

National Numeracy Day

How to run Big Number Natter sessions



Notes for the organiser

Thank you for joining The Big Number Natter for National Numeracy Day. We're delighted that you will be hosting a session in your school. We have provided two options below – a Big Number Natter session (more than 15 minutes) or a Quick Number Natter (less than 15 minutes).

Firstly, choose which type of conversation suits your students.

Option 1: Hold a Big Number Natter session or sessions (more than 15 minutes)

Length: 15-30 mins +

How to: Use the *Join the conversation: Your Number Natter session slides* deck included in your toolkit to run an organised session for your school, year, class, or within smaller groups. See the step-by-step guide on the following pages to help you create a successful and fun session.

The sessions are designed to work without the need for prior preparation. To help make it as quick and easy as possible, you may like to read the below notes to accompany the slide deck.

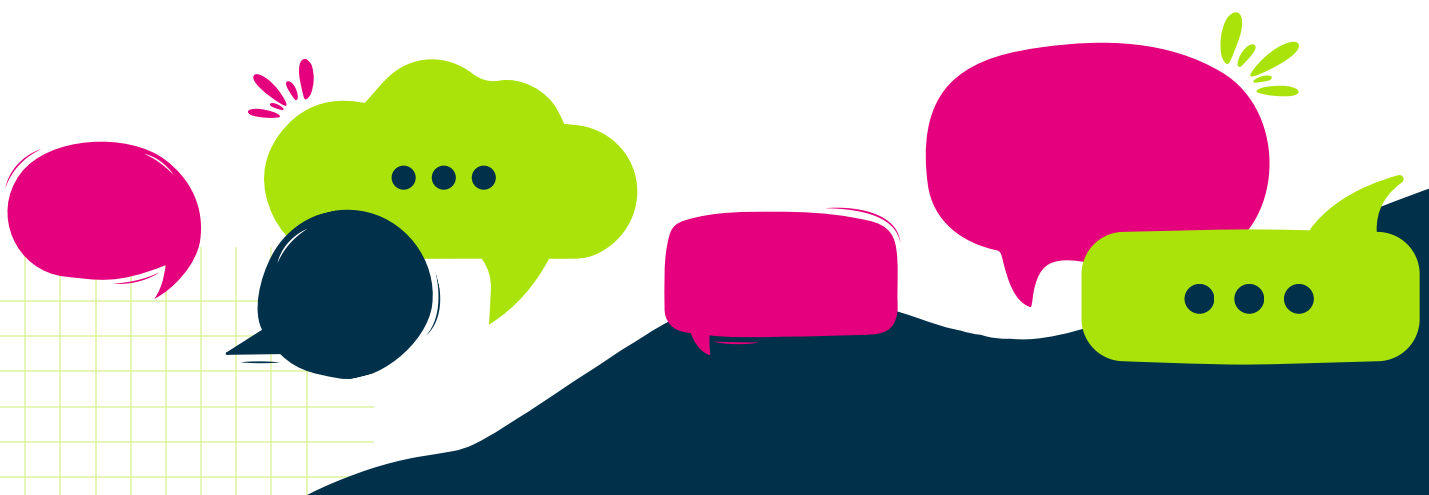
Option 2: Have a Quick Number Natter (less than 15 minutes)

Length: 5-15 mins

How to: You can ask everyone in your class, year group or school to have a quick number natter at any point during the day using the *Quick Number Natter talking points* in your toolkit.

For example, people can:

- Add The Big Number Natter to an existing lesson plan or use it as a conversation starter in your form group.
- Kick-start any lesson with a quick number natter – theme the conversation around using numbers and maths relating to that particular subject.
- Start a thread on your social media platforms, posting responses to the talking points. You could even encourage a social media takeover, with students sharing how they feel online.



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A step-by-step guide



Organising your Big Number Natter sessions

The notes below will support you to run Big Number Natter sessions using *Join the conversation: Your Number Natter session slides* deck included in your toolkit.

1. Where and where

Set a time and location for your Big Number Natter session. This could be in person at an assembly, in the classroom, or virtually via Microsoft Teams, Zoom etc. Sessions can be held at any time in May, with a focus on National Numeracy Day.

2. Tell students what to expect

Share an overview of the session as a lesson starter. Suggested description below, or feel free to use your own words.

Today we're joining the Big Number Natter for National Numeracy Day!

We will be taking part in a nationwide conversation about numbers. We are joining hundreds of schools and organisations across the UK, bringing everyone together to have a natter about numbers. **We will not be doing maths** in this session. The idea is to make talking about maths a little less scary and to make improving numeracy a little easier.

Whether you love it or loathe it, everyone has something to say about maths! No matter how you feel about maths – we want to hear your story!

3. Promote the event in advance

Whether you are working in person or remotely, use the spaces you have to promote the session(s). There is a **Big Number Natter session poster** in your toolkit. You can add it to real or virtual noticeboards and internal newsletters etc. Just insert the correct date/time and room/join link/details. You can use this poster to make room signs on the day too. Reassure people that these are sessions for everyone – not just those who like working with numbers – and they don't involve doing any maths!

4. Preparing for your sessions

The sessions are designed to work without prior preparation, and you can use the slides to guide you and your students through. But you might like to do the following in advance, especially if you know that you have students who are anxious about maths.

- **Read through the slides so you feel familiar with them**
- **Find out how to talk about numbers:** You might find it helpful to [read our tips for talking about maths, written by Ishraq Li-Rahman](#), Training Officer at National Numeracy. This can help you be aware of everybody's needs.

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5. Tips to remember during your session

- Ask questions and listen to the answers.
- Acknowledge that everybody's thoughts are valid, whether they are positive or negative about numbers.
- Be patient and kind.

6. After the session

You will see a series of 'next step' suggestions on the slides. Please encourage your students to:

- Use the **National Numeracy Day website** for lots more free resources.
- Try the **National Numeracy Challenge** to boost their number confidence and skills.

7. Share your Big Number Natter stories, video clips or images

- Inside your organisation: Share your Big Number Natters via intranet, newsletter, or other networks – use video clips, written stories, photos, created in teams or individually.
- Outside your organisation: Join the wider conversation – share videos on your website and social media channels using #BigNumberNatter.

8. List of your Big Number Natter Resources, available in your toolkit

- This how-to guide
- Join the conversation: Your Number Natter session slides – for sessions 15–30 mins
- Quick Number Natter talking points – for informal conversations less than 15 mins
- Big Number Natter poster to promote your sessions

