## Negative numbers (misconceptions)

(adapted from Mr Barton)

**The problem**: ‘two minuses make a plus’

So the students write: -4 + -5 = 9

**A solution**: a bowl of soup

You have a lovely bowl of soup: 10 degrees.

We have ice cubes which take off 1 degree (-1) and fire cubes which add one degree (+1)

What happens if we:

add 3 ice cubes? 10 + -3 = 7

take out 4 fire cubes? 7 - +4 = 3

A different soup is 4 degrees

What happens if you take out 5 ice cubes? 4 - -5 = 9

A cold soup is -4 degrees

What happens if you have 5 ice cubes added? -4 + -5 = -9

And we didn’t mention the misleading two minuses makes a plus at all!