



Big Ideas in Mastery: Coherence

Messages

1. Small steps are easier to take.
2. Focussing on one key point each lesson allows for deep and sustainable learning.
3. Certain images, techniques and concepts are important pre-cursors to later ideas. Getting the sequencing of these right is an important skill in planning and teaching for mastery.
4. When something has been deeply understood and mastered, it can and should be used in the next steps of learning.

For example:

Before teaching the written algorithm for subtraction:

$$\begin{array}{r} 47 \\ - 38 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

Pupils need to:

- be fluent in their number facts for single digit numbers
- have a good understanding that 47 can be partitioned into 40 and 7 or 30 and 17
- understand that 40 can be thought of as 4 tens
- understand that 3 tens and 4 tens make 7 tens and that this is the same as 30 and 40 make 70.

What I have tried

What I found: