

Maths – Partitioning [This will be a key teaching/ learning focus this year]

Partitioning is a way of working out maths problems that involve large numbers by splitting them into smaller units so they're easier to work with. So, instead of adding numbers in a column, like this...

$$\begin{array}{r} 79 \\ +34 \\ \hline 113 \end{array}$$

...younger students will first be taught to separate each of these numbers into units, like this...

$$70 + 9 + 30 + 4$$

...and they can add these smaller parts together. For instance, they can pick out all the tens and work down to single units, making the problem more and more manageable, like this...

$$70 + 30 + 9 + 4 = 100 + 13 = 113$$

In order to do this, children must have a clear understanding of 'tens and units'. Children are taught this method before they learn to add numbers in columns. Partitioning gives children a different way of visualising maths problems, and helps them work out large sums in their head. By breaking numbers down into units that are easy for them (and us!) to calculate mentally, they can reach the correct answer without counting out tricky double or triple-digit numbers on their fingers.