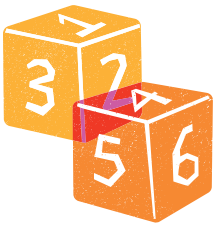
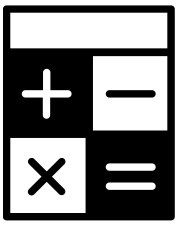
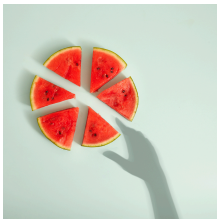
Maths Expectations

What will I learn in year 3?

Place Value	Calculations	Fractions	Shape and Measures	Time
				

What will I do?

Year 3 Maths: What Your Child Will Learn

In Year 3, children build on the foundations laid in earlier years, developing a deeper understanding of numbers, calculations, and problem-solving. They begin to work confidently with numbers up to 1,000, learning to count in steps of 4, 8, 50 and 100. They'll become more secure in understanding the value of each digit in a three-digit number – for example, recognising that the 3 in 326 means 300.

Children will practise both mental and written methods for adding and subtracting, including working with three-digit numbers. They'll learn to estimate answers and check their calculations using the inverse operation (like checking a subtraction with an addition), and they'll apply these skills to solve more complex word problems that may require more than one step.

In multiplication and division, the focus turns to mastering the 3, 4, and 8 times tables, while continuing to use their knowledge of the 2, 5 and 10 tables from previous years. Children will explore how multiplication can be done in any order, while division cannot, and use this understanding to solve real-world problems.

Fractions become more important in Year 3. Children will learn to count in tenths and understand that tenths arise from dividing objects or numbers into ten equal parts. They'll explore equivalent fractions (like recognising that one-half is the same as two-quarters), and begin to add and subtract simple fractions with the same denominator.

Measurement also plays a key role this year. Children will use standard units to measure and compare length, mass (weight), and capacity. They'll develop their ability to tell the time to the nearest minute, using both 12-hour and 24-hour clocks, and solve problems involving time, including finding how long events last. Money work continues as they calculate totals and change in real-life contexts.

In geometry, children will explore a wider range of 2D and 3D shapes, describing their properties and recognising them in different positions. They'll begin learning about angles, including identifying right angles and comparing other angles to a right angle. Vocabulary such as horizontal, vertical, parallel, and perpendicular will be introduced to help describe lines and shapes more precisely.

Finally, children will work with data by interpreting and presenting information using tables, pictograms, and bar charts. They'll answer questions based on this data, helping them to see how maths is used to understand the world around them.

How can you help?

You play a vital role in helping your child grow in confidence and enjoyment with maths. There are many simple and fun ways you can support their learning at home – no special equipment needed!

Make Maths Part of Daily Life
Involve your child in real-life maths activities like measuring ingredients when cooking, telling the time during the day, or working out how long until bedtime. These everyday moments help them apply classroom learning in a meaningful way.

Practise Times Tables Regularly
Help your child master the 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, and 10 times tables through short, daily practice. Use fun tools like times table songs, games, or flashcards—or ask quick-fire questions on the go (e.g. in the car or while walking to school).

Play Games That Use Numbers
Board games like Monopoly, Snakes and Ladders, or Uno are great for reinforcing number skills, counting, and turn-taking. Apps or online games with a maths focus can also be helpful (many are free and curriculum-linked).

Use Money in Real-Life Situations
Give your child chances to handle real coins and notes. Let them help pay at the shop, work out totals, and calculate change. This builds confidence with money and links maths to real experiences.

Encourage Estimating and Checking
Get your child to estimate measurements (like the height of a table or the weight of fruit) and then check with a ruler or scales. This boosts their measuring skills and understanding of units.

Talk About Shape and Space
When out and about, point out different shapes and discuss their features—such as how many sides or corners they have, or whether lines are parallel or perpendicular. Try spotting right angles in everyday objects around the house.

Be Positive About Maths
Model a positive attitude by showing that maths is useful and enjoyable. Praise effort over right answers and encourage your child to explain how they solved a problem—it helps deepen their understanding.

Most importantly, keep it positive! Let your child see that making mistakes is part of learning and that maths can be fun, useful, and all around us.Thank you for being such an important part of your child's learning journey.

Mrs Hopkins, Maths Coordinator