dishwasher







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He buys a washing machine and a tumble dryer.

Does he have enough money left to buy the dishwasher?

• A pole is used to measure the depth of water in a river.

The part of the pole above the water is 95 cm.

The part of the pole in the water is 35 cm greater than the part of the pole above the water.

How long is the pole?

Annie opens a book and sees two numbered pages.
 The sum of the page numbers is 317
 What is the number of the next page in the book?

Multi-step addition and subtraction problems

Reasoning and problem solving



Compare calculations



Notes and guidance

In this small step, children are required to compare calculations. The focus is not on completing calculations, but instead exploring their structure in order to make a comparison. Children should understand the effect that adding to or subtracting from numbers in a calculation has on the answer to that calculation.

Bar models are a useful way of illustrating the relationships between calculations. It may be appropriate to concentrate on comparisons with 2-digit and 3-digit numbers before moving on to larger numbers.

The understanding children develop in this step will support them in the next step where they use a given fact to derive other answers. They also look at similar strategies for multiplication and division in future blocks.

Things to look out for

- When given calculations, children may automatically start to work out the answers rather than use strategies to make comparisons.
- When comparing calculations, children may not recognise two identical numbers if presented in a different order either side of the inequality symbol, for example 423 + 650 < 729 + 423

Key questions

- What is the same and what is different about the numbers in the two calculations?
- Which digits have changed and which have stayed the same?
- How will the answer change if you increase one of the numbers by _____?
- How will the answer change if you decrease one of the numbers by _____?
- How will the answer change if you increase/decrease both of the numbers by _____?

Possible sentence stems

- If I add/subtract _____ to/from one of the numbers in the calculation, the answer will change by _____
- If I add/subtract _____ to/from both of the numbers in the calculation, the answer will change by _____

National Curriculum links

- Add and subtract numbers mentally with increasingly large numbers
- Solve addition and subtraction multi-step problems in contexts, deciding which operations and methods to use and why

Compare calculations



Key learning

• Which calculation has the greater answer, 983 + 410 or 983 + 510?



Use the bar model to explain your answer.

• Which calculation has the greater answer?



How do you know?

• Write >, < or = to complete the calculations.



• Which calculation has the greatest answer?



• Which calculations have an answer greater than the answer to 478 + 217?

Explain your answers.

• Which calculations have an answer greater than the answer to 5,618 – 3,257?



Explain your answers.

• Put the addition cards in order of size, starting with the one with the greatest answer.



Compare calculations

Reasoning and problem solving



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MATHS

Find missing numbers



Notes and guidance

This small step begins with revision of the use of inverse operations to find a missing number in a calculation. Children then build on the previous small step to solve missing number problems by comparing calculations.

Children need to understand that when two numbers are increased by the same amount the difference remains the same, and that the total of two numbers remains the same if one number has been increased by an amount and the other decreased by the same amount. Bar models and/or number lines can be used to illustrate these and other related concepts.

Children could be encouraged to revisit rounding to estimate and approximate as a way of sense-checking their answers.

Things to look out for

- Children may mix up the different effects on additions and subtractions if one or more of the numbers is adjusted.
- Children may try to find the missing number by performing a long series of calculations instead of looking at the relationships between the numbers in the given calculations.

Key questions

- What is the same and what is different about the numbers in the two calculations?
- If the two additions/subtractions have the same result, what does that tell you about the numbers in the additions/subtractions?
- If you increase/decrease the first number by _____, what do you need to do to the second number for the total/difference to stay the same?

Possible sentence stems

- _____ has been added/subtracted to/from the first number, so _____ must be _____ to/from the second number to keep the total the same.
- _____ has been added/subtracted to/from the first number, so _____ must be _____ to/from the second number to keep difference the same.

National Curriculum links

- Add and subtract numbers mentally with increasingly large numbers
- Solve addition and subtraction multi-step problems in contexts, deciding which operations and methods to use and why

Find missing numbers



Key learning

- Complete the calculations.
 - ▶ _____ 100 = 5,823 ▶ _____ - 1,000 = 5,823
 - ▶ 5,423 + ____ = 5,823
 ▶ 3,623 + ____ = 5,823
- Complete the calculations.

Use the bar models to help you.

97	+	54	=	100	+	
-		-				

56 + 229 = _____ + 100

97	54
100	



• Complete the calculations.

Use the number lines to help you.



• Use the first bar model to work out the missing number in the second bar model.

563		570	
372	191	372	

- Complete the calculations.
 - ▶ 536 + 275 = 540 + ____ ▶ 536 275 = 540 ____
 - ▶ 3,000 513 = 2,999 ____ ▶ 2,685 + ____ = 2,695 + 3,541
- Match the calculations that have the same results.



Find missing numbers



Reasoning and problem solving

