Max’s Mental Maths Marathon

Learning objective: To improve mental calculation strategies for addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division, including using order of operations and properties of numbers.

Use your mental maths skills to solve these challenges. Try to find the most efficient method for each calculation. Remember to show your steps if you are stuck!

Word bank: commutative · inverse · order of operations · factor · multiple · mental strategy

1. Max has 450 stickers. He gives 175 to his friends and then buys 80 more. How many stickers does he have now? Explain your mental method. (2 marks)

2. Calculate the following using the order of operations (BIDMAS): 12 + 8 × 3 - 5. (2 marks)

3. If a pack of notebooks costs £2.40, how much would 5 packs cost? Use your knowledge of multiplying by 10 and halving. (2 marks)

4. Solve: 800 ÷ 20. Show how you can simplify this division to make it easier to solve in your head. (2 marks)

5. Find the missing number: 1,200 - ? = 450. (2 marks)

6. Max spends £12.50 on snacks and £7.80 on stationery. He pays with a £25.00 note. How much change should he receive? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max the monkey standing next to a chalkboard filled with clever number equations and shapes.

Extension challenge: Create your own 'Target Number' challenge. Choose a target number (e.g., 100) and write down three different ways to reach it using at least three operations (e.g., + , -, ×, ÷) and brackets.