Max’s Smart Spending Challenge

Learning objective: To understand the difference between needs and wants, and to practise making responsible financial choices within a set budget.

Max the monkey is planning a community picnic for his friends. He has a total budget of £20.00 to spend at the local market. Look at the items in the word bank and their prices below. Your task is to select items to fill Max's basket. You must prioritise 'needs' (essential items for a picnic) before spending your remaining money on 'wants' (extra treats). Write your shopping list, show your calculations, and ensure you do not exceed the £20.00 limit.

Word bank: Loaf of bread: £1.50 · Large bottle of water: £1.20 · Packet of apples: £2.30 · Cheese slices: £2.00 · Box of mixed salad: £2.50 · Sparkling fruit juice: £3.00 · Luxury chocolate biscuits: £4.50 · A colourful paper kite: £6.00 · Pack of reusable napkins: £1.00 · Small bunch of sunflowers: £3.50

1. List the items you have chosen for the picnic. Clearly label which are 'needs' and which are 'wants'. (2 marks)

2. Calculate the total cost of your chosen items. Show your addition below. (2 marks)

3. How much money do you have left over from the £20.00 budget? Show your subtraction. (2 marks)

4. Why is it important to buy the 'needs' before the 'wants' when planning an event? (2 marks)

5. If Max decided he really wanted the kite, would he have to remove any other items? Explain your reasoning. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw Max’s picnic basket. Inside the basket, draw the essential 'needs' items you chose, and outside the basket, draw the 'wants' you were able to afford with your remaining budget.

Extension challenge: Imagine the market suddenly has a 'buy one, get one half price' offer on all fruit and vegetables. How would this change your shopping list? Would you save money, or would you buy more items? Explain your decision.