At St Joseph’s Primary School Alstonville we have implemented the Quicksmart numeracy program since 2011. We have been fortunate to have 14 children in the program in 2012, facilitated by three qualified instructors.

Quicksmart is a support program that has been developed since 2001 by a research team from the SIMERR–National Centre at the University of New England. It focuses on the numeracy learning needs of students in the middle school years. The Quicksmart program is a responsive small-group intervention that aims to develop fluent (Quick) and efficient (Smart) strategy use. Quicksmart uses research-based instructional strategies to support the learning of persistently low-achieving middle school students so that they are more actively and successfully engaged in inclusive classroom settings. It is essentially a practice program that helps students to better know and understand basic number facts and automatic recall. Improvements in these basic academic skills benefit students in all areas of their learning.
Students are selected on the basis of previous NAPLAN results and recommendation of teachers. The selected students are paired up at the beginning of the year and have a Quicksmart lesson three times a week in our Quicksmart resource room. The program is ongoing for the school year resulting in a total of approx. 30 lessons. Tests are conducted before and after the intervention so we get a good idea of the progress of each student. The program includes several numeracy games and as a result the students look forward to their lesson every day.

For more information on Quicksmart visit the webpage.