Addition and Subtraction Unit 1

Short Mental Workouts

The short activities suggested below do not have to be done at the beginning of your maths lesson. They are suitable for doing at any time of the day to provide ongoing revision of important mental and oral skills.

While there probably is not time during your maths lesson for these activities, it is crucial to regularly rehearse these skills. You decide when to use them, perhaps at the beginning of the day for 'morning maths', as you line up for lunch, or as a 'brain-break' during the afternoon.

If an image is suggested, you can find it on the sheet(s) below and/or use the link (beginning https://wrht.org.uk/…) to find it, and other related generic materials.

Day 1
Add multiples of 10
Children play in pairs. They shuffle a set of 10s card and place them facedown. They turn over three cards. The first child to say the total scores 10 points. Return cards to the pack, shuffle and repeat. Remind children how they can use addition of 1-digit numbers to help, e.g. calculate 30 + 60 + 20 by adding 6, 3 and 2, and multiplying the answer by 10. Children add their points. Which pairs scored a total of more than 100?

Day 2
Add four 1-digit numbers
Open the *Number Spinners* ITP. Choose four hexagonal spinners with 10 as the maximum number. Click on the arrows to spin them (you can re-spin if desired to give a 'better' selection of numbers). Children find the total of the four numbers and write it on their whiteboards. Briskly note key addition strategies, e.g. looking for doubles/pairs to 10/ starting with the largest number first. Repeat.

Day 3
Subtract 1-digit numbers from numbers less than 100
Children play in a group. The first player rolls a 0–9 dice and subtracts that number from 100. The next player rolls the dice and subtracts that number from the previous answer, and so on, until one group reaches an answer less than 10. Repeat.

Day 4
Subtraction facts to 20
Challenge pairs of children to write as many subtractions as they can where the first number is between 10 and 20, the number subtracted is between 1 and 10, and the answer is also between 1 and 10, e.g. 14 – 8 = 6. How many can they write in 4 minutes?

Day 5
Subtraction facts: Multiples of 10
Ask children to choose 5 multiples of 10 between 10 and 100 to write on their whiteboards. Call out the following questions: 130 – 70, 120 – 80, 170 – 90, 150 – 60, 110 – 80, 140 – 70, 110 – 90, 130 – 80. Children ring the answers on their whiteboards. The first to ring all 5 of their numbers wins.