Hallsville: Progression in Number Fluency

To maximise impact on number fluency across the school, practise needs to be daily and expectations high. Children need to be able to use their year group strategies by the end of the year and interventions should be used to fill any gaps. Teaching staff may need to look back at previous years to begin with until the strategies are embedded.

Every week should have a different fluency strategy focus. There are roughly 10 and they should be revisited once you have completed them to embed firmly. Children only need a couple of questions of this type a day and it should be extremely quick and mental by definition. Each class should have a fluency grid and a times tables grid and should keep a note of children that have mastered that strategy/table and those who have not.

Key Questions for teachers to ask:

Which is the most efficient method?
Which method will get you the correct answer quickest?
How did you work that out?
Who did it another way?
Which is easier and why?
How is this similar/different?
Would this method always work?
How could you show this using resources?
Could you explain this in a different way?
How could you check?

Opportunities to practise fluency:

Mental maths at the start of the lesson
Mental maths after lunch
During register
As children line up to run
Chant as they run
As children line up for lunch
Alternative/efficient methods in In Focus

https://nrich.maths.org/10624   What is fluency? Useful N-rich links

http://www.sharingbestpractice.camden.gov.uk/case-study/number-fluency/   Number fluency case study

https://www.kenkenpuzzle.com/?redirected=1#   4 operations and times table activity

https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resources/ks1-maths-resources-year-1 NC fluency links and activities KS1
https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resources/ks2-maths-2014-year-3 NC fluency links and activities KS2
https://www.theschoolrun.com/what-are-number-facts Teaching number facts ideas

What is fluency?

The first thing to say is that fluency is not only about number – there are other areas of the curriculum where fluency is important. However it's probably sensible to acknowledge that number is by far the largest part of the primary curriculum, so in this article we'll concentrate on that. We're not the only nation to take a recent interest in this – in the US the new standards have quite a lot to say about being fluent:
Students exhibit computational fluency when they demonstrate flexibility in the computational methods they choose, understand and can explain these methods, and produce accurate answers efficiently.

Russell (2000) spells this out in more detail and suggests that fluency consists of three elements:

Efficiency - this implies that children do not get bogged down in too many steps or lose track of the logic of the strategy. An efficient strategy is one that the student can carry out easily, keeping track of sub-problems and making use of intermediate results to solve the problem.

Accuracy depends on several aspects of the problem-solving process, among them careful recording, knowledge of number facts and other important number relationships, and double-checking results.

Flexibility requires the knowledge of more than one approach to solving a particular kind of problem, such as two-digit multiplication. Students need to be flexible in order to choose an appropriate strategy for the numbers involved, and also be able to use one method to solve

a problem and another method to check the results.

Rather than mechanical repetition, fluency promotes mental agility and intelligent practice: this can be achieved through varying activities and utilising questioning that requires children to think more deeply and so develop their understanding.

This builds children's confidence and equips them with the tools necessary to access more challenging maths problems. Rather than relying heavily on remembering a specific procedure, children are able to draw on a wider set of tools to solve a problem. This creates a web of connected mathematical relationships which are more likely to remain in a child's long-term memory than procedural processes.

EYFS
Pupils should be taught to: ● Count objects, actions and sounds. ● Subitise ● Link the number symbol (numeral) with its cardinal number value. ● Count beyond ten. ● Compare numbers. ● Understand the 'one more than/one less than' relationship between consecutive numbers. ● Explore the composition of numbers to 10. ● Automatically recall number bonds for numbers 0–5 and some to 10. ● Select, rotate and manipulate shapes to develop spatial reasoning skills. ● Compose and decompose shapes so that children recognise a shape can have other shapes within it, just as numbers can. ● Continue, copy and create repeating patterns. ● Compare length, weight and capacity.

Year 1 Number Fluency Expectations

National Curriculum Expectations	Mental Calculation Strategies
	a) Counting forwards and backwards in ones or twos
Pupils should be taught to:	4 + 8 count on in ones from 4 or count on in ones from 8
-count to and across 100, forwards and backwards, beginning with 0 or 1, or from any given number	7 – 3 count back in ones from 7
	13 + 4 count on from 13
-count, read and write numbers to 100 in numerals; count in multiples of twos, fives and tens	15 – 3 count back in ones from 15
	18 – 6 count back in twos
-given a number, identify one more and one less	b) Reordering by putting the larger number first
-represent and use number bonds and related subtraction facts within 20	2 + 7 = 7 + 2
	5 + 13 = 13 + 5
-add and subtract one-digit and two-digit numbers to 20, including zero	c) Reordering to find number bonds
	3 + 4 + 7 = 3 + 7 + 4
	d) Compensating to add 9
	5 + 9 = 5 + 10 – 1
Times Tables	e) Using Near Doubles
1,2,5,10	5 + 6 is double 5 and add 1 or double 6 and subtract 1
	f) Bridging through 10 and later 20 when adding a single-digit number
_____	17 + 6 = 17 + 3 + 3
	g) Use patterns of similar calculations
Fluency check:	7+ 8 is 15 so 27 + 18 will have 5 ones
	h) Estimating for checking
• 15 + __ = 20	Know that 7 + 9 will be between 10 and 20
• 7 = __ - 9	Know that doubled numbers will be even, numbers multiplied by 5 will have 5 or 0 in ones column
• 9 + __ = 13	i) Know number bonds for all numbers up to 10
• 6 + 2 + _ = 10	7 = 1 + 6 = 2 + 5 = 3 + 4 = 4 + 3 = 5 + 2 = 6 + 1

Year 2 Number Fluency Expectations

National Curriculum Expectations	Mental Calculation Strategies
-count in steps of 2, 3 and 5 from 0, and in tens from any number, forward and backward	
-identify, represent and estimate numbers using different representations, including the number line	a) Counting forwards and backwards in tens, ones or a suitable multiple
	14 + 3 count on in ones from 14
	27 – 4 count on or back in ones from any two-digit number
-use place value and number facts to solve problems	18 – 4 count back in twos from 18
-recall and use addition and subtraction facts to 20	30 + 3 count on in ones from 30
fluently, and derive and use related facts up to 100	b) Find a small difference by counting up from the smaller to the larger number
-add and subtract numbers mentally including:	32 – 28 count on from 28
-a two-digit number and ones	c) Reordering to start with larger number
-a two-digit number and tens	2 + 36 = 36 + 2
-two two-digit numbers	d) Reordering to look for number bonds
-adding three one-digit numbers	5 + 7 + 5 = 5 + 5 + 7
-show that addition of two numbers can be done in any	e) Partitioning using multiples of 10 and 100
order (commutative) and subtraction of one number	30 + 47 = 30 + 40 + 7
from another cannot	78 – 40 = 70 – 40 + 8
-recognise and use the inverse relationship between	25 + 14 = 20 + 5 + 10 + 4 = 20 + 10 + 5 + 4
addition and subtraction and use this to check	f) Partitioning – bridging through multiples of 10
calculations and solve missing number problems	6 + 7 = 6 + 4 + 3
-estimate to check their answers to a calculation are	23 – 9 = 23 – 3 – 6
reasonable (e.g. knowing 48 + 35 is less than 100)	15 + 7 = 15 + 5 + 2
	g) Compensating to add or subtract 9 or 19
	34 + 9 = 34 + 10 – 1
Times Tables (incl. inverse)	52 + 19 = 52 + 20 - 1
1,2,3,4,5,10	70 – 9 = 70 – 10 + 1
_____	h) Partitioning into '5 and a bit' to add 6, 7 or 8
Fluency check:	15 + 7 = 15 + 5 + 2
• 23 + 37 =	i) Use the relationship between addition and subtraction
• 5 + 10 + 5 =	I know 8 + 7 = 15 so I know 15 – 8 = 7

• 98 + 4 = • 5 + 32 = • 6 = 11 - __	j) Multiplying by 10 moves one place value column to the left 3 ones x 10 = 3 tens = 30 2 tens x 10 = 2 hundreds = 200

Year 3 Number Fluency Expectations

National Curriculum Expectations	Mental Calculation Strategies
-count from 0 in multiples of 4, 8, 50 and 100; find 10 or 100 more or less than a given number	
	a) To count on in different jumps bridging 10s and 100s
-recognise the place value of each digit in a three-digit number (hundreds, tens, ones)	Count in 10s from 76
	Count in 2s from 15
-compare and order numbers up to 1000	b) Reordering and finding number bonds or near doubles to add multiple numbers
-identify, represent and estimate numbers using different representations	23 + 54 = 54 + 23
	12 − 7 − 2 = 12 − 2 − 7
-add and subtract numbers mentally, including:	13 + 21 + 13 = 13 + 13 + 21 (using double 13)
-a three-digit number and ones	c) Partitioning using multiples of 1, 10 and 100
-a three-digit number and tens	23 + 45 = 40 + 5 + 20 + 3= 40 + 20 + 5 + 3
-a three-digit number and hundreds	68 − 32 = 60 + 8 − 30 − 2= 60 − 30 + 8 − 2
-recall and use multiplication and division facts for the 3, 4 and 8 multiplication tables	d) Partitioning – bridging through multiples of 10
	49 +32 = 49 +1 +31
-write and calculate mathematical statements for multiplication and division using the multiplication tables that they know, including for two-digit numbers times one-digit	e) Compensating to add or subtract 8,9, 18, 19 etc.
	53 + 9 = 53 + 10 - 1
	84 − 18 = 84 − 20 + 2
numbers, using mental and progressing to formal written method	f) Using Near Doubles
	18 + 16 is double 18 and subtract 2 or double 16 and add 2
	36 + 35 is double 36 and subtract 1 or double 35 and add 1
-estimate the answer to a calculation and use inverse operations to check answer	60 + 70 is double 60 and add 10 or double 70 and subtract 10
	g) Using a known fact to identify others
	7 + 8 = 15 so 15 − 7 = 8
Times Tables	7 + 8 = 15 so 7 + 28 = 15 + 20 =35
All to 12 x 12	h) Multiplying by 10/100 moves one/two place value column to the left
	3 ones x 10 = 3 tens = 30
	2 tens x 100 = 2 thousands = 2,000
Pupils develop efficient mental methods, for example, using commutativity and associativity (for example, 4 × 12 × 5 = 4 × 5 × 12 = 20 × 12 = 240) and multiplication and division facts (for example, using 3 × 2 = 6, 6 ÷ 3 = 2 and 2 = 6 ÷ 3) to derive related facts (for example, 30 × 2 = 60, 60 ÷ 3 = 20 and 20 = 60 ÷ 3).	i) To use estimations/number facts to check accuracy
	46 + 58 will be close to 100
	23 x 5 will end in 5 or 0
	j) to know the relationship between multiplication and division fact families
	3 x 6 = 18 so 18 ÷ 3 = 6 and 18 ÷ 6 = 3

Year 4 Number Fluency Expectations

National Curriculum Expectations	Mental Calculation Strategies
-count in multiples of 6, 7, 9, 25 and 1000	a) To count on and back in different jumps bridging 10s, 100s and 100's
-find 1000 more or less than a given number	Count in 10s from 76 or Count in 2s from 15
-count backwards through zero to include negative numbers	86 – 30 count back in tens from 86 or count on in tens from 30
	960 – 500 count back in hundreds from 960 or count on in hundreds from 500
-round any number to the nearest 10, 100 or 1000	b) Reordering to add or multiply 3 or more numbers
-solve number and practical problems that involve all of the above and with increasingly large positive numbers	$6 + 13 + 4 + 3 = 6 + 4 + 13 + 3$
	$17 + 9 – 7 = 17 – 7 + 9$
-estimate and use inverse operations to check answers to a calculation.	$4 \times 3 \times 5 = 5 \times 4 \times 3 = 20 \times 3 = 60$
	c) Partitioning – bridging through multiples of 10 or 100
- recall multiplication and division facts for multiplication tables up to	$57 + 14 = 57 + 3 + 11$ or $57 + 13 + 1$
	d) Compensating to add or subtract
12×12	$38 + 69 = 38 + 70 – 1$
-use place value, known and derived facts to multiply and divide mentally, including:	$53 + 29 = 53 + 30 – 1$
	$64 – 19 = 64 – 20 + 1$
-multiplying by 0 and 1	e) Using Near Doubles
-dividing by 1	38 + 35 is double 35 and add 3
-multiplying together three numbers	160 + 170 is double 150 and add 10 then add 20, or double 160 and add 10, or double 170 and
-recognise and use factor pairs and commutativity in mental calculations	subtract
	380 + 380 is double 400 and subtract 20 twice
-count up and down in hundredths; recognise that hundredths arise when dividing an object by one hundred and dividing tenths by ten	f) Identify fact families for addition and subtraction to solve problems
	I know $6 \times 7 = 42$ so I know $42 ÷ 6 = 7$
-find the effect of dividing a one- or two-digit number by 10 and 100, identifying the value of the digits in the answer as ones, tenths and hundredth	h) Multiplying by 10/100 moves one/two place value column to the left and dividing moves to the right
	3 ones x 10 = 3 tens = 30
	2 tens x 100 = 2 thousands = 2,000
	i) Using partitioning to multiply
	$17 \times 6 = 10 \times 6 + 7 \times 6 = 60 + 42 = 102$
Times Tables (incl. inverse)	j) Partitioning to double or halve any number
All to 12x12	Double 347 is double 300, double 40 and double 7
MTC in Summer term.	Half of 450 is half 400, half 40, half 10

Year 5 Fluency Expectations

National Curriculum Expectations	Mental Calculation Strategies

-read, write, order and compare numbers to at least 1 000 000 and determine the value of each digit
-count forwards or backwards in steps of powers of 10 for any given number up to 1 000 000
-interpret negative numbers in context, count forwards and backwards with positive and negative whole numbers, including through zero
-round any number up to 1 000 000 to the nearest 10, 100, 1000, 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
-identify multiples and factors, including finding all factor pairs of a number, and common factors of two numbers
-know and use the vocabulary of prime numbers, prime factors and composite (non-prime) numbers
-multiply and divide numbers mentally drawing upon known facts
-multiply and divide whole numbers and those involving decimals by 10, 100 and 1000
recognise and use square numbers and cube numbers, and the notation for squared (2) and cubed (3)
 	
Times Tables
All to 12 x 12
Identify square numbers to 12 x 12
Identify prime numbers up to 20
_____
Fluency check
   ● Can show equivalence in missing number problems. Eg 13 + 24 = 12 + _ ; 15 x 3 = 5 x _
   ● Can construct equivalence statements involving multiplication. Eg. 4 x 35 = 2 x 2 x 35; 3 x 270 = 3 x 3 x 9 x 10.
	a) Counting backwards and forwards in multiples of 1 or 10 from any number to 1 000 000
	Count in 20s from 346
	b) Partitioning to add – bridging through multiples of 1, 10, 100 or 1,000
	3.8 + 2.6 = 3.8 + 0.2 + 2.4
	560 + 357 = 560 + 40 + 317
	c) Compensating to add or subtract any near multiples of 10 or 100
	138 + 69 = 138 + 70 – 1
	405 – 399 = 405 – 400 + 1
	21/2 + 13/4 = 21/2 + 2 – ¼
	d) To be able to count backwards across 0 in different jumps
	Count back from 0 in 2s
	e) Finding all factors of a number and identify fact families
	I know 24 is divisible by 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 12, and 24
	f) Multiplying by 10/100 moves one/two place value column to the left and dividing moves to the right
	3 ones x 10 = 3 tens = 30
	2 tens x 100 = 2 thousands = 2,000
	gi) Using partitioning to multiply
	17 x 6 = 10 x 6 + 7 x 6 = 60 + 42 = 102
	h)To partition to multiply by multiples of 10, 100 etc
	43 x 30 = 43 x 3 x 10 or 43 x 10 x 3
	25 x 400 = 25 x 4 x 100
	i)To be able to identify the nearest multiple of 10, 100, 1,000
	578 is closest to 600
	8243 is closest to 8,000
	j) Estimate answers by rounding and using number facts
	687 + 503 will be roughly 700 + 500 =1,200
	67 x 38 will be roughly 70 x 40 =280
	876 ÷ 5 will have a remainder

Year 6 Number Fluency Expectations

National Curriculum Expectations	Mental Calculation Strategies

Consolidate all above
-read, write, order and compare numbers up to 10 000 000 and determine the value of each digit
-round any whole number to a required degree of accuracy
-use negative numbers in context, and calculate intervals across zero
-perform mental calculations, including with mixed operations and large numbers
-identify common factors, common multiples and prime numbers
-use their knowledge of the order of operations to carry out calculations involving the four operations
-use estimation to check answers to calculations and determine, in the context of a problem, an appropriate degree of accuracy
 	
Times Tables
All to 12 x 12
Identify square numbers to 12 x 12
Identify cube numbers up to 5 x 5 x 5
Identify prime numbers up to 100
_____
Fluency check
    •   __ + 35 = 341
    •   __ - 10 = 298
    •   5.87 + 3.123
    •   __ = 8275 + 82
    •   602 - __ = 594
    •   5 x 8 x 10 =
	a) Counting backwards and forwards in multiples of 1 or 10 from any number to 1 000 000
	Count in 20s from 346
	b) Partitioning to add – bridging through multiples of 1, 10, 100 or 1,000
	$3.8 + 2.6 = 3.8 + 0.2 + 2.4$
	$560 + 357 = 560 + 40 + 317$
	c) Compensating to add or subtract any near multiples of 10 or 100
	$138 + 69 = 138 + 70 - 1$
	$405 - 399 = 405 - 400 + 1$
	$21/2 + 13/4 = 21/2 + 2 - ¼$
	d) To be able to count backwards across 0 in different jumps
	Count back from 0 in 2s
	e) Multiplying by 10/100 moves one/two place value column to the left and dividing moves to the right etc.
	3 ones x 10 = 3 tens = 30
	2 tens x 100 = 2 thousands = 2,000
	fi) Using partitioning to multiply
	$17 \times 6 = 10 \times 6 + 7 \times 6 = 60 + 42 = 102$
	g) To partition to multiply by multiples of 10, 100 etc
	$43 \times 30 = 43 \times 3 \times 10$ or $43 \times 10 \times 3$
	$25 \times 400 = 25 \times 4 \times 100$
	h) To be able to round to the nearest multiple of 10, 100, 1,000, etc.
	578,745 is closest to 600,000
	8243 is closest to 8,000
	i) To be able to count in tenths, hundredths and thousandths and know when to rename
	0.7, 0.8, 0.9, 1
	0.695, 0.696, 0.697, 0.698, 0.699, 0.7
	j) Estimate answers by rounding and using number facts
	$687 + 503$ will be roughly $700 + 500 = 1,200$
	67×38 will be roughly $70 \times 40 = 280$
	$876 \div 5$ will have a remainder

Why do children need to be fluent?

To the person without number sense, arithmetic is a bewildering territory in which any deviation from the known path may rapidly lead to being totally lost. Dowker (1992)

The phrase 'number sense' is often used to mean conceptual fluency – understanding place value and the relationships between operations. Children need to be both procedurally and conceptually fluent – they need to know both how and why. Children who engage in a lot of practice without understanding what they are doing often forget, or remember incorrectly, those procedures. Further, there is growing evidence that once students have memorised and practised procedures without understanding, they have difficulty learning later to bring meaning to their work (Hiebert, 1999).

Russell describes two instances where children had a good idea about number relationships and operations but failed to use these successfully in practice. I'm sure you can think of similar examples that you have seen.
Child A knew, *when asked verbally*, what 112 and 40 were, and she had strategies to work out the answer which indicated that she understood place value – add 40 onto 110 and then add on the extra 2. But when asked to do it as a written calculation, she remembered an algorithm which was to do with lining up the numbers - and she remembered it incorrectly.

Child A
$$\begin{array}{r} 112 \\ +40 \\ \hline 512 \end{array}$$

Child B
$$\begin{array}{r} \overset{2}{5}7 \\ \times 4 \\ \hline 288 \end{array}$$

Similarly Child B could work out 57 x 4 *mentally* using the knowledge that 57 is 50 and 7 and breaking down the calculation into 50 x 4 and adding on 7 x 4. But he had remembered a written algorithm which was to do with carrying a digit over - and he remembered it incorrectly. (Can you see what he did? He added the 2 to the 5 before multiplying it by 4.) Both children knew their written answers were not correct but were convinced they had used the right method (and you might wonder what instructions they rehearsed in their heads which led them to believe that).
On the other hand, conceptual fluency without procedural fluency can make the problem-solving process tortuous – children lose track of their thinking because they have to divert their energies into calculations which should be quick but aren't.

How can we support children in becoming fluent?

As with much of mathematics, the key to fluency is in making connections, and making them at the right time in a child's learning.

Manipulatives

We learn by moving from the concrete to the abstract and structured apparatus such as Dienes can be helpful for learning about place value or number bonds. However the meaning isn't in the manipulatives themselves – it has to be constructed by children over a period of time, through playing around with them and connecting them directly to mental and recorded calculation.

Talking about their work

At NRICH we often say you can't do maths unless you talk maths. But the quality of the talk is important. It is not simply children sharing how they did a particular calculation, but describing why and how it worked, and how their method is the same or different to those of others. In other words, giving children opportunities to use those higher-level skills of comparing, explaining and justifying. Russell says 'The reason that one problem can be solved in multiple ways is that mathematics does not consist of isolated rules, but connected ideas. Being able to solve a problem in more than one way, therefore, reveals the ability and the predilection to make connections between and among mathematical areas and topics'.

Consolidation in meaningful contexts

By offering children practice in context we help them to make links between the types of situations that a particular strategy might suit. Russell calls this mathematical memory, which is different from just memorising. She says that important mathematical procedures cannot be "forgotten over the summer" because they are based in a web of connected ideas about fundamental mathematical relationships.

Child	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j

Number bonds within 10 Assessment

7 + 3 = _____	6 + 4 = _____
_____ + 6 = 7	_____ + 3 = 10
5 + 3 = _____	1 + 9 = _____
_____ + 3 = 9	_____ + 5 = 10
3 - 3 = _____	4 + 3 = _____
_____ + 4 = 4	_____ + 4 = 4
5 - 2 = _____	10 - 4 = _____
_____ + 5 = 9	10 - _____ = 9
3 + 5 = _____	10 - 3 = _____
_____ + 6 = 9	8 - 4 = _____
3 + 2 = _____	3 + 3 = _____
_____ + 4 = 7	_____ + 2 = 7

My score ___ /24

Number bonds within 20 Assessment

6 + 7 = ___	2 + 12 = ___
9 + 2 = ___	6 + 14 = ___
7 + ___ = 11	10 + ___ = 18
14 + ___ = 19	17 - 5 = ___
20 - ___ = 12	13 + _ = 20
2 + ___ = 12	8 + 12 = ___
13 – 5 = ___	7 + 7 = ___
15 - 7 = ___	15 - 4 = ___
11 – 6 = ___	4 + 8 = ___
6 + 4 + 2 = ___	___ = 16 – 3
18 – 3 = ___	___ = 12 + 3
7 + 5 = ___	___ = 6 + 9

My score ___ /24

Number bonds within 100 Assessment

70 + 30 = _____	60 + 40 = _____
_____ + 60 = 100	_____ - 30 = 10
50 + 30 = _____	10 + 90 = _____
_____ + 30 = 90	_____ - 50 = 10
30 - 10 = _____	60 + 40 = _____
_____ + 40 = 80	100 = 40 + _____
50 - 20 = _____	100 = 80 + _____
_____ + 50 = 100	30 + _____ = 100
60 + 10 = _____	100 – 80 = _____
_____ + 60 = 90	100 - 40 = _____
30 + 20 = _____	100 - _____ = 20
_____ + 40 = 70	100 - _____ = 100

My score ___ /24