Glossary of Terms

Glossary of terms	Explanation	When might this come up?
Subitising	The ability to recognise how many objects are in a group **instantly, without counting**. For example, when children see five dots on a dice and know it is five straight away.	EYFS (Reception)
Number bonds	Pairs of numbers that **combine to make a particular total**. For example, 6 + 4 = 10, so 6 and 4 are number bonds to 10. Children learn these to help them recall addition and subtraction facts quickly.	EYFS (Reception)
Composition	Composition means understanding that **numbers can be made in different ways by combining smaller numbers**. For example, 7 can be made from 5 and 2, 4 and 3, or 6 and 1	EYFS (Reception)
Equal Distribution	This means **sharing a group of objects so that everyone has the same amount**. Children might practise this by sharing items such as counters, cubes or snacks between friends to make sure each person gets an equal number.	EYFS (Reception)
Place value	Place value shows **the value of each digit depending on its position in a number**. For example, in 360 the digit 6 represents six tens, which is 60.	Year 1
Partitioning	Partitioning means **splitting a number into smaller parts to make it easier to work with**. It is closely linked to place value. For example, 54 can be partitioned into 50 and 4 (5 tens and 4 ones).	Year 2
Commutative	A property of **addition and multiplication** where numbers can be swapped around and still give the same answer. For example, 1 + 2 = 2 + 1. This does **not** work for subtraction or division (e.g. 6 - 7 is not the same as 7 - 6).	Year 2
Bridging to the nearest 10	A **mental maths strategy** where children first make the number up to 10 and then add the remaining amount. For example, in 7 + 9, children add 3 to reach 10 and then add the remaining 6, giving a total of 16.	Year 3
Compensating/Adjusting	A **mental calculation strategy** where children adjust a number to make the calculation easier, then correct the answer. For example, for 23 - 9, a child may subtract 10 first (23 - 10 = 13) and then add 1 back to give the correct answer of 14.	Year 3