Max’s Mental Math Challenge

Learning objective: To practice mental addition and subtraction strategies, including adding and subtracting three-digit numbers and money using dollars and cents.

Help Max the monkey solve his daily math puzzles! Read each challenge carefully and use your mental math skills to find the answer. Show your working out in the boxes below to explain how you solved it.

Word bank: partition · subtract · total · calculate · mental strategy · exchange · difference · value

1. The Market Stall: Max wants to buy a toy car for £2.50 and a bag of marbles for £1.20. What is the total cost? Show your addition strategy. (2 marks)

2. The Fruit Bowl: There were 145 grapes in a bowl. Max ate 32 of them. How many grapes are left? Explain your subtraction steps. (2 marks)

3. Number Bonds: Max is thinking of a three-digit number. If you add 100 to his number, you get 456. What was Max's original number? Explain how you know. (2 marks)

4. Savings Jar: Zara has £5.00 in her jar. She spends £2.75 on new paintbrushes. How much change does she have left? Show your working. (2 marks)

5. The Pattern Puzzle: Max adds 50 to a number and gets 820. What is the number? Describe your method for finding the answer. (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Create your own 'Market Stall' word problem using three items that cost between £1.00 and £5.00. Challenge a friend to calculate the total cost!