

# Subtraction -

Woodthorpe Community Primary School Progression in Written subtraction Methods for parents



- 1) Counting backwards from 10 to 0 out loud
- 2) count objects
- 3) Respond to language of subtraction . E.g. 'How many would we have if we took 2 away/ had 2 less'.
- 4) Recognises differences in quantities Eg more/less.

- 5) Take a number of objects away from a set and say it as a number sentence then record it.  
E.g.



4



away 2



equals 2

$$4-2=2$$

- 6) **Partitioning**  
Take away the 10s and then take away the units

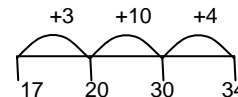
$$34-17=17$$

$$34-10=24$$

$$24-7=17$$

- 7) **Number line**  
Start with the lower value number and count up to the greater value number making sensible jumps.  
Then add up the jumps.

$$34-17=17$$



$$(3+10+4=17)$$

- 8) **Column subtraction Expanded method**

Again, start with the lower value number and count up to the greater value number making sensible steps. Then add up the jumps.

$$34+17=17$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 34 \\ - 17 \\ \hline 20(+3) \\ 30(+10) \\ 34(+4) \end{array}$$

- 9) **Column subtraction Decomposition**

$$\begin{array}{r} \overset{2}{3} \overset{1}{4} \\ - 17 \\ \hline 17 \end{array}$$

This is an extremely efficient method which children only use when they are ready in terms of knowledge and understanding.