St Peter's RC Primary School

Written Calculation Policy for Mathematics

Multiplication and Division

April 2026

"Unlocking potential with the keys of love, respect and friendship".

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Progression Towards a Written Method for Multiplication

In developing a written method for multiplication, it is important that children understand the concept of multiplication, in that it is:

- repeated addition

They should also be familiar with the fact that it can be represented as an array

They also need to understand and work with certain principles, i.e. that it is:

- the inverse of division
- commutative i.e. 5 x 3 is the same as 3 x 5
- associative i.e. 2 x 3 x 5 is the same as 2 x (3 x 5)

YR

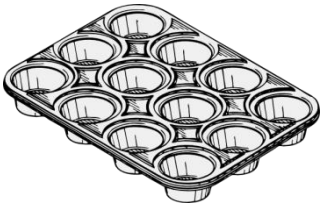
Early Learning Goal:

Children solve problems, including doubling.

Children are encouraged to develop a mental picture of the number system in their heads to use for calculation. They should experience practical calculation opportunities using a wide variety of equipment, including small world play, role play, counters, cubes etc.

Children may also investigate putting items into resources such as egg boxes, ice cube trays and baking tins which are arrays.





They may develop ways of recording calculations using pictures, etc.



A child's jotting showing the fingers on each hand as a double.

A child's jotting showing double three as three cookies on each plate.



Y1

End of Year Objective:

Solve one-step problems involving multiplication by calculating the answer using

In year one, children will continue to solve multiplication problems using practical equipment and jottings. They may use the equipment to make groups of objects. Children should see everyday versions of arrays, e.g. egg boxes, baking trays, ice cube trays, wrapping paper etc and use this in their learning, answering questions such as 'How many eggs would we need to fill the egg box? How do you know?'

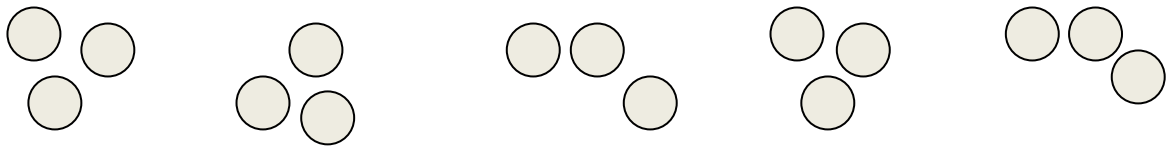
Y2

End of Year Objective:

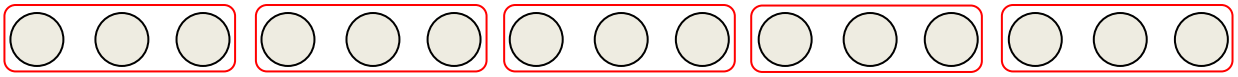
Calculate mathematical statements for multiplication *(using repeated addition)* and write them using the multiplication (x) and equals (=) signs.

Children should understand and be able to calculate multiplication as repeated addition, supported by the use of practical apparatus such as counters or cubes. e.g.

5 x 3 can be shown as five groups of three with counters, either grouped in a random pattern, as below:

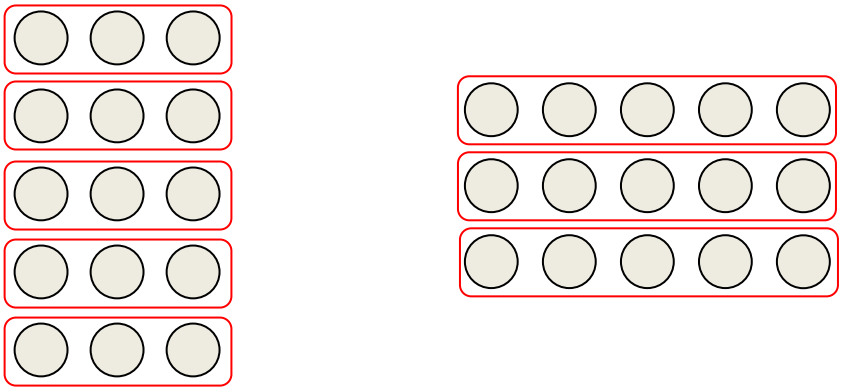


or in a more ordered pattern, with the groups of three indicated by the border outline:



Children should then develop this knowledge to show how multiplication calculations can be represented by an array, (this knowledge will support with the development of the grid method in the future). Again, children should be encouraged to use practical apparatus and jottings to support their understanding, e.g.

5 x 3* can be represented as an array in two forms (as it has commutativity):



5 + 5 + 5 = 15

3 + 3 + 3 + 3 + 3 = 15

*For mathematical accuracy 5 x 3 is represented by the second example above, rather than the first as it is five, three times. However, because we use terms such as 'groups of' or 'lots of', children are more familiar with the initial notation. Once children understand the commutative order of multiplication the order is irrelevant).

Y3

End of Year Objective:

Write and calculate mathematical statements for multiplication using the multiplication tables that they know, including for two-digit numbers times one-digit numbers, progressing to formal written methods.*

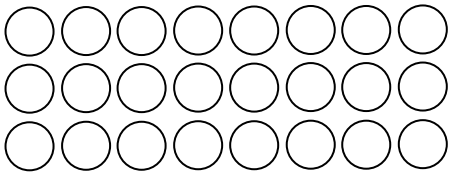
**Although the objective suggests that children should be using formal written methods, the National Curriculum document states "The programmes of study for mathematics are set out year-by-year for key stages 1 and 2. Schools are, however, only required to teach the relevant programme of study by the end of the key stage. Within each key stage, schools therefore have the flexibility to introduce content earlier or later than set out in the programme of study." p4*

It is more beneficial for children's understanding to go through the expanded methods of calculation as steps of development towards a formal written method.

Initially, children will continue to use arrays where appropriate linked to the multiplication tables that they know (2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 10), e.g.

3 x 8

They may show this using practical equipment:



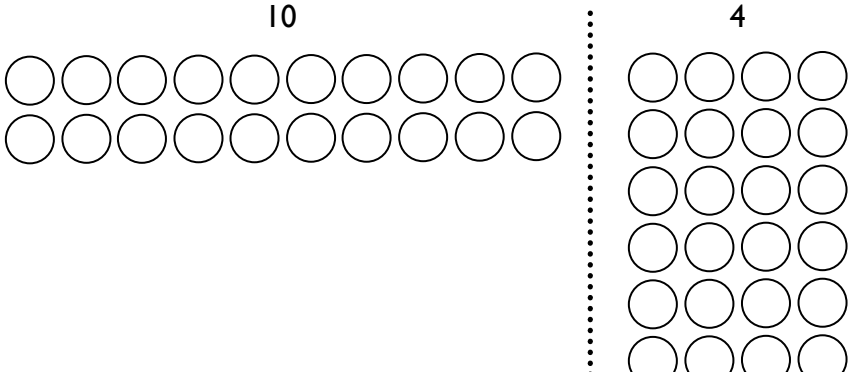
3 x 8 = 8 + 8 + 8 = 24

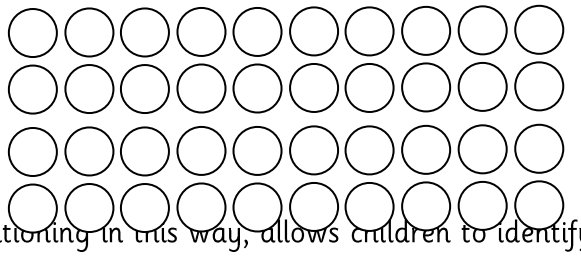
or by jottings using squared paper:

	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	

3 x 8 = 8 + 8 + 8 = 24

As they progress to multiplying a two-digit number by a single digit number, children should use their knowledge of partitioning two digit numbers into tens and units/ones to help them. For example, when calculating 14 x 6, children should set out the array, then partition the array so that one array has ten columns and the other four.





Partitioning in this way, allows children to identify that the first array shows 10 x 6 and the second array shows 4 x 6. These can then be added to calculate the answer:

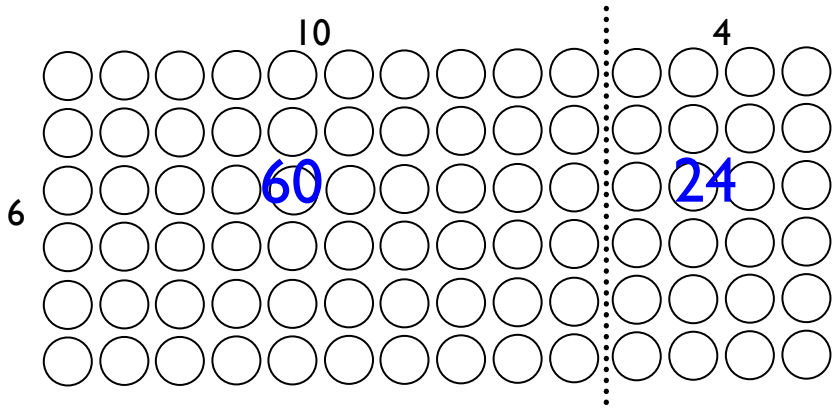
(6 x 10) + (6 x 4)

= 60 + 24

= 84

NB There is no requirement for children to record in this way, but it could be used as a jotting to support development if needed.

This method is the precursor step to the grid method. Using a two-digit by single digit array, they can partition as above, identifying the number of rows and the number of columns each side of the partition line.



By placing a box around the array, as in the example below, and by removing the array, the grid method can be seen.

x	10	4
6	60	24

It is really important that children are confident with representing multiplication statements as arrays and understand the rows and columns structure before they develop the written method of recording.

From this, children can use the grid method to calculate two-digit by one-digit multiplication calculations, initially with two digit numbers less than 20. Children should be encouraged to set out their addition in a column at the side to ensure the place value is maintained. When children are working with numbers where they can confidently and correctly calculate the addition mentally, they may do so.

13 x 8

x	10	3
8	80	24

$$\begin{array}{r} 80 \\ +\ 24 \\ \hline 104 \end{array}$$

When children are ready, they can then progress to using this method with other two-digit numbers.

37 x 6

x	30	7
6	180	42

$$\begin{array}{r} 180 \\ +\ 42 \\ \hline 222 \end{array}$$

Children should also be using this method to solve problems and multiply numbers in the context of money or measures.

Y4

End of Year Objective:

Multiply two-digit and three-digit numbers by a one-digit number using formal written layout

Children will move to Y4 using whichever method they were using as they transitioned from Y3. They will further develop their knowledge of the grid method to multiply any two-digit by any single-digit number, e.g.

79 x 8

x	70	9
8	560	72

$$\begin{array}{r} 560 \\ +\ 72 \\ \hline 632 \end{array}$$

To support the grid method, children should develop their understanding of place value and facts that are linked to their knowledge of tables. For example, in the calculation above, children should use their knowledge that 7 x 8 = 56 to know that 70 x 8 = 560.

By the end of the year, they will extend their use of the grid method to be able to multiply three-digit numbers by a single digit number, e.g.

346 x 8

x	300	40	6
8	2400	320	48

$$\begin{array}{rr} & 2400 \\ + & 320 \\ + & 48 \\ \hline & 2768 \end{array}$$

When children are working with numbers where they can confidently and correctly calculate the addition (or parts of the addition) mentally, they may do so.

Children should also be using this method to solve problems and multiply numbers in the context of money or measures.

Y5

End of Year Objective:

Multiply numbers up to 4 digits by a one- or two-digit number using a formal written method, including long multiplication for two-digit numbers

Children should continue to use the grid method and extend it to multiplying numbers with up to four digits by a single digit number, e.g.

4346 x 8

x	4 000	300	40	6
8	32 000	2400	320	48

32000
+ 2400
+ 320
+ 48
34768

and numbers with up to four digits by a two-digit number, e.g.

2693 x 24

x	2000	600	90	3
20	40000	12000	1800	60
4	8000	2400	360	12

40000
+ 8000
+ 12000
+ 2400
+ 1800
+ 360
+ 60
+ 12
64632

When children are working with numbers where they can confidently and correctly calculate the addition (or parts of the addition) mentally, they may do so.

Children should also be using this method to solve problems and multiply numbers in the context of money or measures.

Y6

End of Year Objective:

Multiply multi-digit numbers up to 4 digits by a two-digit whole number using the formal written method of long multiplication.

By the end of Y6, children should be able to use the grid method to multiply any number by a two-digit number. They should also develop the method to be able to multiply decimal numbers with up to two decimal places, e.g.

4.92 x 3

x	4	0.9	0.02
3	12	2.7	0.06

$$\begin{array}{rr} & 12 \\ + & 2.7 \\ + & 0.06 \\ \hline & 14.76 \end{array}$$

When children are working with numbers where they can confidently and correctly calculate the addition (or parts of the addition) mentally, they may do so.

Children should also be using this method to solve problems and multiply numbers, including those with decimals, in the context of money or measures, e.g. to calculate the cost of 7 items at £8.63 each, or the total length of six pieces of ribbon of 2.28m each.

Progression Towards a Written Method for Division

In developing a written method for division, it is important that children understand the concept of division, in that it is:

- repeated subtraction
- sharing into equal amounts

They also need to understand and work with certain principles, i.e. that it is:

- the inverse of multiplication
- not commutative i.e. 15 ÷3 is not the same as 3 ÷ 15
- not associative i.e. 30 ÷ (5 ÷ 2) is not the same as (30 ÷ 5) ÷ 2

YR

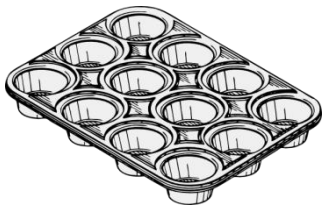
Early Learning Goal:

Children solve problems, including halving and sharing.

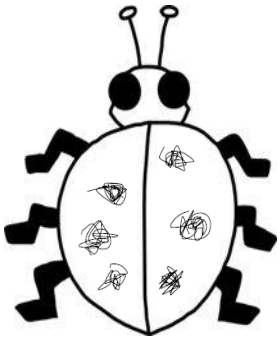
Children are encouraged to develop a mental picture of the number system in their heads to use for calculation. They should experience practical calculation opportunities using a wide variety of equipment, including small world play, role play, counters, cubes etc.

Children may also investigate sharing items or putting items into groups using items such as egg boxes, ice cube trays and baking tins which are arrays.





They may develop ways of recording calculations using pictures, etc.



A child's jotting showing halving six spots between two sides of a ladybird.



A child's jotting showing how they shared the apples at snack time between two groups.

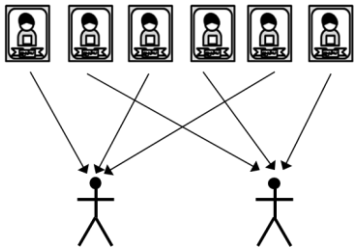


Y1

End of Year Objective:

Solve one-step problems involving division by calculating the answer using concrete

In year one, children will continue to solve division problems using practical equipment and jottings. They should use the equipment to share objects and separate them into groups, answering questions such as 'If we share these six apples between the three of you, how many will you each have? How do you know?' or 'If six football stickers are shared between two people, how many do they each get?' They may solve both of these types of question by using a 'one for you, one for me' strategy until all of the objects have been given out.



Children should be introduced to the concept of simple remainders in their calculations at this practical stage, being able to identify that the groups are not equal and should refer to the remainder as '… left over'.

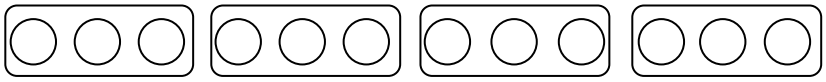
Y2

End of Year Objective:

Calculate mathematical statements for division within the multiplication tables and write them using the division (÷) and equals (=) signs.

Children will utilise practical equipment to represent division calculations as grouping (repeated subtraction) and use jottings to support their calculation, e.g.

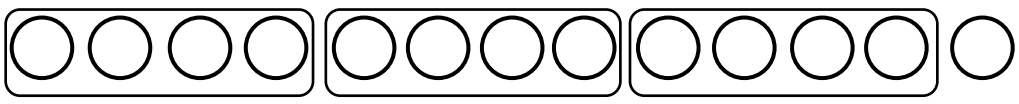
12 ÷ 3 =



Children need to understand that this calculation reads as 'How many groups of 3 are there in 12?'

They should also continue to develop their knowledge of division with remainders, e.g.

13 ÷ 4 =



13 ÷ 4 = 3 remainder 1

Children need to be able to make decisions about what to do with remainders after division and round up or down accordingly. In the calculation 13 ÷ 4, the answer is 3 remainder 1, but whether the answer should be rounded up to 4 or rounded down to 3 depends on the context, as in the examples below:

I have £13. Books are £4 each. How many can I buy?
Answer: 3 (the remaining £1 is not enough to buy another book)

Apples are packed into boxes of 4. There are 13 apples. How many boxes are needed?
Answer: 4 (the remaining 1 apple still needs to be placed into a box)

Y3

End of Year Objective:

Write and calculate mathematical statements for division using the multiplication tables that they know, including for two-digit numbers divided by one-digit numbers, progressing to formal written methods.*

**Although the objective suggests that children should be using formal written methods, the National Curriculum document states "The programmes of study for mathematics are set out year-by-year for key stages 1 and 2. Schools are, however, only required to teach the relevant programme of study by the end of the key stage. Within each key stage, schools therefore have the flexibility to introduce content earlier or later than set out in the programme of study." p4*

It is more beneficial for children's understanding to go through the expanded methods of calculation as steps of development towards a formal written method.

Initially, children will continue to use division by grouping (including those with remainders), where appropriate linked to the multiplication tables that they know (2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 10), e.g.

43 ÷ 8 =



43 ÷ 8 = 5 remainder 3

In preparation for developing the 'chunking' method of division, children should first use the repeated subtraction on a vertical number line alongside the continued use of practical equipment. There are two stages to this:

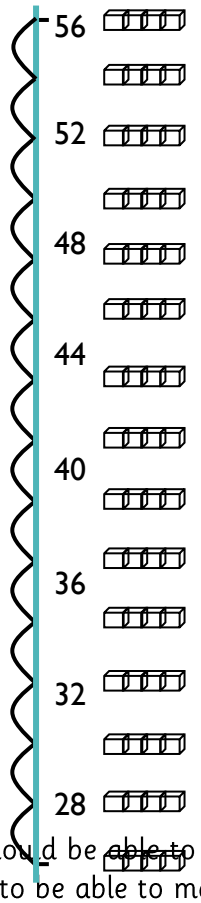
Stage 1 – repeatedly subtracting individual groups of the divisor
Stage 2 – subtracting multiples of the divisor (initially 10 groups and individual groups, then 10 groups
and other multiples in line with tables knowledge)

After each group has been subtracted, children should consider how many are left to enable them to identify the amount remaining on the number line.

Stage 1

56 ÷ 4 = 14 (groups of 4)

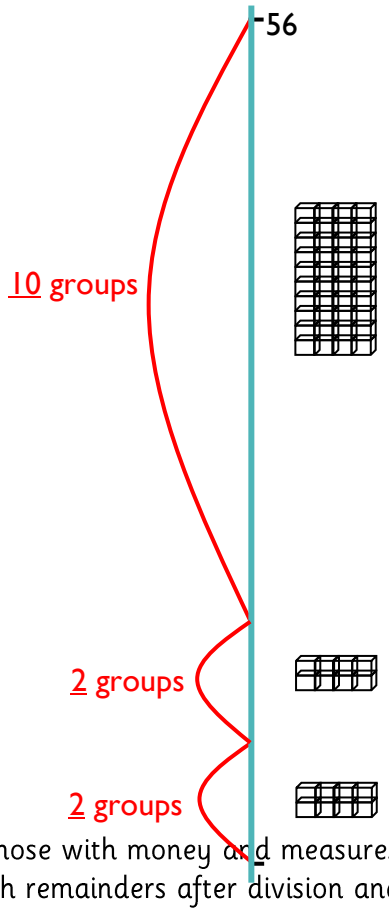
2(groups of 4)



Stage 2

56 ÷ 4 = 10(groups of 4) + 2(groups of 4) +

= 14(groups of 4)



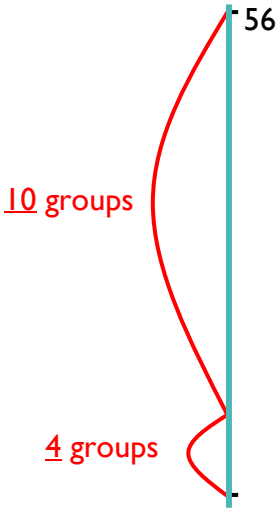
Children should be able to solve real life problems including those with money and measures. They need to be able to make decisions about what to do with remainders after division and round up or down accordingly.

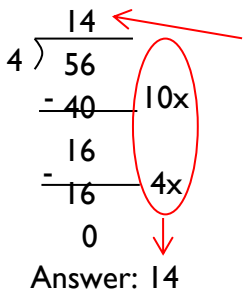
Y4

End of Year Objective:

Divide numbers up to 3 digits by a one-digit number using the formal written method of short division and interpret remainders appropriately for the context.

Children will continue to develop their use of grouping (repeated subtraction) to be able to subtract multiples of the divisor, moving on to the use of the 'chunking' method.



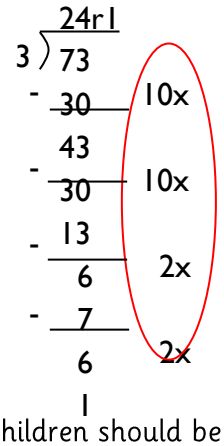


Children should write their answer above the calculation to make it easy for them and the teacher to distinguish.

The number line method used in year 3 can be linked to the chunking method to enable children to make links in their understanding.

When developing their understanding of 'chunking', children should utilise a 'key facts' box, as shown below. This enables an efficient recall of tables facts and will help them in identifying the largest group they can subtract in one chunk. Any remainders should be shown as integers, e.g.

73 ÷ 3

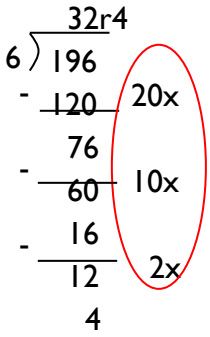


Key facts box

1x	3
2x	6
5x	15
10x	30

By the end of year 4, children should be able to use the chunking method to divide a three digit number by a single digit number. To make this method more efficient, the key facts in the menu box should be extended to include 4x and 20x, e.g.

196 ÷ 6



Key facts box

1x	6
2x	12
4x	24
5x	30
10x	60
20x	120

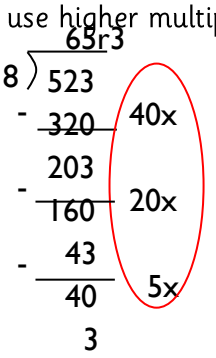
Children should be able to solve real life problems including those with money and measures. They need to be able to make decisions about what to do with remainders after division and round up or down accordingly.

Y5

End of Year Objective:
Divide numbers up to 4 digits by a one-digit number using the formal written method of short division and interpret remainders appropriately for the context.

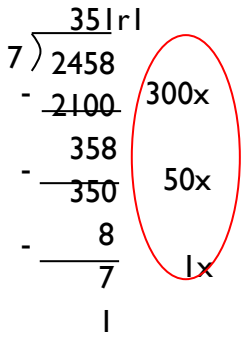
Children may continue to use the key facts box for as long as they find it useful. Using their knowledge of linked tables facts, children should be encouraged to use higher multiples of the divisor. Any remainders should be shown as integers, e.g.

523 ÷ 8



By the end of year 5, children should be able to use the chunking method to divide a four digit number by a single digit number. If children still need to use the key facts box, it can be extended to include 100x.

2458 ÷ 7



Children should be able to solve real life problems including those with money and measures. They need to be able to make decisions about what to do with remainders after division and round up or down accordingly.

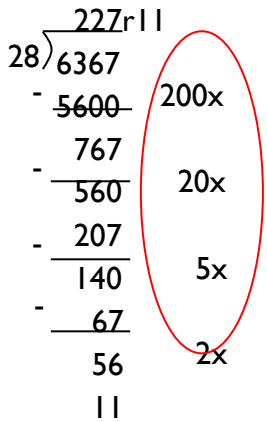
Y6

End of Year Objective:

Divide numbers up to 4 digits by a two-digit number using the formal written method of short division where appropriate, interpreting remainders according to the context.

To develop the chunking method further, it should be extended to include dividing a four-digit number by a two-digit number, e.g.

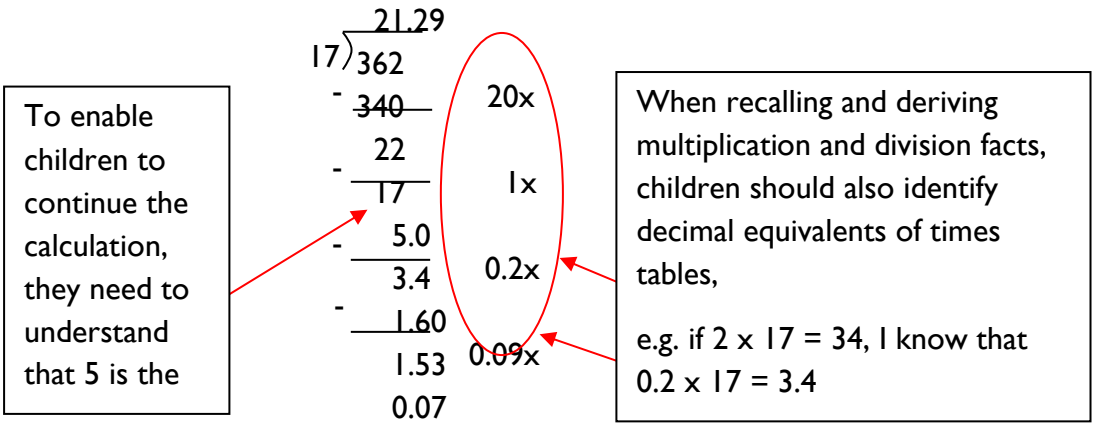
6367 ÷ 28



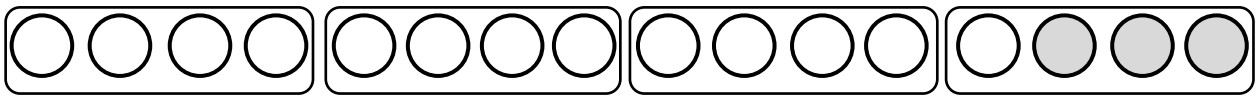
Children should be able to solve real life problems including those with money and measures. They need to be able to make decisions about what to do with remainders after division and round up or down accordingly.

In addition, children should also be able to use the chunking method and solve calculations interpreting the remainder as a decimal up to two decimal places, e.g. 362 ÷ 17

362 ÷ 17

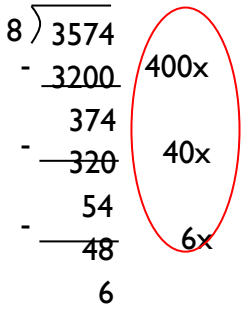


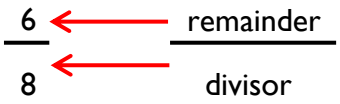
For simple fraction and decimal equivalents, this could also be demonstrated using a simple calculation such as 13 ÷ 4 to show the remainder initially as a fraction.



Using practical equipment, children can see that for 13 ÷ 4, the answer is 3 remainder 1, or put another way, there are three whole groups and a remainder of 1. This remainder is one part towards a full group of 4, so is $\frac{1}{4}$. To show the remainder as a fraction, it becomes the numerator where the denominator is the divisor (the number that you are dividing by in the calculation).

3574 ÷ 8





So 3574 ÷ 8 is $446\frac{6}{8}$

(when the remainder is shown as a fraction)

To show the remainder as a decimal relies upon children's knowledge of decimal fraction equivalents. For decimals with no more than 2 decimal places, they should be able to identify:

Half: $\frac{1}{2} = 0.5$

Quarters: $\frac{1}{4} = 0.25$, $\frac{3}{4} = 0.75$

Fifths: $\frac{1}{5}$ = 0.2, $\frac{2}{5}$ = 0.4, $\frac{3}{5}$ = 0.6, $\frac{4}{5}$ = 0.8
Tenths: $\frac{1}{10}$ = 0.1, $\frac{2}{10}$ = 0.2, $\frac{3}{10}$ = 0.3, $\frac{4}{10}$ = 0.4, $\frac{5}{10}$ = 0.5, $\frac{6}{10}$ = 0.6, $\frac{7}{10}$ = 0.7, $\frac{8}{10}$ = 0.8, $\frac{9}{10}$ = 0.9

and reduce other equivalent fractions to their lowest terms.

In the example above, 3574 ÷ 8, children should be able to identify that the remainder as a fraction of $\frac{6}{8}$ can be written as $\frac{3}{4}$ in its lowest terms. As $\frac{3}{4}$ is equivalent to 0.75, the answer can therefore be written as 446.75