## Key Stage 2 Maths information for parents

## 2, 3 and 4 digit subtraction with no exchange

We start showing the column method by using practical resources either base ten blocks or place value counters and a place value chart.

Step 1: Use practical equipment or a pictorial representation to show the hundreds, tens and ones for the biggest number only. Write the calculation in columns.

$$
438-325=
$$



Step 2: Then remove or cross out the ones, tens and hundreds from the smaller number in the calculation: for example, 8 - 5, $30-20,400-$ 300. Write how many are left at the bottom of each column which will give you your answer.

$$
438-325=113
$$

| Hundreds | Tens | Ones |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { E } \\ & \text { E } \\ & \text { y } \end{aligned}$ |
| 1 | 1 | 3 |


|  |  |  |
| ---: | ---: | ---: |
| H | T | O |
| 4 | 3 | 8 |
| -3 | 2 | 5 |
| 1 | 1 | 3 |
|  |  |  |

## 2, 3 and 4 digit subtraction with exchange

Step 1: Use practical equipment or a pictorial representation to show the hundreds, tens and ones for the biggest number only. Write the calculation in columns.


Step 2: Start to work through each column of the calculation starting with the smallest. Cross out or remove the number you are subtracting until you need to exchange.
$4,154-1,522=$

$4,154-1,522=$


Step 3: To make an exchange move to the digit on the left hand side and swap. So if you are exchanging 1000 cross out one of the thousand counters and exchange it for 10 hundreds (this will mean there are now 11 hundred counters in the hundred section of the table). This is represented in the column recording like this: The sentence at the bottom can help the children to decide if they need to exchange.

$$
4,154-1,522=
$$

| Th | H | T | 0 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\theta \theta$ |  | $88$ | $\begin{aligned} & 80 \\ & 88 \end{aligned}$ |
|  | 6 | 3 | 2 |


| $3^{2} 154$ |
| ---: |
| -1522 |
| 632 |

1 hundred -5 hundreds $=$ $\qquad$ hundreds
An exchange is needed

Step 4: Complete the calculation by subtracting the thousands and filling in the final digit on the column recording. If more than one exchange is needed repeat the process. (If an exchange is needed for the tens digit then we are exchanging 1 hundred for 10 tens).


An exchange is not needed

In the key stage 2 classrooms this reminder is used to help the children understand when to exchange


