

REASONS FOR USING WRITTEN METHODS

- To aid mental calculation by writing down some of the numbers and answers involved
- To make clear a mental procedure for the pupil
- To help communicate methods and solutions
- To provide a record of work to be done
- To aid calculation when the problem is too difficult to be done mentally
- To develop and refine a set of rules for calculations

WHEN ARE CHILDREN READY FOR WRITTEN CALCULATIONS?

Addition and subtraction

- Do they know addition and subtraction facts to 20?
- Do they understand place value and can they partition numbers?
- Can they add three single digit numbers mentally?
- Can they add and subtract any pair of two digit numbers mentally?
- Can they explain their mental strategies orally and record them using informal jottings?

Multiplication and division

- Do they know the 2, 3, 4, 5 and 10 time table
- Do they know the result of multiplying by 0 and 1?
- Do they understand 0 as a place holder?
- Can they multiply two and three digit numbers by 10 and 100?
- Can they double and halve two digit numbers mentally?
- Can they use multiplication facts they know to derive mentally other multiplication facts that they do not know?
- Can they explain their mental strategies orally and record them using informal jottings?

The above lists are not exhaustive but are a guide for the teacher to judge when a child is ready to move from informal to formal methods of calculation.