



## Schofield and Sims Mental Arithmetic

We introduced Schofield and Sims across the school in 2021. The key aims of the initiative were to build confidence and improve accuracy and speed in mental maths, and to encourage pupils to settle down daily and focus on the task in hand. We also aim to develop pupils' understanding and use of mathematical vocabulary and improve their ability to work independently. The **ultimate goal** was to prepare pupils for the demands of the Key Stage 2 SATs and to raise levels of attainment.

The format of the Schofield & Sims Mental Arithmetic books ensures that pupils are continuously reviewing prior learning of concepts covered. This embeds their understanding and enables them to make accelerated progress. Teachers support the pupils by working through sections of the workbooks with them as necessary and pre-teaching some of the more difficult concepts. Pupils are encouraged to use jottings and to underline key vocabulary to solve the written problems.

We aim to make marking interactive, emphasising the use of mathematical vocabulary and encouraging pupils to 'talk maths' and explain their methods. Visual modelling is essential, and teachers guide pupils in making links to previous questions, inverse operations and calculating methods. The books also help to identify areas of weakness, both individually and at a whole-class or set level.

