



**New Park Primary Academy**

Skipton Road, Harrogate, HG1 3HF

**T:** 01423 503011 **E:** [admin@newparkacademy.co.uk](mailto:admin@newparkacademy.co.uk)

**W:** [www.newparkacademy.co.uk](http://www.newparkacademy.co.uk)

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Dear Parent/Carer,

We are introducing a whole school approach to mental maths called SMIRFs (Space Mission Instant Recall Facts). Rapid recall (within 3 seconds) of number bonds, times tables and other number facts are vital to children's mathematical understanding. Learning these 'off by heart' means that children can confidently tackle number problems.

All the children take the role of astronauts and your child will be assigned a planet or starting point, based on teacher assessment. During your child's time at New Park your child will continue to move through the schemes to different planets, improving their mental maths recall along the way.

In addition to practising their 'SMIRFs' at school, children will be given target sheets at parents evening. These target sheets show the maths facts your child is working on and include ideas and ways in which you can practice these at home. All our planet target sheets can be found on our school website in the curriculum section. In order to move onto the next planet children have to demonstrate that they have met each skill on 3 separate occasions. We hope that your child enjoys the challenge of working their way through the solar system.

If you have any queries about the scheme, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Mr Pratt