Year 6 - Summer Term - Maths Focus Areas

Each term, we have identified three areas which are a key focus to children being ready to progress in maths in the next term. In order for children to fully embed this knowledge, we recommend little and often practice. Little and often at home and at school will help your child become fluent in these milestones and focus areas.

Composition of number focus area

Algebra and equations

We will be focussing on algebra and forming equations. Children will earn about algebra and how a number can be represented in different forms.
For example: 2n = 10 - they would learn how 2 x n and 2n are the same as it is n, two times, but we would not need the multiplication symbol.

We will focus on finding missing values. This will include carrying out inverse operations to find a missing number or working systematically to find pairs of numbers. For example:

2n + 5 = 25 (we would subtract 10 and divide this by 2 to find 'n') and 2n + y = 18 (Children would work systematically to find different possible answers (e.g. n= 3 and y = 12)

Multiplicative thinking focus area

Ratio and finding unknowns

Children will learn about ratio and how to solve problems using ratio. The types of problems come in many forms, so it is important that children learn to equate ratio with equivalent fraction and percentages. If they see ratio in this way it helps to find unknowns. They would learn it through the language of 'for every'

For example: For every 2 apples I eat, my friend eats 3 apples. They would see this as the ratio 2:3.

It is important children then equate that to each 'block' would be 5 apples. I eat ⅖ (or 40%) and my friend eats ⅗ or (60%).

When children understand this, they can work out questions such as:
If I ate 6 apples. How much would my friend eat? 2:3 = 6 : ? (this has been multiplied by 3 so the answer would be 9)

To deepen understanding, children will learn how to find the ratio when you know the whole amount or to find two unknown values.
For example:
There are 100 sweets in a bag. For every 4 sweets I ate, my friend ate 1 sweet. If we ate them all. How many did we have each? Ratio 4:1 = 5 sweets each time. Divide 100 by 5 and this would mean 80 : 20

Other focus area

Convert between KM and Miles
Children will learn the formula for converting between KM and miles and will look at this through ratio. They will learn that 8 miles is equivalent to 5 km.
They will learn that to convert between they need to divide by 8 and multiply by 5 (see ratio above).
For example 88km in miles. Children would divide by 8 to get 11 and multiply by 5 to get 55 miles.
They will also learn the ratio 1km is equivalent to 1.6 miles. Again, using this ratio they will be able to solve problems such as: 10 miles = divide by 10 and multiply by 1.6 to get 16 km

These areas will form part of your child's shared learning weekly. Please can you keep an additional focus on these areas where possible.