Maths in Year 3 & 4

Our aim is for every child to see themselves as a capable mathematician — confident, resilient, and ready to use maths in everyday life.

As children move into Lower Key Stage 2, they build on the strong foundations of Key Stage 1 and begin to think more deeply about how and why maths works. Across Years 3 and 4, pupils develop confidence working with larger numbers, learn more formal written methods, and begin to apply their knowledge to real-life situations.
They start to reason about number patterns, make connections between mathematical ideas, and explain their thinking clearly. Fluency, reasoning, and problem-solving sit at the heart of all maths learning, helping children to become curious, flexible, and independent learners.
Times tables are a key focus across both years, supporting later understanding of fractions, division, and algebra. By the end of Year 4, children are expected to recall all multiplication and division facts up to 12×12 quickly and accurately, preparing them for the more complex work of Upper Key Stage 2.

Number – Place Value

Year 3	Year 4
• Read, write, and order numbers up to 1,000. • Recognise the value of each digit in a 3-digit number. • Count in 4s, 8s, 50s, and 100s. • Find 10 or 100 more or less than a given number. • Compare, estimate, and round numbers to the nearest 10 or 100.	• Count in multiples of 6, 7, 9, 25, and 1,000. • Recognise and use numbers beyond 1,000. • Round numbers to the nearest 10, 100, or 1,000. • Understand Roman numerals to 100 (C).

Number - Addition and Subtraction

• Add and subtract numbers mentally and using formal written methods. • Solve problems, including missing number and two-step word problems. • Estimate answers and use inverse operations to check	• Add and subtract up to 4-digit numbers using formal written methods. • Estimate answers and check using the inverse. • Solve multi-step word problems.

Number - Multiplication and Division

• Recall and use multiplication and division facts for the 3, 4, and 8 times tables. • Write and calculate using arrays and formal methods. • Solve problems involving scaling and simple correspondence.	• Recall all multiplication and division facts to 12×12. • Use place value and known facts to solve larger calculations. • Multiply and divide by 10 and 100. • Solve problems involving factors, multiples, and scaling.

Number - Fractions

• Recognise and use unit and non-unit fractions. • Find fractions of shapes and quantities. • Begin to add and subtract fractions with the same denominator.	• Recognise and show equivalent fractions. • Add and subtract fractions with the same denominator. • Find fractions of amounts. • Understand tenths and hundredths; write decimals with two places.

Measurement

Year 1	Year 2
• Measure, compare, and calculate using standard units (m/cm, kg/g, l/ml). • Add and subtract amounts of money. • Tell and write the time to the nearest minute. • Use digital and analogue clocks (including Roman numerals).	• Convert between different units of measure (e.g., km ⇔ m). • Find area and perimeter of simple shapes. • Read, write, and convert time between analogue and digital clocks.

Geometry - Properties of Shape

• Draw 2D shapes and make 3D shapes using models. • Recognise right angles and identify horizontal and vertical lines.	• Identify acute and obtuse angles. • Classify shapes by properties. • Describe positions on a grid using coordinates.

Geometry - Properties of Shape

• Describe turns (half, quarter), left/right	• Interpret and present data in bar charts, pictograms, and line graphs.

Statistics

• Interpret and present data using bar charts, pictograms, and tables. • Solve problems using data.	• Interpret and construct simple pictograms, tally charts, block diagrams and tables

How can I help my child at home?

Make Maths Part of Daily Life

- Involve your child in cooking, shopping, and measuring activities.
- Estimate and compare prices, weights, or distances — then check together.
- Talk about time during daily routines (e.g., “What time will it be in 15 minutes?”).
- Use money practically — work out change or share amounts fairly.

Keep Maths Positive

- Show that mistakes are part of learning — talk about what can be learned from them.
- Celebrate effort and perseverance, not just correct answers.
- Share how you use maths in daily life — from budgeting to baking — to show its purpose and value.

Build Times Table Confidence

Practise little and often using songs, flashcards, or apps like Hit the Button or Times Table Rock Stars.

- Focus on understanding patterns as well as recall — e.g., “How do you know 6×8 is 48?”
- Encourage quick recall of division facts too (“If 6×8=48, what is 48÷6?”).

Play Games Together

- Play board or card games that involve strategy and number work (e.g., Monopoly, Yahtzee, or Sum Swamp).
- Use dice or playing cards to practise mental addition, subtraction, or multiplication.
- Try online puzzles and logic games to build problem-solving and reasoning skills.