

Year 6 Maths Newsletter



Spring Term – Fractions Focus Edition

Hello!

We've had a fantastic half term in Year 6 Maths. One of our key focus's has been fractions—one of the most important areas of the Year 6 curriculum and a big part of preparing for SATs. The children have shown brilliant determination, confidence and teamwork as they've explored increasingly complex skills.

Here's a look at what we've been up to...

Simplifying Fractions

We started the half term by revisiting equivalent fractions and learning how to simplify using the greatest common factor.

Children can now simplify fractions such as:

$$\frac{12}{18} = \frac{2}{3}$$
$$\frac{45}{60} = \frac{3}{4}$$

Comparing & Ordering Fractions

We explored different strategies including:

- Finding **common denominators**
- Converting fractions to **decimals**
- Using **visual models** (fraction walls, bar models)

This has really helped pupils explain and justify their thinking.

Adding & Subtracting Fractions

The class practised working with **both like and unlike denominators** and solved multi-step problems.

Example:

$$\frac{3}{4} + \frac{2}{3} = \frac{17}{12} = 1\frac{5}{12}$$

Multiplying Fractions

We used the rule:

Multiply the numerator, multiply the denominator and then simplify if needed.

$$\frac{2}{5} \times \frac{3}{4} = \frac{6}{20} = \frac{3}{10}$$

Dividing Fractions (Keep-Change-Flip!)

Here's what we did:

Keep the first fraction – Change the division to multiplication – Flip the second fraction or put a hat on the whole number

$$\frac{3}{8} \div \frac{2}{5} = \frac{3}{8} \times \frac{5}{2} = \frac{15}{16}$$

Fractions, Decimals & Percentages

We have also been making connections between all three representations.

For example:

$$\frac{1}{4} = 0.25 = 25\%$$
$$\frac{3}{5} = 0.6 = 60\%$$

This foundation will support pupils' confidence as we move into SATs revision next half term.

Key Vocabulary This Half Term

- Numerator
- Denominator
- Equivalent
- Improper fraction
- Mixed number
- Common denominator
- Simplify
- Percentage

Try quizzing your child on these at home!

How You Can Support at Home

Here are some simple ways to strengthen fraction understanding:

✓ Use real-life examples

Cutting pizza or cake, measuring ingredients, or sharing snacks are brilliant opportunities to discuss fractions.

✓ Practise quick recall

Ask your child questions like:

"What's half of 12?"

"What's a quarter as a decimal?"

"Is $\frac{3}{8}$ bigger than $\frac{1}{4}$?"

✓ Encourage drawing

Bar models or number lines help children visualise what's happening in a calculation.

✓ Talk through mistakes

Fractions are tricky! Thinking aloud helps children understand their own process.

Try these at home!

1. True or false:

$$\frac{6}{9} = \frac{14}{21}$$

2. Add:

$$\frac{7}{8} + \frac{1}{6}$$

3. Subtract:

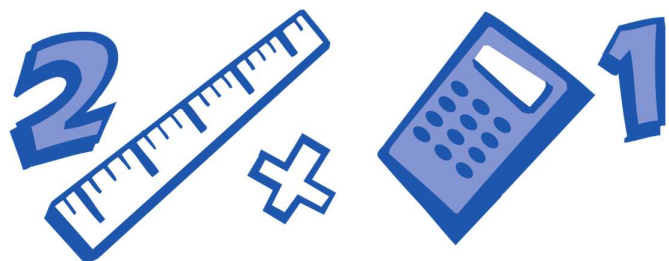
$$\frac{5}{6} - \frac{2}{9}$$

4. Multiply:

$$\frac{3}{10} \times \frac{5}{12}$$

5. Convert to a mixed number:

$$\frac{41}{6}$$



Useful Websites for Extra Practice

BBC Bitesize – Fractions (KS2)

Videos, quizzes and clear explanations.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zhdwxnb>

MathsFrame – Fractions Tools & Games

Great for practising comparing, simplifying, and equivalent fractions.

<https://mathsframe.co.uk/en/resources/category/22/fractions>

Topmarks – Fractions Games

Fun, child-friendly games like *Fraction Matcher* and *Pizza Fractions*.

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/7-11-years/fractions-and-decimals>

Khan Academy – Fractions Practice

Step-by-step guides and practice questions.

<https://www.khanacademy.org/math/arithmetic/fraction-arithmetic>

Maths Playground – Visual Fraction Models

Ideal for children who learn best through pictures and manipulatives.

https://www.mathplayground.com/index_fractions.html

Next Half Term

We will be focusing on:

- Percentages
- Ratio & proportion
- SATs problem-solving skills
- Reasoning strategies

It's going to be a busy but exciting half term!