Max’s Market Challenge: Mastering Subtraction

Learning objective: To solve multi-step subtraction problems involving large numbers and decimal currency, developing fluency in formal written methods.

Max the monkey is helping at the local village market. Use your formal column subtraction skills to help him balance the accounts. Show your working out clearly, especially when exchanging across columns.

Max is managing the fruit stall today. He started the morning with a float of £50.00 in his cash tin. Throughout the morning, he sold a crate of apples for £12.75 and a basket of pears for £8.40. However, Max also had to pay the local farmer £15.65 for a fresh delivery of strawberries. To make things trickier, a customer returned a damaged bag of plums, and Max had to refund them £3.25 from his tin.

Word bank: difference · exchange · decimal · remainder · total · calculation · balance · value

1. Calculate the total amount of money Max spent on the strawberry delivery and the plum refund. Show your method. (2 marks)

2. After paying the farmer and giving the refund, how much money remained in Max's tin from his original £50.00 float? (2 marks)

3. If Max had started the day with £75.00 instead of £50.00, explain why the final amount in the tin would be different. Justify your answer using mathematical reasoning. (3 marks)

4. Compare and contrast the process of subtracting decimals to the process of subtracting whole numbers. What specific rule must you follow when aligning the digits? (3 marks)

5. Max finds a coin worth £0.50 on the ground. If he adds this to his remaining balance from Question 2, what is his new total? Write your calculation clearly. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a sketch of Max the monkey standing behind a market stall filled with fruit, showing a small cash box with coins and notes neatly arranged.

Extension challenge: What might happen to Max's final total if he decided to sell the strawberries for £0.25 more per basket than he originally planned? Write a short paragraph explaining the impact of this change on his total profit and how you would calculate the new difference.