

## **Mathematics in Early Years**

At Farnham Common Village Schools, we teach for mastery in mathematics. In the Early Years this means that we begin by spending time learning in depth about each number up to 10. We explore a variety of representations of each number including money and shape. For example, when we learn about the number 5 we introduce 5p, shapes with 5 sides, different ways of making 5 ( $5+0$ ,  $4+1$ ,  $3+2$ ) using numicon, 5 fingers, 5 toes, the 5 pattern on dice, accurately counting out 5 objects etc. Through repetition and practise children develop fluency with their number facts and confidence in recognising the numbers in different contexts.

Once we have established an in-depth understanding of the numbers up to 10 we then move onto numbers beyond 10 including the 'teen' numbers. At this point it is important to focus on the place value of each digit in the 2-digit numbers. We use concrete resources including numicon to build the numbers as this enables the children to understand the value of each part of the number.

We count forwards and backwards by rote to develop fluency with the number system but we also work on counting out objects and using counting in everyday contexts to ensure that children understand the cardinal meaning of counting.

We work on writing the numerals 0 – 9 making sure that they are not reversed and that they are formed correctly.