

Example: Find 6003 - 529

	Th	H	T	U
	6	0	0	3
-		5	2	9
	5	2	7	4

- Say, "3 - 9, I can not do."
- Look to the top digit of the next column. There are no tens.
- Look to the next column. There are no hundreds.
- Look to the next column. There are 6 thousands.
- Now exchange 1 thousand for 10 hundreds.
- You now have 5 thousands and 10 hundreds.
- Exchange 1 hundred for 10 tens.
- You now have 9 hundreds and 10 tens.
- Exchange 1 ten for 10 units.
- You now have 9 tens and 13 units.
- You can now complete the sum using the normal subtraction method.

Subtract the units $13 - 9 = 4$
 Now subtract the tens $9 - 2 = 7$
 Next subtract the hundreds $9 - 5 = 4$
 Finally subtract the thousands $5 - 0 = 5$

Dos and Don'ts



- Make maths as fun as possible!
- Encourage your child to have a go.
- Praise achievements however small.
- Encourage your child to explain how they work things out.
- Remember that asking questions is as important as finding answers.



- Put your child under pressure
- Pass on any negative feelings you may have about maths.
- Worry about mistakes. Children learn from making them.
- Jump in too quickly with the answer.

Holy Family Primary

Homework Support Leaflet



Decomposition



Dear Parents/Carers

This leaflet is designed to give you some practical advice to assist your child with **decomposition** at home.

Learning doesn't just take place in the classroom, it can happen anywhere. A child or young person's everyday routine offers many opportunities and experiences to practise and apply their numeracy skills in real and meaningful ways.

The strategies mentioned are taught progressively and consistently throughout the school as part of our numeracy programme.

Being competent with all strategies will enable your child to be more agile with the mental calculation of numbers.

Knowledge of numbers, number patterns and calculation strategies is vital to a child's success in many areas of maths, as well as an important life skill in its own right.

We hope that you will find this leaflet helpful and informative.



Language of Subtraction

It is important that your child understands the different terms used for subtraction.

Takeaway

Understanding subtraction as 'takeaway' will help learners connect the concept of subtraction to their real life experiences.

Takeaway means removing elements from a larger group. For example, your learner has five cookies. An older sibling may "take away" two for him or herself, leaving your learner with three cookies. This subtraction concept is easy to show visually.

Difference

Understanding subtraction as the difference between two numbers is also useful. In the previous cookie example, your learner now has three cookies, the difference between the original number of cookies your learner had (five) and the number of cookies his or her sibling "self shared" (two).

Other words for subtract include:

- Minus
- Left over
- Fewer than
- Remaining
- Decrease
- Less than



What is Decomposition?

Subtraction with bridging can be completed mentally but the children will also be expected to learn how to record this formally.

This method is called **decomposition**.

Example: Find $4592 - 386$

	Th	H	T	U
	4	5	9 ⁸	2 ¹
-		3	8	6
	4	2	0	6

- Say, "2 - 6, I can not do."
- Look to the top digit of the next column.
- There are nine tens. Exchange 1 ten for ten units.
- The 9 tens now become 8 tens and the 2 units become 12 units.
- Then say, "12 - 6 = 6."
- Now normal subtraction rules can be used to complete the sum.