

Purpose

Schofield & Sims Mental Arithmetic is intended for use alongside your existing maths lessons. It gives pupils the opportunity to develop their understanding of mathematical concepts by providing carefully differentiated questions in the volume necessary for intensive and regular use.

Please bear in mind that any new areas must be taught thoroughly before pupils meet them in the **Mental Arithmetic** books. This will give pupils the chance to do well, showing you what they know, as well as what they may have forgotten. Targeted questions focus on the different areas of the curriculum, providing structured, rigorous practice of key concepts, and highlighting those areas where pupils need further help.

Mental Arithmetic also reinforces and develops pupils' maths vocabulary. Each pupil book includes a 'Language of Maths' glossary and all seven of these are reproduced in the **General Resources** section of this **Teacher's Guide**.

Mental Arithmetic and the National Curriculum

By providing rich and varied maths practice and on-going formative assessment, **Mental Arithmetic** meets the requirements of the National Curriculum, enabling pupils to consolidate their essential maths skills and develop a deeper understanding of the topics covered. The range of topics per test encourages pupils to think mathematically and apply all that they have learnt when answering each question, as well as helping them to improve their mental fluency.

The table below indicates which **Mental Arithmetic** book may be most suitable for your class, based on end of year expectations in the National Curriculum. **First Mental Arithmetic** is available for younger children.

	Pupils at risk of not meeting end of year expectations	Pupils on target to meet end of year expectations	Pupils on target to exceed end of year expectations
Year 3	Mental Arithmetic Introductory Book	Mental Arithmetic 1	Mental Arithmetic 2
Year 4	Mental Arithmetic 1	Mental Arithmetic 2	Mental Arithmetic 3
Year 5	Mental Arithmetic 3	Mental Arithmetic 4	Mental Arithmetic 5
Year 6	Mental Arithmetic 4	Mental Arithmetic 5	Mental Arithmetic 6

Pupils should demonstrate mastery of the curriculum content for their year group before they are allowed to move on to a later book in the series. The increase in difficulty within each book will challenge and extend more able pupils, providing comprehensive practice and highlighting any gaps in their understanding.

To further assist you in choosing the right book for each pupil or class, two Entry Tests are provided (see page 7 for more information).