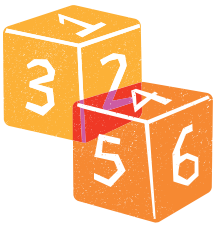
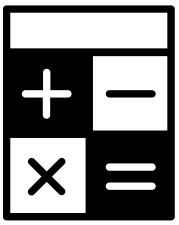
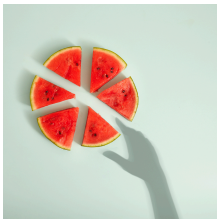
Maths Expectations

What will I learn in year 6?

Place Value	Calculations	Fractions	Shape and Measures	Time
				

What will I do?

In Year 6, your child will consolidate everything they've learned in primary maths while being introduced to more advanced concepts that prepare them for secondary school. They'll be encouraged to think flexibly, work accurately, and explain their reasoning clearly, especially when tackling more complex, multi-step problems.

Children will work confidently with numbers up to 10 million, including reading, writing, comparing, and rounding them. They'll learn to understand the value of each digit in large numbers and use this knowledge to solve real-life problems. They'll also explore negative numbers in context, such as temperature changes or money.

In calculation, children will use formal written methods for all four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division), applying them to increasingly tricky problems. They'll learn to use estimation and inverse operations to check their answers, and they'll be expected to choose the most efficient strategy for solving a problem—not just follow a set method.

Fractions, decimals, and percentages are a major focus in Year 6. Children will add, subtract, multiply and divide fractions, often involving different denominators or mixed numbers. They'll deepen their understanding of how fractions, decimals, and percentages link together and will solve problems involving converting between them.

Ratio and proportion is introduced in Year 6. Children will explore how quantities can be scaled up or down and will solve problems involving recipes, maps, and patterns. They'll also begin to use algebra in a simple, practical way—such as using symbols or letters to represent unknown values and solving simple equations.

In measurement, children will convert between different units (including imperial and metric), calculate area and perimeter, and begin working with volume. They'll solve problems involving time, money, and measures, often within real-life contexts.

In geometry, children will learn to draw and measure angles accurately, use angle facts to find missing angles, and describe the properties of shapes in detail. They'll also work with coordinates across all four quadrants and learn how to translate and reflect shapes on a grid.

Finally, in statistics, your child will interpret and construct pie charts and line graphs, and calculate the mean (average) of a set of numbers.

By the end of Year 6, children will be expected to apply their maths knowledge confidently, both in tests (such as the end-of-year SATs) and in real-life contexts. They'll be encouraged to explain their thinking, check their answers carefully, and approach problems with perseverance and flexibility—skills that will set them up well for secondary school maths.

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!

Keep Skills Sharp with Regular Practice
Year 6 covers a wide range of topics, so revisiting key areas regularly—like fractions, long division, or percentages—helps keep everything fresh. Little and often is best: 10–15 minutes a few times a week is more effective than cramming.

Support Times Table Fluency
Even in Year 6, quick recall of times tables (up to 12 × 12) is essential for success in more complex areas like fractions, algebra, and division. Use apps, flashcards, or quick-fire quizzes to keep fluency strong—it really makes a difference.

Encourage Real-Life Maths Thinking
Get your child involved in activities like measuring ingredients, working out discounts, converting units in recipes, or comparing prices. These everyday tasks bring maths to life and help build confidence in practical problem-solving.

Support Your Child with Their Maths Homework
Homework in Year 6 often reinforces classroom learning and helps prepare for more independent study. Create a quiet, distraction-free space where your child can focus. Encourage them to have a go, and if they get stuck, talk through the problem rather than giving the answer. Helping them explain their thinking builds understanding and confidence. Most importantly, show that you value their effort and progress—not just getting it "right."

Talk Through Problem-Solving Together
When your child finds a question tricky, resist jumping in with the answer. Instead, ask them to explain what they understand so far, or suggest drawing a diagram or breaking the problem into smaller steps. Talking through thinking builds independence and confidence.

Make Time for Games That Build Reasoning
Board games and puzzles like Chess, Countdown, Sudoku, or strategy apps all help with logical thinking, planning ahead, and applying number knowledge—great preparation for more abstract maths in secondary school.

Celebrate Effort and a Positive Attitude
Year 6 maths can feel challenging at times, so it's important to celebrate persistence and progress. Reassure your child that it's okay to make mistakes—that's part of learning. Encourage them to keep trying, ask questions, and be proud of what they've achieved.

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