Max’s Market Stall: Making Wise Choices

Learning objective: To understand the importance of budgeting, prioritising needs versus wants, and the value of money in a real-world context.

Read the passage carefully, then answer the questions below. Think deeply about how money decisions affect our long-term goals.

Max the monkey decided to organise a community fruit stall to raise money for new library books. He had a strict budget of £20 to purchase his initial stock of apples and pears from the local orchard. Max carefully calculated that if he sold each apple for 30p and each pear for 40p, he could make a profit for the school. However, Max faced a dilemma. He really wanted to spend £5 of his budget on decorative bunting to make his stall look beautiful, but he knew that spending money on decorations would mean having less to spend on buying fruit to sell. Max sat down with his notebook, balancing his potential income against his expenditure. He realised that by choosing to focus on the quality of his fruit rather than expensive decorations, he could maximise his profit. He learned that managing money is not just about the coins in your pocket, but about making sensible choices between what you want right now and what you truly need to achieve your bigger goals.

Word bank: budget · priority · essential · expenditure · saving · value

1. Identify two items Max intended to sell at his stall and state the price of each item. (2 marks) (2 marks)

2. What was the total budget Max had to work with at the beginning of his project? (1 mark) (1 mark)

3. Why did Max decide against buying the decorative bunting? Explain your reasoning using evidence from the text. (2 marks) (2 marks)

4. What does the phrase 'balancing his potential income against his expenditure' suggest about how Max approached his task? (2 marks) (2 marks)

5. Do you agree with Max’s decision to prioritise the fruit over the decorations? Justify your answer by considering the long-term impact on his goal. (3 marks) (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a diagram showing how Max could use a simple table or chart to track his income and expenses for his fruit stall.

Extension challenge: Imagine you are planning a fundraising event for your school. Create a mini-budget plan: list three essential items you need to buy and two 'wants' you could sacrifice to save money. Explain why this trade-off is necessary for your event's success.