



# Highcliffe St. Mark Primary School & Fledglings Pre-School

A Church of England Foundation School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted to let you know that, as a school community, we will be celebrating National Numeracy Day this year.

Maths and numbers can sometimes evoke strong feelings, both positive and negative. For some, maths brings confidence and enjoyment; for others, it may bring anxiety or difficult memories. We know that classroom experiences can last a lifetime, and we want our school to be a place where every child and adult feels supported in building positive relationships with numbers.

## Big Number Natter: Why “Natter” About Numbers?

As part of our celebrations, we will be taking part in the **Big Number Natter**. Love it or loathe it, everybody has something to say about numbers.

Talking with children and adults in our school community about numbers can turn low number confidence from a private struggle into a shared strength.

Opening up about how we feel is often the most powerful way to start thinking differently. When we talk honestly about maths, it helps people realise they are not alone and that many others share similar experiences. It can help build confidence with everyday numeracy and normalise learning, showing that it is okay to ask questions and learn at any age.

It also gives children the opportunity to talk about numbers in everyday life, not just in maths lessons, and creates opportunities for staff and parents to engage in a different kind of conversation about maths, including parents' own experiences and feelings.

Across the UK, around half of working-age adults have low numeracy levels. This can make people more vulnerable to debt, unemployment, poor health and fraud, challenges that can be made even harder during the current cost of living pressures.

The good news is that everyone can improve their numeracy, and simply talking about numbers is a fantastic first step. The Big Number Natter is designed to be exactly that first step. For many people, improving their skills begins with acknowledging and discussing their feelings about maths.

Alongside this letter, we have included some Big Number Natter prompts if you are interested in having a conversation at home. These are simple questions designed to get everyone talking. There are no right or wrong answers, just opportunities to share experiences and perspectives.



PROUD TO BE A  
MUSIC MARK  
SCHOOL  
2023 - 2024



If you would like to explore further support or get involved yourself, we encourage you to visit the [National Numeracy website](#), where you can find practical resources for families. You may also be interested in trying the [National Numeracy Challenge](#), a free and confidential tool designed to help adults build their everyday maths confidence step by step.

We look forward to celebrating National Numeracy Day together and to continuing to create a school culture where everyone feels confident talking about numbers.

Kind regards,

Miss Hillier & Mrs Tiley  
KS1 & KS2 Maths Leaders

# Big Number Natter

## Quick Talking Points

### Talking Point 1 – One Word Maths

Give me one word.

What is one word that describes how you feel about numbers or maths?  
Happy? Fun? Tricky? Why?

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### Talking Point 2 – Numbers Around Us

Numbers are everywhere!

Where do you see numbers every day?  
At home, on buses, in games, or at school?

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### Talking Point 3 – My Important Number

What is a number that is important to you?

It could be your age, your birthday, your favourite number, or the number on your football shirt.

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### Talking Point 4 – Numbers in Games

Do you use numbers when you play games or sports?  
How do numbers help when keeping score?

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### Talking Point 5 – When Numbers Feel Tricky

Sometimes numbers feel tricky.

What helps you when something in maths feels difficult?

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### Talking Point 6 – A Proud Number Moment

Can you remember a time when you felt proud about using numbers?

What happened?

