## The Soroban

## **The Soroban and Mental Calculation**





"When there's not enough beads to take away you have to work out another way of doing it."

Pupils found calculations involving an exchange difficult to carry out, both on the soroban and mentally. The structure of the *soroban* strongly supports the concept of *place value*. Working from left to right on the soroban emphasises the most significant figures in line with commonly used mental calculation strategies. Many pupils switched to a *left-to-right* approach for mental calculation after the *soroban* lessons, showing a greater awareness of the quantity value of the digits.

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