

Supporting Maths at Home: A Guide for Year 4 Parents

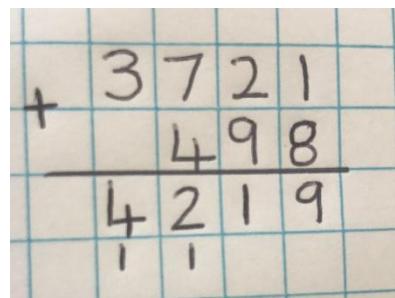
Wincham Community Primary School

In Year 4, maths becomes more formal as children prepare for the end-of-year Multiplication Tables Check (MTC). We move into 4-digit numbers (thousands) and start to use standard written methods for multiplication and division. We also begin to work with decimals and hundredths.

Here is how you can help your child master the Year 4 curriculum at home.

1. Addition and Subtraction: 4-Digit Numbers

What we do in school: We use the Column Method for numbers up to 10,000. Children practice "exchanging" across multiple columns (e.g., 1,000 - 345 requires exchanging from the thousands all the way down to the ones).



A handwritten column addition on lined paper. The problem is $3721 + 498$. The answer is 4219 . The '1' in the tens column is underlined, and there are '1' and '1' written below the '1' in the tens column and the '9' in the hundreds column respectively, indicating the exchange of 10 units from the thousands column into the hundreds column.

How to help at home:

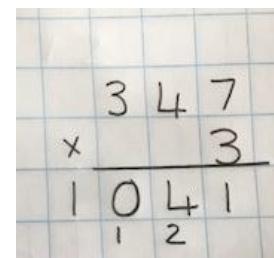
- **Mileage Tracker:** Note the mileage on the car at the start and end of a trip. Ask: "How many miles have we travelled?" This is a great real-life subtraction problem.
- **The "Reasonable" Guess:** Before solving a calculation like $2,450 + 1,290$, ask: "Will the answer be more or less than 3,000? Why?" This builds **estimation** skills.

2. Multiplication: The Big Year for Tables

What we do in school: By the end of Year 4, children are expected to know all times tables up to 12 times 12 with instant recall. We also introduce Short Multiplication (multiplying 3-digit numbers by a 1-digit number).

How to help at home:

- **The MTC Warm-up:** Use "Hit the Button" or "Times Tables Rock Stars" for 5 minutes a day. Focus on the 6, 7, 9, 11, and 12s, as these are often the trickiest.
- **Area at Home:** "This rug is 3 metres long and 4 metres wide. What is the area?" ($3 \times 4 = 12$ square metres).
- **Factor Hunting:** Give them a number, like 24. How many ways can they make it? (1 times 24, 2 times 12, 3 times 8, 4 times 6).



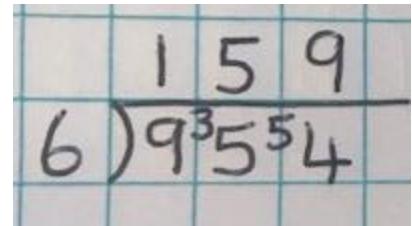
A handwritten short multiplication on lined paper. The problem is 347×3 . The answer is 1041 . The '1' in the tens column is underlined, and there is a '1' written below the '4' in the tens column, indicating the exchange of 10 tens into the hundreds column.

3. Division: The "Bus Stop" Method

What we do in school: We use Short Division (often called the bus stop method). We practice dividing 3-digit numbers by 1-digit numbers, including calculations that have remainders.

How to help at home:

- **The Remainder Challenge:** "I have 25 biscuits and 4 people. How many do we each get and how many are left for the dog?" (25 divided by 4 = 6 r1).
- **Scaling Down:** If a pack of 6 yogurts costs £1.20, how much is one yogurt? (120 divided by 6 = 20p).



A handwritten short division calculation on lined paper. The divisor is 6, the dividend is 9554, and the quotient is 159 with a remainder of 4. The calculation is set up with the divisor 6 to the left of the dividend 9554, and the quotient 159 above the dividend. A horizontal line separates the quotient from the remainder. The remainder 4 is written below the 4 in 159.

4. Fractions and Decimals

What we do in school: We learn about "Equivalent Fractions" (fractions that look different but have the same value). We also introduce tenths and hundredths as decimals.

How to help at home:

- **Decimal Money:** Show them prices like £4.59. Ask: "How many tenths are there? (5) How many hundredths? (9)."
- **Measuring in mm:** Use a ruler to measure things in centimetres and millimetres. "This pencil is 12.5cm long."
- **Fraction Walls:** Use LEGO bricks to show that two 4-stud bricks are the same length as one 8-stud brick.

Key Vocabulary for Year 4:

- **Factor:** A number that divides into another number exactly (e.g., 5 is a factor of 20).
- **Product:** The result of multiplying two numbers together.
- **Equivalent:** Having the same value.
- **Hundredth:** One part of a whole that has been split into 100 equal pieces (0.01).

Quick "Year 4" Everyday Maths

- **The 24-Hour Clock:** Practice converting between 12-hour and 24-hour time. "The digital clock says 15:30. What time is that in the afternoon?"
- **Coordinates:** Play 'Battleships' to practice reading coordinates (Along the corridor and up the stairs!).
- **Rounding:** At the shops, round prices to the nearest pound to keep a running total in your head.