

Lower key stage 2 - years 3 and 4

- The principal focus of mathematics teaching in lower key stage 2 is to ensure that pupils become increasingly fluent with whole numbers and the 4 operations, including number facts and the concept of place value. This should ensure that pupils develop efficient written and mental methods and perform calculations accurately with increasingly large whole numbers.
- At this stage, pupils should develop their ability to solve a range of problems, including with simple fractions and decimal place value. Teaching should also ensure that pupils draw with increasing accuracy and develop mathematical reasoning so they can analyse shapes and their properties, and confidently describe the relationships between them. It should ensure that they can use measuring instruments with accuracy and make connections between measure and number.
- By the end of year 4, pupils should have memorised their multiplication tables up to and including the 12 multiplication table and show precision and fluency in their work.
- Pupils should read and spell mathematical vocabulary correctly and confidently, using their growing word-reading knowledge and their knowledge of spelling.

Overview of Progression in Year 4

Number and place value

In Year 4, children use place value in four-digit numbers, such as 3742 is three thousands, seven hundreds, four tens and two ones. They learn to count in 6s, 7s, 9s, 25s and 1000s, and say 1000 more or less than a specific number. They encounter negative numbers by counting back past zero on number lines, and continue work on rounding (to the nearest 10, 100 or 1000) and estimation. Children are introduced to Roman numerals to 100 and find out how the number system has changed over time.

Addition and subtraction

Children extend previous years’ work by adding and subtracting numbers with up to four digits, using mental and written methods, including columnar addition and subtraction. They keep practising mental methods of addition and subtraction as well as written methods, performing calculations increasingly quickly and confidently. They continue using estimation as well as inverse operations to help check answers.

Multiplication and division

Children learn the remaining multiplication tables up to the 12 multiplication table, and use facts from the tables to solve increasingly complex multiplication and division problems. They build on their work with mental methods of calculation in Year 3, using their knowledge of place value and number facts to multiply and divide confidently. They begin to use a formal written layout for multiplication when multiplying two-digit and three-digit numbers by one-digit numbers.

Fractions (including decimals)

Developing ideas from Year 3, children confidently count up and down in hundredths. They learn about and recognise equivalent fractions, simplifying them when necessary (for example, understanding that $1/3 = 2/6 = 4/12$). They move on to understand and show families of equivalent fractions. They build on earlier work, practising adding and subtracting fractions with the same denominator ($2/3 + 7/9 = 11/9$). Children also work with decimal equivalents of tenths and hundredths and of $1/2$, $1/4$, $3/4$, understanding that decimals and fractions are different ways of expressing numbers. They round numbers with one decimal place to the nearest whole number, and compare numbers with the same number of decimal places, up to two decimal places. They use fractions and decimals to solve straightforward money and measure problems.

Measurement

In Year 3, children learned to measure the perimeter of 2D shapes; they now extend this, calculating the perimeter of rectilinear shapes including squares. They work out the area of rectilinear shapes by counting. Children compare digital clocks and analogue clocks, reading, writing and converting time between the two systems. They begin using £ and p notation to record money.

Geometry: properties of shapes

Children learn about a wider range of geometric shapes, including different types of triangles and quadrilaterals. They develop work on acute and obtuse angles from Year 3, comparing and ordering angles up to two right angles. They work with lines of symmetry in 2D shapes.

Geometry: position and direction

Children begin to work with a coordinate grid (first quadrant only), using coordinates to describe positions on a grid.

Statistics

Children are introduced to the difference between discrete and continuous data, using bar charts for discrete data (numbers of children travelling to school by different methods) and line graphs for continuous data (children’s heights). Children will build further on their work with line graphs in Year 5.

Key Maths Concepts in Year 4

Introducing Roman numerals and the history of the number system

In Year 4, children will learn more about Roman numerals (which they first met in Year 3, in the context of analogue clock faces with Roman numerals). By this stage, children will be familiar with the concept of place value, and the way that our number system allows us to represent any number using only the ten digits 0 to 9. Children will learn that most ancient civilisations (including the Greeks, Romans and Egyptians) used different number systems to ours, which is called the Hindu-Arabic number system. In the Roman number system, letters were used to represent numbers, with I standing for units, V for fives, X for tens, C for hundreds and M for thousands. Because these letters were repeated to show quantity (such as, III represents 3, XXXVII represents 37 and CCCXXXIII represents 333) many numbers were represented by long and cumbersome chains of letters which are relatively hard to compare and use in written calculations. The Roman system did not include a concept of zero. Our understanding of zero within our current number system was originally developed in India. The Hindu word for zero is ‘sunya’. Children do not need to learn in detail about the different number systems that have prevailed in different times and places throughout history, but it is very helpful for them to get a sense that our current system is a relatively recent development. It’s now used throughout the world, however, because of the efficient way it represents larger numbers and can enable us to record mathematical operations efficiently.

Understanding the difference between discrete and continuous data

In Year 3, children met a range of different formats for recording data, including bar charts. They now extend this to include line graphs, and they will need to begin to understand the different circumstances when it is appropriate to use line graphs rather than bar charts. This involves understanding the difference between discrete data (which can be effectively recorded using bar charts) and continuous data (which is more effectively shown on line graphs). As a rule of thumb, discrete data can be counted, whereas continuous data can be measured. So the number of spots on a ladybird would be discrete data (since ladybirds can only have a whole number of spots) and children could use a bar chart to record the number of spots observed on a group of ladybirds. The chart would clearly show that, for example, 7 ladybirds had five spots, 4 had two spots, 3 had three spots and none had four spots or one spot. Discrete data has units that cannot be split up. Continuous data is data that can take any value within a range. So, for example, a person could be 152 cm, 152.1 cm, 152.17 cm and so on. Continuous data could be shown on a number line, and every point on the line would have meaning (whereas with discrete data, only certain points have meaning). Continuous data is shown best on a line graph (or time graph) because it usually shows how a quantity changes over time. For example, children might use a time graph to record how a kitten’s weight increased over time, or to record the height of a sunflower plant from seedling to full height.

Year 4 programme of study (statutory requirements)

Number and place value Pupils should be taught to: - count in multiples of 6, 7, 9, 25 and 1000 - find 1000 more or less than a given number - count backwards through zero to include negative numbers - recognise the place value of each digit in a four-digit number (thousands, hundreds, tens, and ones) - order and compare numbers beyond 1000 - identify, represent and estimate numbers using different representations - round any number to the nearest 10, 100 or 1000 - solve number and practical problems that involve all of the above and with increasingly large positive numbers - read Roman numerals to 100 (I to C) and know that over time, the numeral system changed to include the concept of zero and place value	Addition and subtraction Pupils should be taught to: - add and subtract numbers with up to 4 digits using the formal written methods of columnar addition and subtraction where appropriate - estimate and use inverse operations to check answers to a calculation - solve addition and subtraction two-step problems in contexts, deciding which operations and methods to use and why	Multiplication and division Pupils should be taught to: - recall multiplication and division facts for multiplication tables up to 12×12 - use place value, known and derived facts to multiply and divide mentally, including: multiplying by 0 and 1; dividing by 1; multiplying together three numbers - recognise and use factor pairs and commutativity in mental calculations - multiply two-digit and three-digit numbers by a one-digit number using formal written layout - solve problems involving multiplying and adding, including using the distributive law to multiply two digit numbers by one digit, integer scaling problems and harder correspondence problems such as n objects are connected to m objects	Fractions (including decimals) Pupils should be taught to: - recognise and show, using diagrams, families of common equivalent fractions - count up and down in hundredths; recognise that hundredths arise when dividing an object by a hundred and dividing tenths by ten. - solve problems involving increasingly harder fractions to calculate quantities, and fractions to divide quantities, including non-unit fractions where the answer is a whole number - add and subtract fractions with the same denominator - recognise and write decimal equivalents of any number of tenths or hundredths - recognise and write decimal equivalents to $\frac{1}{4}$; $\frac{1}{2}$; $\frac{3}{4}$ - find the effect of dividing a one- or two-digit number by 10 and 100, identifying the value of the digits in the answer as ones, tenths and hundredths - round decimals with one decimal place to the nearest whole number - compare numbers with the same number of decimal places up to two decimal places - solve simple measure and money problems involving fractions and decimals to two decimal places	Measurement Pupils should be taught to: - convert between different units of measure [for example, kilometre to metre; hour to minute] - measure and calculate the perimeter of a rectilinear figure (including squares) in centimetres and metres - find the area of rectilinear shapes by counting squares - estimate, compare and calculate different measures, including money in pounds and pence - read, write and convert time between analogue and digital 12 and 24-hour clocks - solve problems involving converting from hours to minutes; minutes to seconds; years to months; weeks to days	Geometry: properties of shapes Pupils should be taught to: - compare and classify geometric shapes, including quadrilaterals and triangles, based on their properties and sizes - identify acute and obtuse angles and compare and order angles up to two right angles by size - identify lines of symmetry in 2-D shapes presented in different orientations - complete a simple symmetric figure with respect to a specific line of symmetry	Geometry: position and direction Pupils should be taught to: - describe positions on a 2-D grid as coordinates in the first quadrant - describe movements between positions as translations of a given unit to the left/right and up/down - plot specified points and draw sides to complete a given polygon	Statistics Pupils should be taught to: - interpret and present discrete and continuous data using appropriate graphical methods, including bar charts and time graphs - solve comparison, sum and difference problems using information presented in bar charts, pictograms, tables and other graphs
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Y4 notes and guidance (non-statutory)

Number and place value Using a variety of representations, including measures, pupils become fluent in the order and place value of numbers beyond 1000, including counting in tens and hundreds, and maintaining fluency in other multiples through varied and frequent practice. They begin to extend their knowledge of the number system to include the decimal numbers and fractions that they have met so far. They connect estimation and rounding numbers to the use of measuring instruments. Roman numerals should be put in their historical context so pupils understand that there have been different ways to write whole numbers and that the important concepts of zero and place value were introduced over a period of time.	Addition and subtraction Pupils continue to practise both mental methods and columnar addition and subtraction with increasingly large numbers to aid fluency (see Mathematics Appendix 1).	Multiplication and division Pupils continue to practise recalling and using multiplication tables and related division facts to aid fluency. Pupils practise mental methods and extend this to three-digit numbers to derive facts (for example $600 \div 3 = 200$ can be derived from $2 \times 3 = 6$). Pupils practise to become fluent in the formal written method of short multiplication and short division with exact answers (see Mathematics Appendix 1). Pupils write statements about the equality of expressions (for example, $39 \times 7 = 30 \times 7 + 9 \times 7$ and associative law $(2 \times 3) \times 4 = 2 \times (3 \times 4)$). They combine their knowledge of number facts and rules of arithmetic to solve mental and written calculations for example, $2 \times 6 \times 5 = 10 \times 6 = 60$. Pupils solve two-step problems in contexts, choosing the appropriate operation, working with increasingly harder numbers. This should include correspondence questions such as the numbers of choices of a meal on a menu, or three cakes shared equally between 10 children.	Fractions (including decimals) Pupils should connect hundredths to tenths and place value and decimal measure. They extend the use of the number line to connect fractions, numbers and measures. Pupils understand the relation between non-unit fractions and multiplication and division of quantities, with particular emphasis on tenths and hundredths Pupils make connections between fractions of a length, of a shape and as a representation of one whole or set of quantities. Pupils use factors and multiples to recognise equivalent fractions and simplify where appropriate (for example, $\frac{6}{9} = \frac{2}{3}$ or $\frac{1}{4} = \frac{2}{8}$). Pupils continue to practice adding and subtracting fractions with the same denominator, to become fluent through a variety of increasingly complex problems beyond one whole. Pupils are taught throughout that decimals and fractions are different ways of expressing numbers and proportions. Pupils' understanding of the number system and decimal place value is extended at this stage to tenths and then hundredths. This includes relating the decimal notation to division of whole number by 10 and later 100. They practise counting using simple fractions and decimal fractions, both forwards and backwards. Pupils learn decimal notation and the language associated with it, including in the context of measurements. They make comparisons and order decimal amounts and quantities that are expressed to the same number of decimal places. They should be able to represent numbers with one or two decimal places in several ways, such as on number lines.	Measurement Pupils build on their understanding of place value and decimal notation to record metric measures, including money. They use multiplication to convert from larger to smaller units. Perimeter can be expressed algebraically as $2(a + b)$ where a and b are the dimensions in the same unit. They relate area to arrays and multiplication.	Geometry: properties of shapes Pupils continue to classify shapes using geometrical properties, extending to classifying different triangles (for example, isosceles, equilateral, scalene) and quadrilaterals (for example, parallelogram, rhombus, trapezium). Pupils compare and order angles in preparation for using a protractor and compare lengths and angles to decide if a polygon is regular or irregular. Pupils draw symmetric patterns using a variety of media to become familiar with different orientations of lines of symmetry; and recognise line symmetry in a variety of diagrams, including where the line of symmetry does not dissect the original shape.	Geometry: position, and direction Pupils draw a pair of axes in one quadrant, with equal scales and integer labels. They read, write and use pairs of coordinates, for example (2, 5), including using coordinate-plotting ICT tools.	Statistics Pupils understand and use a greater range of scales in their representations. Pupils begin to relate the graphical representation of data to recording change over time.
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