Consecutive number investigation

Consecutive Numbers

Consecutive numbers are numbers which follow each other in order, without gaps.

5, 6, 7 and 8 are consecutive numbers.

Sometimes they are in reverse order when a countdown is happening, maybe for a rocket launch. However, they usually happen in an order going up, like when you turn each page of your reading book.

This investigation uses consecutive numbers. You are going to explore them with your mathematical brain. You never know, you might discover something really exciting!

First:
Choose four consecutive numbers between 10 and 50.
e.g. 11, 12, 13 and 14

____, ____, ____ and ____

Second:
Place a plus or minus between each of the chosen four until you have found all the possibilities
e.g.
11 + 12 + 13 + 14 =
11 − 12 + 13 + 14 =

Third:
Find the answers to each of your calculations.
e.g.
11 + 12 + 13 + 14 = 50
11 − 12 + 13 + 14 = 26

Fourth:
Try another set of consecutive numbers. What you notice? Compare your two sets of answers and begin to make predictions of what might happen with other sets of consecutive numbers.

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Does the same thing happen when five consecutive numbers are used? What do you notice? Record your findings.

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