Year 1 Mental Arithmetic Test
Date of test: 21st March 2024

This week's maths target:

Find small differences, within 20.

e.g. The difference between 4 and 6 is 2
       The difference between 5 and 8 is 3.

Activities:

Write two numbers for your child, e.g. 12 and 17, 6 and 9, 14 and 18, etc.

Ask your child to find the difference between each pair of numbers. Encourage your child to do this by using a 0-20 number line and count the hops.
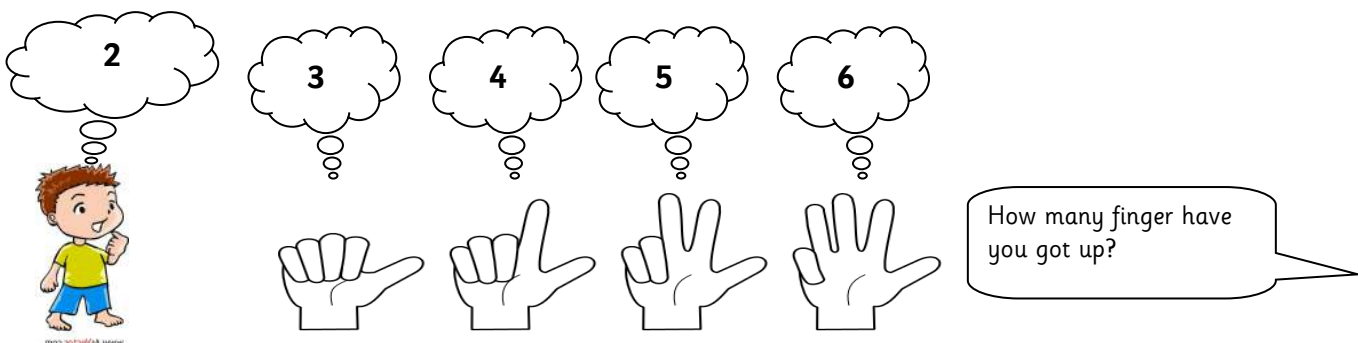
E.g. What is the difference between 7 and 11?

	1	2	3	4																
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
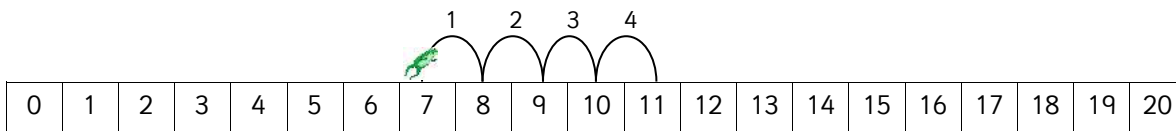
You can also write each problem first as a missing number addition, e.g. 12 + □ = 17, then ask you child to work out the number of hops. They can then write the missing number in the box, completing the addition: 12 + 5 = 17.

Once your child has a good understanding of finding the difference using the number line they can then begin to put the starting number in their head and count onto the end number using their fingers to help.

E.g. What is the missing number? 2 + □ = 6

Put 2 in your head, then count on up to 6.

> 2   3   4   5   6

> How many finger have you got up?

The difference is 4, so, 2 + 4 = 6

Example Question

What is the difference between 15 and 18?
What is the missing number in this sum? 3 + □ = 9

During the test your child will not be able to use a number line. They can use the number displays in the classroom.

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20