



KIRF: I know Prime numbers up to 20

Prime numbers are numbers that only divide by 1 and themselves; they always have just factors: 1 and the number itself i.e. 2, 3, 5, 7 etc. Use colourful charts and games to help children spot and remember them.

Why is this important?

Understanding prime numbers helps children break numbers into their building blocks, which is key for simplifying fractions and dividing numbers.

Recognising which numbers are prime helps children spot patterns and understand which numbers can't be broken down further — useful when learning multiplication and division facts.

By the end of this half term, children should be able to:

- Recall and recognise prime numbers up to 20.

Key vocabulary

- Prime Number – A number greater than 1 that has exactly two factors: 1 and itself. Example: 7 is prime because it can only be divided by 1 and 7.
- Composite Number – A number that has more than two factors. Example: 6 is composite because it can be divided by 1, 2, 3, and 6.
- Factor – A number that divides another number exactly, without leaving a remainder. Example: Factors of 12 are 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 12.
- Divisible – A number is divisible by another if it can be divided evenly with no remainder. Example: 10 is divisible by 2 because $10 \div 2 = 5$.
- Odd/Even – Understanding these helps children identify patterns in prime numbers. Example: All prime numbers except 2 are odd.

Top Tips for Practice:

- Prime or not game.
- Circle the primes in 1–20 grids.
- Prime challenge quizzes.